

## ++ SITE LAYOUT STRATEGY: Balance Parking Spaces with Landscape Spaces



SOURCE: NEVUE NGAN ASSOCIATES

**Figure 2-20:** This parking lot has significant amounts of landscape area balanced with parking spaces.



SOURCE: NEVUE NGAN ASSOCIATES

**Figure 2-21:** Along this commercial street, well-maintained landscape areas replace parking spaces in order to create a pleasing streetscape.

The very notion of green streets and green parking lots is to incorporate as much green space as possible in order to better manage stormwater runoff. However, adding green space can often be in conflict with the need for on-street or storefront parking. The best green street and parking lot designs should provide balance between parking and landscape space. Given that many urban streets are designed primarily for vehicular travel and on-street parking, with little or no green space, and parking lots are often oversized, some level of compromise will be necessary to truly design a balanced condition.

Some parking loss might be acceptable or even desirable if the overall street or parking lot condition has a stronger aesthetic appeal due to increased landscape area and enhanced pedestrian spaces. Studies have shown that greening of business districts increases community pride and positive perception of an area, drawing customers to the businesses (Project Evergreen, 2008).



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**Figure 2-22:** This innovative example in Mountain View, CA boldly greens the street with street trees and moveable planters. The planters can be placed in the parking zone to create additional space for tables and seating or can be removed to maintain on-street parking. This is an excellent example of balancing parking spaces with landscape and people space.