

Improving Access to Open Space in San Francisco:

Green Connections Best Practices and Preliminary Streetscape Design Alternatives

The Green Connections Project

Green Connections is a two year project funded by a State grant. Green Connections will increase access to parks and open space—by re-envisioning local city streets as ‘green connectors.’ Green Connections will create sustainable corridors that enhance resident mobility, green neighborhood streets, link residents to larger open space and recreational opportunities nearby, and improve pedestrian and bicycle access to community amenities. In partnership with multiple City agencies, the Planning Department will focus on six economically disadvantaged communities (EDCs) (see attached map). For more on the project please refer to: <http://www.sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=3002>

Green Connections Preliminary Streetscape Design Intern

The Green Connections design intern would work with the project team to prepare for second year of the Green Connections project. Building on the draft green connections network and design guidelines generated through the community planning process, the intern project would consist of the following tasks:

Best Practices Research and Open Space Documentation - 30%

The intern would coordinate with the project team on researching and compiling best practices for supporting non-motorized trips to open space within an existing city network, including design solutions that encourage walking and biking on urban streets. This work would inform the Green Connections definition and design guidelines.

The intern would add to the City’s Open Space documentation by generating photographs, description of the site, hours of operation and other relevant information for Parks and open space that are not included in the Recreation and Parks Department “Main Map” or Spur’s PoPo map. The intern will coordinate with with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Department of Public Works, and the Port on publicly owned spaces SPUR and the Planning Department staff for privately owned public open space. These photos and descriptions will then be added to the RPD website, to provide a comprehensive map of all publicly-accessible open spaces to the public and Green Connections Project Team.

Streetscape Design – 40%

The Green Connections Intern will work with the project team to develop preliminary streetscape design for one Green Connection in one focus neighborhood. The preliminary streetscape design would propose a variety of streetscape alternatives that meet the community priorities for green connectors in each neighborhood. Alternatives would vary based on costs, degree of change, and potentially offer a strategy for phasing

improvements over time. The work would require some data gathering, site visits, and coordination with City agencies (e.g. Rec/Park) and the public.

Community Outreach and Team Coordination - 20%

The Green Connections intern would participate in ongoing team charettes and team meetings, including community outreach events and interagency working groups, as appropriate. Participation will link the Best Practices and Street Design work to the broader discussions around the Green Connections project.

Final Report and Presentation - 10%

The Green Connections intern will develop a final report and presentation that includes a review of best practices, followed by a summary of community and agency knowledge of the focus neighborhood(s) that informed the specific streetscape design, and a review of the preliminary streetscape alternatives.

Ideal Candidates

We are looking for an intern with strong design skills, including hand-rendering skills and Adobe Suite, and a strong interest in designing urban public space to create active, useable public places. Candidates should be comfortable taking photographs of open spaces, and be detail oriented. Ideal candidates will have strong professional writing skills and familiarity with community based planning. Familiarity with San Francisco and some or all of the 6 focus neighborhoods, knowledge of Sketchup and AutoCad, and/or Knowledge and/or experience with basic website maintenance a plus, but not required.