PAGE STREET WHAT IS A GREEN CONNECTION?

GREEN CONNECTIONS are special streets and paths that connect people and wildlife to parks and open spaces. These streets provide opportunities for greening and landscaping; enhancing wildlife habitat; managing stormwater; and calming traffic.

In many instances, individual design solutions can address multiple project goals. For example, traffic-calming measures like curb extensions, medians or traffic circles may also provide opportunities for habitat creation, bioretention planters (rain gardens) and/or programming opportunities.



WHAT MAKES THESE STREETS SPECIAL?

Green Connections are envisioned to include a higher level of public realm interventions than standard city traffic calming, pedestrian safety and bicycle projects.

Green Connections are intended to be routes that people will go out of their way to travel on because they are green, quiet, traffic calmed, and safe for walking and biking.

These streets also offer educational opportunities for urban ecology and stormwater management.

GREEN CONNECTIONS PROJECT GOALS AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Public Health Increase active transportation to parks



Prioritize walking and biking. Green Connections' designs should consider the needs of both bicyclists and pedestrians



Calm traffic to support active transportation for all users. Interventions may include strategies that slow cars and, in some cases, reduce traffic volumes



Focus on conflict points.

Arterial crossings should prioritize vulnerable users and be considered a high priority for early implementation projects along the network



Celebrate park edges to facilitate access to parks and open spaces. Where routes run parallel to parks, they are an opportunity to extend parks into the neighborhood. In these cases, the sidewalk and park should read as an integrated cohesive space, potentially expanding landscaping into the right of way

Sustainability **Enhance urban ecology**



Emphasize greening and street trees. Increase planted areas in the ROW. Green Connections should have a higher level of landscaping in their design than a typical San Francisco Street.



Include green infrastructure to manage stormwater.



Cultivate ecoliteracy among San Franciscans.



Consider habitat patch scale and density.



Incorporate target species and target

Avoid habitat

sinks.



structure.

Create habitat



Green Connections should prioritize infrastructure

strategies like permeable pavement

Stormwater facilities should be sited to

maximize the volume of water diverted from

Design for site hydrology.

the City's sewer system

tools that add greenery to the street over hardscape

Livability

Support neighborhood stewardship and placemaking



Engage communities in design and stewardship Local stakeholders play a critical role in supporting implementation, maintenance, and stewardship of Green Connections routes



Design for community gathering spaces Community gathering spaces are intended to facilitate interaction among neighbors



Placemaking elements such as art, gathering spaces, and signage can create unique, special, and memorable places, and can help foster neighborhood pride and stewardship

Program spaces to encourage stewardship and placemaking



Create wayfinding and signage:

1. Strive for simplicity transportation users 2. Integrate with other wayfinding 4. Develop a multi-tiered approach 5. Express wayfinding through 3. Scale signage for active materiality

WALKING



Traffic calming, seating and plantings all contribute to a pleasant walking environment.

STORMWATER RUN-OFF







Stormwater infrastructure like bioretention gardens (rain gardens) can help beautify the streetscape while reducing stormwater runoff.

PROGRAMMING ELEMENTS





Programming elements like seating areas and community garden spaces can help create a sense of place and encourage community members to steward their neighborhood streets.

BIKING





Green Connections should be comfortable streets to bike on for people of all ages and abilities

TREES AND SIDEWALK GARDENS









Signage along the Green Connections network will improve the network's legibility for users and facilitate mobility throughout the City. Signage can also educate the public about local ecology history and culture.

TRAFFIC CALMING

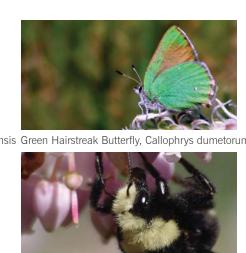




WILDLIFE HABITAT

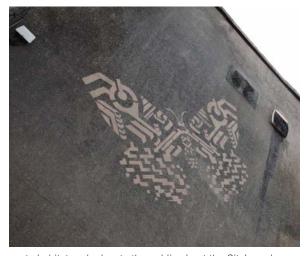






ART





Works of art like the "Bird Hotel" and clean-up mural shown above can create habitat and educate the public about the City's ecology.

DOES EVERY GREEN CONNECTION LOOK AND FEEL THE SAME?

Not at all! Segments along the network will have a different look and feel. The level of intervention will vary based on existing conditions, coordination opportunities, available funding and community interest. There are 3 specific levels of intervention that could be most appropriate for any segment, at right:



filling in gaps in street trees.

May feature basic traffic calming measures.

Light Intervention



Would include signage and wayfinding, and lower cost

improvements like bicycle stencils and street murals.

May feature basic greening like sidewalk landscaping gardens and











 May include minor sidewalk enhancements, curb extensions and stormwater infrastructure, or intersection treatments to calm traffic. More clearly embody the goals of Green Connections, will involve

• Would include the amenities of a light intervention

a greater level of community engagement, and may involve a more holistic streetscape design.





Showcase Intervention

Most successfully achieves project goals.

 May feature reductions in traffic volumes and dedication of space for habitat or community gathering.

• Should be highest-quality active transportation routes safe for all users of all ages, and should serve as demonstration projects to showcase the transformational qualities of Green Connections.







