

AN OPEN SPACE VISION FOR SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



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Mayor's Office of
Greening

Neighborhood Parks Council
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Meeting the Open Space Challenges of the Future



New Open Spaces in High Needs Areas

Quality Experiences on Existing Open Spaces

An Active, Accessible and Connected Waterfront Open Space System

A Cross-Town Trail that Celebrates Diverse Urban Nature and Allows for Both Human and Wildlife Movement

Revitalized and Activated Destination Open Spaces

A System of Linear Open Spaces and Daylighted Creeks

Connectivity - A System of Public Transit and Green Streets Connecting People to Open Space

- As we imagine the future, we must focus our collective eye on securing a single, broad-minded goal: *To achieve an open space network that provides a diverse system of equitable, multi-functional and high quality open spaces.* And as we set the course to meeting the open space challenges of the future, our open space vision assembles a wide array of opportunities combining familiar open spaces with unique and creative uses of non-traditional spaces.
- We will have **new open spaces**, including playgrounds and sports fields, in our city's high needs areas. This will reduce the burden on existing neighborhood amenities currently serving communities both from within and outside of reasonable walking distance.
- We will have **higher quality experiences on existing open spaces**. In many cases, this means improving the City's existing open spaces with dynamic activation and programming. It also means that all new open spaces shall be designed according to these same principles.
- We will have an **active, accessible, and connected waterfront open space system** that stretches along the City's entire coast. The Bay Trail will form an uninterrupted pedestrian and bicycle link along this waterfront corridor, and a series of signature parks and new activity nodes along its length will celebrate its diverse context ranging from maritime industry to downtown center, from nature preserved to urban beach, and from a new waterfront community to the city's cherished zoo.
- The residents of the Southeast will have access to a **signature park** that is well connected to area residents by on-street green connectors and be served by **uninterrupted waterfront open space system**. Open spaces in these neighborhoods, along with community centers, will act as the hub for dynamic and welcoming community-building efforts for the anticipated growing population in these neighborhoods.
- There will be a **cross-town trail** through series of open spaces and green corridors that celebrates the diversity of urban nature and allows movement for people and animals alike. The cross-town trail will bisect yet effectively connect San Francisco, from the Presidio in the north to Candlestick Park in the south, and will offer diverse and quality open space experiences in between - such as at Park Presidio Boulevard, Golden Gate Park, Mount Sutro, Laguna Honda, Glen Canyon Park and John McLaren Park. This series of open spaces and green corridors will be connected to the already established Ridge Trail, and will be supported by coordinated inter-agency open space corridor management.
- We will revitalize and activate our **underutilized signature open spaces**, such as John McLaren Park, Ocean Beach, and Lake Merced, to become **destination open spaces** for the City and Bay Region. These spaces will also be connected to citywide residents by on-street green connectors enhancing accessibility and overall experiences.
- San Francisco's children will be able to play in clean, safe, and healthy **daylighted urban creeks** as an extension of open space experiences. As San Francisco addresses water savings to offset anticipated population growth through conservation efforts and innovative green initiatives, residents can benefit from easy connection to celebrated and improved urban waterbodies and waterways.
- We will use the residual spaces under and around freeways to provide multiple neighborhoods with a **system of linear green buffers** while capturing opportunity for useably sized open spaces along it and for easy connection to other parts of the city. Logical intersection of on-street green corridors with this freeway buffer, connecting neighborhoods east of the freeways with the rest of the city, will celebrate the uniqueness of our urban environment.
- Many of our city's streets will become **'green connector streets'**; many alleyways in our denser neighborhoods will become **'living streets'**; privately-owned-publicly accessible open spaces will be expanded to serve as urban oasis; **enhanced stairways** will connect residents to unique open spaces; and other streets will become temporary or permanent car-free zones for open space uses. Several key **ceremonial streets** will serve as linear events in and of themselves, while still serving the transportation and connection functions they provide as major City streets. These public realm connections will be easily identifiable through memorable and distinct urban design elements that lead the traveler along a high quality and rich open space experience.
- **Regional-serving open spaces** will continue to serve their role for residents and visitors alike, receiving appropriate regional support and resources to sustain and improve their services. **Local-serving open spaces** will place emphasis in serving the needs of their immediate area communities, while taking its part as citywide network of quality open space. And effective connections, including better public and non-motorized transit accommodation, between the two will create an interconnected, Citywide open space system: **Ocean Beach** to the **Eastern Neighborhoods**, the **Southeastern Waterfront** to San Francisco's west neighborhoods; and further afield spaces at **Treasure Island** and **Yerba Buena** open spaces to the rest of the city.

Imagine the Future | Shape the Vision | Chart the Steps | Secure the Future