

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, bio-retention 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. *Green Connections should have a higher level of landscaping in their design than a typical San Francisco Street.*
- Include green infrastructure to manage stormwater.
- Increase planted areas in the ROW. *Green Connections should prioritize infrastructure tools that add greenery to the street over hardscape strategies like permeable pavement*
- Design for site hydrology. *Stormwater facilities should be sited to maximize the volume of water diverted from the City's sewer system*
- Cultivate ecoliteracy among San Franciscans.
- Avoid habitat sinks.
- Create habitat structure.
- Incorporate target species and target habitat.
- Understand target species' life-cycle.
- Consider habitat patch scale and density.

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*
- Program spaces to encourage stewardship and placemaking. *Placemaking elements such as art, gathering spaces, and signage can create unique, special, and memorable places, and can help foster neighborhood pride and stewardship*
- Create wayfinding and signage:
 1. Strive for simplicity
 2. Integrate with other wayfinding systems
 3. Scale signage for active transportation users
 4. Develop a multi-tiered approach
 5. Express wayfinding through materiality

WALKING



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

STORMWATER RUN-OFF



Stormwater infrastructure like bio-retention 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



Street trees and the tree canopy, as well as sidewalk gardens, make a significant improvement in the feel and experience of a street.

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING



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



Green Connections routes call for a wide variety of traffic calming devices to slow traffic and improve safety for pedestrians and other people using active transportation throughout San Francisco.

WILDLIFE HABITAT



California Quail, *Callipepla californica*
Mission Blue Butterfly, *Artia icarioides missionensis*
Green Hairstreak Butterfly, *Callophrys dumetorum*
Black-tailed Jackrabbit, *Lepus californicus* (Brushy Peak)
Bumble Bee, *Bombus vosnesnikii*

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:



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 filling in gaps in street trees.
- May feature basic traffic calming measures.



Moderate Intervention

- Would include the amenities of a light intervention
- 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 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.