

# CHAPTER 4

## DESIGN EXAMPLES FOR SAN MATEO COUNTY



SOURCE: NEVUE NGAN ASSOCIATES

**Figure 4-1:** An existing low-density residential street in San Mateo County. Low-density residential streets offer some of the best opportunities to incorporate green street elements.



SOURCE: NEVUE NGAN ASSOCIATES

**Figure 4-2:** Existing high-density residential streets offer special challenges for implementing stormwater strategies, but several options exist to help manage runoff from these conditions.



SOURCE: NEVUE NGAN ASSOCIATES

**Figure 4-3:** Existing commercial downtown streets in San Mateo County can also be retrofitted for stormwater management using several design techniques.

The design scenarios presented in this chapter illustrate different ways that vegetated swales, planters, rain gardens, pervious paving, stormwater curb extensions, and green gutters can be applied to the variety of conditions found in San Mateo County. The examples are just a sampling of the many opportunities that exist in the region. Designers and developers are encouraged to adapt these examples to best fit the needs and conditions of their own projects.

Several “before and after” sketches show the potential for green streets and parking lot retrofit opportunities in San Mateo County. The goal of illustrating multiple site strategies is to give the user of this guidebook a broad range of site-scale design applications that can be similarly reproduced throughout the region. The examples shown are for reference only and are not “real” projects, but perhaps projects like those illustrated can be developed into future demonstration projects.

Whether a particular site is located in a low or high-density residential neighborhood, a commercial “main street” district, along an arterial or boulevard street, or within a small or large parking lot, there are multiple stormwater design options available. Figure 4-4 on the next page provides a matrix for choosing what types of stormwater facilities are best suited for various conditions.

**Figure 4-4:**  
**CHOOSING STORMWATER FACILITIES THAT BEST FIT FOR DIFFERENT CONDITIONS**

	VEGETATED SWALE	STORMWATER PLANTER	CURB EXTENSION	PERVIOUS PAVERS	GREEN GUTTER	RAIN GARDEN
 Low-Density Residential	●	● (site dependent)	●	●	●	●
 High-Density Residential		●	●	●		
 Commercial Main Street	● (site dependent)	●	●	●	● (site dependent)	● (site dependent)
 Arterial and Boulevard	●	●	●		●	
 Parking Lots	●	●		●	●	●