

Open Space Action Plan:

San Francisco's Comprehensive Action Plan for High-Quality Open Space

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

DEFINITION OF OPEN SPACE

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PREAMBLE

San Francisco's open space is a critical part of the City's role in the regional context as the epicenter of ecological, economic and cultural diversity. It is defined by its unique bioregional and geographic context, and by its visual and physical connection to water on three sides. An 'umbrella' definition of open space includes a wide variety of types and scales, all of which serve social, economic and environmental functions.

Public open space is a key component of the City's green infrastructure that serves the social and environmental health of a city and its residents by addressing current and future challenges in creating a sustainable environment. It further defines the role of San Francisco's urban nature as providing places for peace and enjoyment, as well as freedom and relief from the built world.

A variety of publicly-owned open spaces along with supportive privately-owned spaces are important for a city and its community, in that they meet the needs and desires of a mixed population that is subject to change. Small pocket parks downtown are just as useful as beaches or regional parks because they provide different ways of experiencing nature and community life in an urban environment.

DEFINITION

Open Space

***Publicly-owned spaces** and **publicly-accessible-privately-owned spaces** meeting the needs and desires of its citizens for a variety of recreational/social activities and the experience of nature, while conserving human and natural resources.*

High-Quality Open Spaces

Diverse system of safe, multi-functional, innovative open spaces promoting healthy, active lifestyles and high-level stewardship. It combines district, neighborhood, and community open spaces that are physically well-connected by green corridors and/or linkages, alive with diverse activities, and well-cared for.

San Francisco's high-quality open space NETWORK includes, but is not limited to, parks, playgrounds, plazas, landscaped areas, beaches, recreational facilities, playing fields, school yards, waterways, rooftop gardens, community gardens, and natural areas, linked by corridors such as parkways, trails, walkways, alleyways, and green streets, that provide for human recreation and wildlife movement.