

GI Design Guide – Sustainable Streets

- Connie Goldade
Community Design + Architecture
- Approaches and guidance for creating green and complete streets — *Sustainable Streets*



Green Infrastructure Design Guide

First Edition | 2019



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Green Infrastructure Design Guide

1 – Introduction

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3 – Intro to Design Strategies & Guidelines

4 – Key Design & Construction Considerations

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Chapter 3

Design Strategies and Guidelines

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3.4 Intro to Design Strategies & Guidelines

- What is a Sustainable Green and Complete Street?
- Combines two concepts for street design:

Complete Streets + Green Streets = Sustainable Streets

- Definitions
- Multiple benefits of streets
- MRP emphasis on integration of GI into streets

CHAPTER 3

3.4 Sustainable Streets Design Elements and Process

What is a Sustainable Street?

A sustainable street combines the ideas of mobility and access for all users and other aspects of complete street design with the stormwater and other environmental benefits of green streets which integrate green stormwater infrastructure into streets. The goal of sustainable streets design is to create streets that are comprehensively sustainable in terms of environmental, social, and economic impacts. The resulting streets will help communities address the stormwater requirements of the MRP while providing multiple benefits.

SMCWRP is promoting sustainable streets in San Mateo County, and has widely and actively supported local projects including Safe Routes to Schools integrated with green infrastructure projects and the Citizens Funded Countywide Sustainable Streets Master Plan.

Complete Streets

- Multimodal Streets
- Intersections

Sustainable Streets

Green Streets

- Green Infrastructure
- Water Quality
- Flood Attenuation

Interaction will help:

- Better manage street runoff and flooding issues
- Result in consistent approach and appearance
- Improve city and neighborhood character
- Foster climate resiliency and adaptation
- Create more comfortable and safe streets

Figure 3.4-1: Sustainable Streets Design Elements and Process

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ What is a Sustainable Green and Complete Street?

- Summarizes Complete Street types
 - Base street types
 - Context
 - land use
 - character

Table 3.4a Complete Street Types – the Combination of Street and Place Types

		Base Street Types				
Context Types		Throughway	Connector	Access	Alley	Path
Use	Character	Complete Street Types				
Mixed Use	Downtown	Downtown Throughway	Downtown Connector	Downtown Access	Downtown Alley	Walkway
Commercial / Mixed Use	Urban	Mixed Use Throughway	Mixed Use Connector	Mixed Use Access	Mixed Use Alley	Walkway
	Suburban	Commercial Throughway	Commercial Connector			
	Rural / Semi-Rural	Parkway	Parkway Connector			
Neighborhood	Urban	Neighborhood Throughway	Neighborhood Connector	Neighborhood Access	Neighborhood Alley	Walkway
	Suburban					Shared Use Path
	Rural / Semi-Rural	Parkway	Parkway Connector			
Industrial	Urban	Industrial Throughway	Urban Industrial Connector	Industrial Access	Industrial Alley	Walkway
	Suburban		Industrial Connector			Shared Use Path
	Rural /Semi-Rural					

□

CHAPTER 3

- ### 3.4 Sustainable Streets Design Elements and Process

Base Street Types

The base street types describe the primary transportation function of the complete street.

- **Thoroughway Streets** primarily focus on moving people through an area to their destination, including moving goods by truck, riders in a bus, people in vehicles, or people on bicycles. These streets can also provide access to uses along them, but when possible, vehicles should access uses from side streets rather than the thoroughway so as not to impede traffic flow. Sidewalks and a comfortable pedestrian environment are still needed, but vary in importance depending upon the context along the thoroughway and the type of transit using the street. A well-known thoroughway in San Mateo County is El Camino Real.
 - **Connector Streets** are primarily used by people connecting between places over a moderate distance. Connector streets are often important for bus transit and for people who are bicycling, because these streets often connect important destinations. These streets are usually designed for moderate speeds – about 25 mph. Given this speed and importance for transit, uses can front directly onto and be accessible from the street. Examples in San Mateo County include Delaware Street in City of San Mateo and Roosevelt Avenue in Redwood City.
 - **Access Streets** primarily provide access to adjacent uses or nearby destinations. In some cases they provide for longer, but more “family-friendly,” trips by bicycle. Pedestrian comfort and safety are important for access streets.
 - **Alleys** are streets that are typically located in the middle of a block. Not all, but several, communities in San Mateo County have alleys which provide access to parking, space for utilities and refuse collection, and provide alternative “short cuts” for people walking and bicycling. In some cases, alleys provide primary access to some employment uses and to accessory dwelling units.
 - **Paths** are part of the multimodal network, and so are included as a street type. Paths are typically used by people walking, bicycling, or using other “rolling” modes – skateboards, scooters, roller blades, etc. They can be used both for transportation and for recreation, and they can also be active social and commercial spaces, such as Main Street in Downtown San Mateo, which is an alley that has been repurposed as an urban path.
- Green Infrastructure in Sustainable Alleys**
- Older alleys often have drainage issues and can provide unique challenges (e.g., lack of space for landscape) and opportunities (e.g., relatively low traffic levels) for green infrastructure. Many communities around the country have utilized pervious paving in alleyways. Chicago has a program and a handbook specifically focused on Green Alleys¹ and Santa Monica has an Alley Renewal Program that includes installation of pervious

Green Infrastructure in Sustainable Alleys

Older alleys often have drainage issues and can provide unique challenges (e.g., lack of space for landscape) and opportunities (e.g., relatively low traffic levels) for green infrastructure. Many communities around the country have utilized pervious paving in alleyways. Chicago has a program and a handbook specifically focused on Green Alleys³ and Santa Monica has an Alley Renewal Program that includes installation of pervious concrete center V gutters.⁴

¹ Information about Chicago's Green Alley program can be found at: <https://www.cityofchicago.org/org/en/depts/ddot/browns/treat-ucv/green-alley.html>

* information about Santa Monica's Alley Renewal Program can be found at: <https://www.unigra.net/streets/alleyprogram/>

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

- What is a Sustainable Green and Complete Street?
 - Summarizes Complete Street types
 - Base street types
 - Context
 - Land use types
 - Character types

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3.4 Sustainable Streets Design Elements and Process

Complete Street Types



▲ Acacia Avenue, San Bruno



▲ Starlite Street, South San Francisco



▲ San Francisco Avenue, Brisbane

Neighborhood: These are primarily residential areas that can have a varied mix of single and multi-family housing, a variety of parcel sizes, and a range in the amount of landscaped (i.e., permeable) land area within private lots and within neighborhood streets. Typically, most neighborhood streets in urban and suburban areas have relatively narrow rights of way which can make the addition of green infrastructure challenging. So, the landscaped character of a residential neighborhood has a significant relationship to the potential for streets to be retrofitted to include green infrastructure.

Industrial: Traditionally, these are the areas of communities where manufacturing, utility facilities, warehousing, storage, and generally messier uses have been allowed. As a result, concentrations of different pollutants, including PCBs, which is one of the pollutants that is required to be addressed through the MRP, are often found in older industrial areas. But, older industrial areas can be challenging to retrofit with green infrastructure because of other pollutants in the soil, and given the relatively narrow width of streets and high frequency of larger truck traffic. But many industrial areas in San Mateo County, and other parts of the Bay Area, are experiencing conversion of use, without a change in building or site design. Some locations, such as Menlo Park near the Facebook campus, are experiencing major reconstruction of industrial areas which can make it more feasible to include green infrastructure in the streets of former industrial areas.

Park / Open Space: These are the landscaped recreational, civic, and natural spaces within San Mateo County. For parks that are integrated into urban and suburban areas, they may provide landscaped areas adjacent to streets that can be used for green infrastructure to treat and manage street runoff that is not feasible to accommodate within the street right of way.

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

- What is a Sustainable Green and Complete Street?
 - Summarizes Complete Street types
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 - Character types

Character Types

The character of development along a street should have a direct relationship to the design of the street, including things such as posted speed, presence of on-street parking, and design of the pedestrian environment including landscaping, presence of seating, and other elements. In particular, how adjacent development interfaces with the street – storefront and other active uses at the sidewalk, a landscaped yard, a parking lot, a fence, rural farm land, or natural open space – should strongly influence the design of the street and its pedestrian environment. The character of the context along the street also affects the type, size, and design detail of green infrastructure within the street.

Downtown: Given the varied mix of uses and intensity of development in most San Mateo County downtowns, the character of these areas puts high demand on the limited space within the street. This includes space for all modes of transportation, transit stops, parking, and landscape and other streetscape elements such as outdoor seating. In these locations, green infrastructure needs to be efficiently designed to minimize or mitigate impacts to competing interests like on-street parking. Elements such as infiltration trenches or modular suspended pavement systems can be used to increase stormwater treatment and volume reduction while minimizing the surface area of the green infrastructure that is landscaped. In some cases, it may also be feasible to design treatment measures that do not provide full regulated projects levels of treatment, with the goal of building more infrastructure in public projects while receiving some credit towards achieving treatment targets.

Urban: This character type includes areas of communities with some vertical mix use, but also more single use areas with a moderate intensity of development. Urban areas tend to have a higher percentage of impervious surfaces, compared with suburban areas in the same community. They can include older residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, and industrial areas which can have higher levels of the pollutants of concern in the environment. Many urban areas in San Mateo County communities are experiencing reuse and redevelopment of parcels and public investment in transit and complete streets projects, all of which create opportunities for implementing green infrastructure.



▲ Middlefield Rd, Redwood City



▲ South Delaware Street, San Mateo

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

- **Sustainable Streets Design Elements & Process**
- **Implementation approach and phases**
 - 1. Understand site considerations and project goals and needs
 - 2. Develop and Assess Sustainable Streets Concepts
 - 3. Prepare Construction Documents
 - 4. Construction Administration
 - 5. Operations and Maintenance

□

Phase 4 – Construction Administration

Once the construction documents are finalized the project can be put out to bid, or in some cases, smaller projects may be constructed by jurisdiction staff. In most cases, the project will be put out to bid, a contractor is selected, and once an agreement is in place construction begins. During construction, the jurisdiction's engineering staff reviews and approves the work of the contractor. If there was a design and engineering consultant team, they will typically provide construction administration assistance to jurisdiction staff. Once construction is complete and approved, the contractor will likely continue to have responsibility for establishment of landscape within the street, including the green infrastructure.

Intersection Design Example Project – The bidding and contractor agreement process goes smoothly. Minimal change orders are needed during construction, and construction is complete within a few months of the projected schedule.

Corridor Design Example Project – The bidding and contractor agreement process goes relatively smoothly. But during construction, it becomes clear that the general contractor and the landscape subcontractor are not as experienced with green infrastructure construction as they indicated in the bid documents. The consultant team and city engineer reject multiple submittals and shop drawings. After some delays, the general contractor replaces the landscape subcontractor and construction proceeds more smoothly. As with many street reconstruction projects in older areas, there are some major change orders because underground infrastructure is different than indicated from record documents and the site survey. Despite the complexities the project is completed within a few months of schedule. Construction of the private development has begun and over the next couple of years the on-site stormwater system is connected to the shared green infrastructure within the street as planned and designed.



▲ Construction administration is important to ensure that the project is built according to the plans.

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

- **Sustainable Streets Design Elements & Process**
 - How to select complementary GI and Complete Street techniques

CHAPTER 3

3.4 Sustainable Streets Design Elements and Process *Sustainable Street Design Process and Strategies*

Complete Streets – balance design for all users

Complete streets projects are, for the most part, focused on making improvements for the various users of a street – commercial and personal vehicle drivers, transit drivers and riders, cyclists, people walking, and people using wheelchairs. There are a variety of ways to address these needs, and in some cases, the design solutions addressing one user's needs will conflict with those for another user. At the planning level, needs of different users should be identified and the priority for various users should be established. For example, if the street is a designated truck route or is in a commercial district where truck deliveries are important, this can affect the needed width for travel lanes and the corner radius of curbs at intersections, which in turn could affect the potential for curb extensions and influence the selection of green infrastructure treatment measures.

Intersection Design Example Project – This project is an intersection of a neighborhood access street and a connector street; there are stop signs on the access street. Vehicles on the connector street often travel over the speed limit. Improving the safety and comfort for people walking across the connector street is therefore a priority. But, it is decided that the flow of traffic on the connector is also important, and adding stop signs for that traffic is not feasible. The local jurisdiction does a transportation assessment of the intersection and finds that enough people walk across the intersection and enough drivers on the connector street do not yield to them that a rapid flashing beacon should be installed and that curb extensions should be installed to improve visibility between drivers and pedestrians. The community has known of the issues at the intersection for several years and has programmed improvements in their Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Program. So, the complete street improvements are self-funded.

Corridor Design Example Project – This project is a connector street in an old industrial area that is within a Priority Development Area.³ The community has designated the area for future mixed use development. The existing street is narrow with four lanes of traffic. The community's bicycle plan designates the street for Class II buffered bike lanes. Future development of the area will increase the number of people walking and cycling, and given the street network in the area, only two of the four existing lanes will be needed for future traffic. There is local funding that can contribute to the reconstruction of the street because it is in a specific plan's area. But, current best practices in bike facility design lead to a recommendation for a Class IV protected bikeway which is more expensive to build than the specific plan's Class II improvements. So, it is decided that the community should pursue a Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grant for the project.

³ Priority Development Areas are places that have been identified by communities that are within walking distance to transit and planned for mixed use redevelopment.

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

- **Sustainable Streets Design Elements & Process**
 - How to select complementary GI and Complete Street techniques

Green Infrastructure – both a stormwater management and broader community asset

There are a number of factors that play into the ability of a street to effectively include green infrastructure. C/CAG's Stormwater Resource Plan (SRP) utilized a range of high-level factors to screen-out and prioritize streets in San Mateo County that have some potential for the inclusion of green infrastructure. For instance, if streets have a slope of greater than 5% they were excluded. Communities may wish to include other factors not accounted for in the SRP such as complete streets modal priorities, economic development, public health, environmental justice, and other community values and priorities for the built environment. The key factors considered in the SRP and additional community benefit factors that may be considered in prioritizing streets that should include green infrastructure are listed in Figure 3.4a. Other factors may be included based on each community's specific conditions and goals.

Stormwater Resource Plan Key Factors

- How impervious is the right of way?
- What is the slope of the street, less than 5%?
- Is the street in proximity to flood-prone channels?
- Is the street in an area with potential for higher levels of PCBs?
- Is the street already identified for an improvement project?
- Is the street part of a Safe Routes to School project?
- Does the street drain to a TMDL water (Total Maximum Daily Load of the regulated pollutants)?

Additional Community Benefit Factor to consider

- Is the street in a Specific Plan or other focused planning area that defines street improvements and potential funding?
- Is the street in a Priority Development Area (PDA)?
- Is the street in a Priority Conservation Area (PCA)?
- Is the street located in an area that is a focus for economic development by the community?
- Is the street located in a Community of Concern³ as identified by the community and (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) MTC?
- Is the street identified by the community for bicycle or pedestrian plan improvements or other complete streets improvements?
- Is the street in an area of concern that has been identified in relation to climate adaptation and community resilience?

² PDAs are places identified by Bay Area communities as areas for investment, new homes, and job growth. PDAs are the foundation for sustainable regional growth and Plan Bay Area. To become a PDA, an area must be: 1) within an existing community; 2) within walking distance of frequent transit service; 3) designated for more housing in a locally adopted plan or identified by a local government for future planning and potential growth; and 4) nominated through a resolution adopted by a City Council or County Board of Supervisors. See <https://sbag.ca.gov/documents/development/> for more information.

³ PCAs are open spaces that provide agricultural, natural resource, scenic, recreational, and/or ecological values and ecosystem functions. These areas are identified through consensus by local jurisdictions and park/open space districts as lands in need of protection due to pressure from urban development or other factors. PCAs are categorized by four designations: Natural Landscapes, Agricultural Lands, Urban Greening, and Regional Recreation. Refer to <https://china.ca.gov/conservation/> for greater detail.

⁴ A "community of concern" is intended to represent a diverse cross-section of populations and a community that could be considered disadvantaged or vulnerable in terms of both current conditions and potential impacts of future growth. Plan Bay Area, and other land use and transportation policy documents, give consideration to increasing transportation and other public investment in communities of concern, because of historic disinvestment in these communities. For more information, see <https://www.sfbayarea.org/GO40-plan/plan-detail/equity-and-go>.

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ Sustainable Streets Design Elements & Process

- GI measure applicability by street type

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3.4 Sustainable Streets Design Elements and Process

Sustainable Street Design Process and Strategies

In addition, where green street infrastructure is being considered, the community should evaluate existing storm drain infrastructure, such as the presence of storm drain inlets and storm drain pipes, and surface drainage patterns. Another condition to assess is whether adjacent properties or nearby streets contribute stormwater runoff to the project area. Other hydrologic and soil conditions should also be assessed to identify any issues that could affect green infrastructure feasibility or design, such as high ground water, inability to infiltrate stormwater, and contaminated soils.

Intersection Design Example Project – Both streets are identified as opportunities for green infrastructure in the Reasonable Assurance Analysis (RAA) and the local GI Plan. The GI Plan did not identify either street as high priority. Existing street drainage patterns flow to inlets that are at or near to the corners of the intersection. Like much of the bayside of San Mateo County, the soils have high clay content and do not infiltrate well. Surrounding properties do not add much runoff to the street, given the extent of on-site landscaping; existing streets have a landscape strip between sidewalk and the roadway.



▲ Typical intersection between a collector and local street.

Corridor Design Example Project – This corridor was identified as a green infrastructure opportunity in the RAA, and the local GI Plan gives it a high priority, because it is within a specific plan and old industrial area. The area has some flooding issues brought about by the high percentage of impervious surface within the existing industrial development and deficiencies in the existing older stormwater drainage system. These were identified in the specific plan and storm drain improvements are included in the financing plan. However, the public works department is interested in reducing investment in the underground system by including green infrastructure in the area to spread peak stormwater flows. Future redevelopment is required to manage their stormwater on-site given C.3 regulations, therefore they will not contribute significant stormwater flows into the street. There are some contaminated soils in the project area.



▲ Typical four-lane industrial corridor in Burlingame.

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ Sustainable Streets Design Elements & Process

- GI measure applicability by street type

Table 3.4e - Green Infrastructure Measure Applicability by Street Type

		Green Infrastructure Measures									
		Bioretention/Bioinfiltration Area/Planter			Tree Well	Infiltration Systems [1]	Pervious Pavement	Vegetated Swale	Green Gutter	Stormwater Tree	Interceptor Tree
Street Types		Stormwater Planter	Stormwater Curb Extension	Rain Garden							
Throughway	Downtown, Commercial or Mixed Use Throughway						2				
	Neighborhood or Industrial Throughway						2				
	Parkway					3	2		4		
Connector	Downtown, Mixed Use, Commercial, or Urban Industrial Connector						2				
	Neighborhood or Industrial Connector					3	2		4		
	Parkway Connector					3	2		4		
Access	Downtown Access										
	Mixed Use Access					3			4		
	Neighborhood Access					3			4		
	Industrial Access					3	2		4		
	Park Access					3			4		
Alley	Downtown Alley										
	Mixed Use Alley					3			4		
	Neighborhood Alley					3			4		
	Industrial Alley					3			4		
Path	Walkway										
	Shared Use Path					3			4		

Table Notes

1. An infiltration system can be installed adjacent to other treatment measures to allow for secondary "storage" of treated stormwater to facilitate infiltration where native soils are slow to percolate.
2. Use pervious pavement only in parking lanes, shoulders, and medians.
3. Possible to use in Park, Semi-Rural or Rural contexts, but there are likely more cost-effective alternatives.
4. Possible to use in Park, Semi-Rural or Rural contexts, but narrowing the street right of way in these lower intensity and open space oriented contexts is more desirable in relation to complete streets and green infrastructure goals.

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ Sustainable Streets Design Elements & Process

- GI measure applicability by street type

Table 3.4f - Green Infrastructure Measure Applicability by Context Types

Context Types		Green Infrastructure Measures									
		Bioretention/Bioinfiltration Area/Planter			Tree Well	Infiltration System [1]	Pervious Pavement	Vegetated Swale	Green Gutter	Stormwater Tree	Interceptor Tree
Use	Character	Stormwater Planter	Stormwater Curb Extension	Rain Garden							
Mixed Use	Downtown								2		
Commercial / Mixed Use	Urban								2		
	Suburban										
	Rural/Semi-Rural		3		3,4	4			5		
Neighborhood	Urban										
	Suburban										
	Rural / Semi-Rural		3		3,4	4	4		5		
Industrial	Urban						6				
	Suburban					4	6		5		
	Rural / Semi-Rural		3		3,4	4	4,6		5		
Park / Open Space	Urban		3		3	4			5		
	Suburban					4			5		
	Rural / Semi-Rural		3		3,4	4	4		5		

Table Notes

1. An infiltration system can be installed adjacent to other treatment measures to allow for secondary "storage" of treated stormwater to facilitate infiltration where native soils are slow to percolate.
2. Limited applicability given land area needed for measure, more area efficient measures will allow space for complete streets and public open space features within urban street rights of way.
3. On streets with curbs.
4. Possible to use in Park, Semi-Rural or Rural contexts, but there are likely more cost-effective alternatives.
5. Possible to use in Park, Semi-Rural or Rural contexts, but narrowing the street right of way in these lower intensity and open space oriented contexts is more desirable in relation to complete streets and green infrastructure goals.
6. Use pervious pavement only in parking lanes, shoulders, and medians.

3.4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ Sustainable Streets Design Elements & Process

- GI measure applicability by street type

Table 3.4g Possible Green Infrastructure Locations within the Street

	Green Infrastructure Measures									
	Bioretention/Bioinfiltration Area/Planter			Tree Well	Infiltration System [1]	Pervious Pavement	Vegetated Swale	Green Gutter	Stormwater Tree	Interceptor Tree
Street Zone	Stormwater Planter	Stormwater Curb Extension	Rain Garden							
Sidewalk										
Curb Lane										
Roadway										
Median	2		2	2	2		2		2	
Intersection										

Table Notes

1. Depending upon the type of infiltration system, it can be installed adjacent to other treatment measures to allow for secondary "storage" of treated stormwater to facilitate infiltration where native soils are slow to percolate.
2. Typical center crowned streets do not support this treatment measure in a median.

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3.1 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ General Design Strategies and Guidelines

- Design strategies and guidance applicable to most GI measures and locations
- For: All Locations
- Sections by General, Green Infrastructure, Sustainable Streets
- Builds on Ch 2 and Ch 4 design considerations



3.1 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ General Design Strategies and Guidelines

- Design strategies and guidance applicable to most GI measures and locations
- For: All Locations
- Sections by General, Green Infrastructure, Sustainable Streets
- Builds on Ch 2 and Ch 4 design considerations



3.5 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ Sustainable Streets Design Strategies and Guidelines

- Focused for GI within street environment
- More detailed guidance building upon Ch 2 and 4, and Section 3.1
- Organized by:
 - GI measure
 - General, Green Street, Complete Street, Special Conditions

CHAPTER 3

3.5 Sustainable Streets Design Strategies and Guidelines

Stormwater Planter

General Guidance

- Existing sidewalks can often be redesigned to manage stormwater with the use of stormwater planters.
- Permeable paving placed within the parking lane of the street or sidewalk can complement the stormwater planter and allow improved management of the street's stormwater runoff.
- Stormwater planters can also be used in medians and other islands including dividers between vehicle and bicycle lanes, roundabouts, and intersection "pocketing" islands.
- In shared streets, stormwater planters can be placed between the vehicle drive area and the primary pedestrian zone, as well as between vehicle travel lanes for traffic calming purposes.
- Stormwater planters within the right-of-way are typically located between the curb and sidewalk or vehicle lane and primary pedestrian zone in shared streets and take the place of the landscape strip or parkway.
- Can be used on streets with or without parking.

Green Streets Guidance

- Locating stormwater planters near and on spectrum of drainage rates will help ensure that street run-off flows to the green infrastructure, because the grade of the street and gutter should already flow to the curb.

Locations for Stormwater Planters

Street Type	Planter Location	
Throughway	Downstream, Commercial, or Mixed Use Thoroughway	■
	Neighborhood or Industrial Thoroughway	■
	Parkway	■
Collector	Downstream, Mixed Use, Commercial, or Urban Industrial Collector	■
	Neighborhood or Industrial Collector	■
	Parkway Collector	■
Arterial	Downstream Access	■
	Mixed Use Access	■
	Neighborhood Access	■
	Industrial Access	■
Alley	Park Access	■
	Downstream Alley	■
	Mixed Use Alley	■
	Neighborhood Alley	■
Type	Industrial Alley	■
	Widened	■
	Shared Use Path	■

3.5 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

- **Sustainable Streets Design Strategies and Guidelines**
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3.6 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

■ Sustainable Streets Design Examples for San Mateo County

- How can implement GI and what could can like
- Different contexts & street types

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3.6 Sustainable Streets Design Examples



▲ **EXISTING:** A plan view of a typical wide intersection caused by offset street grids or curvilinear streets within an otherwise orthogonal street grid network in San Mateo County.



▲ **RETROFIT OPPORTUNITY:** The same street intersection retrofitted with a rain garden to better define and calm vehicle traffic movement. Adjacent corners have corner stormwater curb extensions to shorten pedestrian crossings. Wide streets can be retrofitted to include bike lanes.



▲ **EXAMPLE:** The space created between three intersecting streets was designed into a large rain garden to reduce impervious pavement, capture and treat runoff, provide a sidewalk along the connector, and increase neighborhood identity.

Neighborhood Connector Street with Rain Garden Intersections

Street intersections that are wide due to angled intersecting streets present opportunities to use rain gardens either within the center of the intersection as an island or roundabout, or to the side to expand a corner area for stormwater management and increasing public space and character. Street grades need to be considered to allow runoff to flow into the rain garden either from adjacent catch basins or sheet flow. Placing rain gardens within the roadway can aid in calming traffic and making a more comfortable and safer place for people to walk, bicycle, and drive. Where connectors and other streets are multi-lane or have a wide lane width, consider the ability to perform a lane reduction or add bicycle facilities. The illustration below shows rain gardens used to define vehicle circulation and calm traffic, and the addition of bicycle lanes. Corner curb extensions are placed at adjoining corners to increase pedestrian safety and comfort and shorten crossing distances.

3.6 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

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Neighborhood Connector Street with Terraced Stormwater Planters and Stormwater Curb Extensions

Often, rural connectors are designed with no curb or with gutters that double as mini-swales to collect and direct stormwater. Not only do impervious surfaces contribute to the runoff, but rolling hillsides and steep terrain where rainfall cannot fully infiltrate into the soil can also concentrate runoff. Where a street is adjacent to open space is an ideal location for a stormwater planter with check dams to collect both impervious and open space flows. Stormwater curb extensions within parking lanes can also collect and treat stormwater while providing traffic calming and a buffer between pedestrians and motorists and adding to the landscaped character of the surrounding rural open space context.



▲ **RETROFIT OPPORTUNITY:** The same street with a combination of terraced stormwater planters and stormwater curb extensions.



▲ **EXISTING:** A typical rural residential street in San Mateo County.



▲ **EXAMPLE:** This neighborhood connector incorporates a bio-retention planter with check dams to reduce velocities on a sloping street.

Ch 2 GI Measures & Opportunities

■ GI Measures

- Definition and description
- Why use and constraints
- Opportunities for Buildings, Sites, and Streets
- Special design considerations

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Ch 2 GI Measures & Opportunities

2.1 Introduction

- Toolbox of GI measures
- Opportunities
- GI Measure Applicability
 - locations
 - Type
 - Function

Table 2.1 Green Infrastructure Measure Applicability

Green Infrastructure Measures	Guidance Location	Suitable Green Infrastructure Location				C.3 Regulated Project Type		Primary and Secondary Functions ⁹				
		Site	Parking Lot	Building	Street	Stand-alone Treatment	Element of Treatment Train	Infiltration ¹	Bio-Retention	Pollutant Removal	Interception	Detention
Treatment Measures												
Stormwater Planter ²	2.1	●	●		●	●		■ / ■	■	■	■ ³	■ / ■
Stormwater Curb Extension	2.2		●		●	●		■ / ■	■	■	■ ³	■ / ■
Rain Garden	2.3	●	●		●	●		■ / ■	■	■	■ ³	■ / ■
Tree Well	2.4	●	●		●	●		■ / ■	■	■	■	■ / ■
Infiltration Systems	2.5	●	●		●	●	● ⁶	■ / ■	■	■		■ / ■
Pervious Pavement	2.6	●	●		●	●	●			■		■ / ■
Green Roof	2.7	●		●		● ⁴			■	■	■	
Rainwater Harvesting ⁵	2.8	●	●	●		●						■
Alternative Treatment Measures ⁷												
Vegetated Swale	2.9	●	●		●		●	■ / ■		■	■ / ■	
Green Gutter	2.10	●	●		●			■ / ■	■	■		
Stormwater Tree	2.11	●	●		●			■ / ■	■		■	
Site Design Measures												
Interceptor Tree	2.12	●	●	●	●					■	■	
Green Wall ⁸	2.13			●					■	■	■	

Endnotes

1. Where site-specific percolation tests confirm that an infiltration rate of 0.5/hour is realistic, see C.3 Regulated Projects Guide for further discussion.
2. Alternative Term: "Bioretention Swale" – linear bioretention areas, not the same as "Vegetated Swale".
3. Primary Function if trees are included in design.
4. If built to specifications approved by Regional Water Board.
5. Includes cisterns, rain barrels, and other measures and strategies for maximizing use of rain water for non-potable uses such as toilet flushing or landscape irrigation.
6. Some types of infiltration systems require pre-treatment.
7. Alternative Treatment Measures have limited, or currently, no credit towards C.3 regulated project treatment requirements.
8. Not identified as a site design measure in the MRP.
9. See page 1-30 for definitions of these functions.

Legend

- Applicable Green Infrastructure Measure
- Primary Function
- Secondary Function
- / ■ Primary or Secondary Function Depending on Site Conditions and Design

Ch 2 GI Measures & Opportunities

2.9 Green Infrastructure Measures and Opportunities *Vegetated Swales*

DEFINITION: *Vegetated swales are shallow, linear, and relatively narrow landscaped areas designed with gentle side slopes that capture, slowly convey, and potentially infiltrate stormwater runoff as it moves to downstream discharge points.*

Vegetated swales are primarily used to convey stormwater runoff on the land's surface while also providing some water quality treatment. As water flows through a vegetated swale, it is slowed by the interaction with plants and soil, allowing trash, sediments, and particulate-based pollutants to settle out. Runoff in vegetated swales travels more slowly than it would through pipes in a traditional stormwater conveyance system, allowing for some attenuation of peak flows. The longer a vegetated swale is, the greater the residence time for slowing and filtering of stormwater runoff; however, the gradient of the vegetated swale and the use of weirs may affect flow rates. Vegetated swales have some potential to infiltrate stormwater runoff as it moves downstream depending on the specific conditions of the site and through the use of check dams to retain shallow amounts of runoff. Vegetated swales are typically built very shallow and contain runoff that is only a few of inches deep.

Parking lots, streets, and certain site/building locations that have a long, continuous space to support a functioning landscape system are excellent candidate sites for vegetated swales.

Vegetated swales are relatively low-cost compared with standard landscaped areas, simple to construct, and widely accepted as a stormwater management strategy. Vegetated swales can be planted in a variety of ways ranging from mown grass to a diverse palette of grasses, sedges, rushes, shrubs, groundcovers and trees.

For building, site, street, and parking lot applications, vegetated swales can be used in both relatively flat conditions or steeper conditions up to a 5% longitudinal slope.

For regulated projects, vegetated swales can only be used for conveyance or pre-treatment as they are not a regulated treatment measure unless they are part of a treatment train; see the C.3 Regulated Project Guide for more details.

◀ This parking lot in San Mateo County utilizes a vegetated swale to manage a large portion of impervious area runoff.



The Anatomy of a Vegetated Swale

- 1 Cross section is parabolic or trapezoidal with defined side slope conditions
- 2 Side slopes are ideally set at a 4:1 slope (3:1 maximum)
- 3 For street conditions, use a 12-inch flat shelf transitioning between the curb or pavement and the slope when used adjacent to a parking lane, bicycle facility, or sidewalk
- 4 6" preferred, maximum of 12" of stormwater runoff retention
- 5 Imported soil mixture (see C.3 Regulated Project Guide for soil specifications)
- 6 Native soil condition (an underdrain system may be needed with some native soil conditions)
- 7 Vegetated swales can be either infiltrative, or use bioretention/flow-through with an underdrain system

Why Choose Vegetated Swales?

- Can complement the rural and semi-rural character that exists in several San Mateo County communities.
- Can provide vegetation that buffers pedestrians and bicyclists from moving vehicles.
- Provides vegetation along streets, buildings, and parking lots which can increase community identity and soften the look of a built space.
- Can include trees that provide protection from sun, fostering a pleasant environment.
- They often require less infrastructure to build and are simple and inexpensive to construct.
- Are excellent choices for new residential and commercial development and can be easily retrofitted within parking lots and along street and building frontages.

Potential Constraints?

- They need long, continuous spaces which can be difficult to find.
- They are often designed to be "too deep" and, as a result, are not aesthetically pleasing.
- Does not meet design standards for regulated projects but can be used as part of a treatment train to transport stormwater to a regulated project treatment measure.
- Difficult to incorporate on street parking with vegetated swales and provide good pedestrian circulation, unless space is provided for people to step out of vehicles and bridging is provided across the vegetated swale.

Ch 2 GI Measures & Opportunities

2.11 Green Infrastructure Measures and Opportunities *Stormwater Trees*



▲ Stormwater Tree. Note that the low railing is set back from the curb and is a lower height that transitions to a higher height. This allows for car doors to swing open without hitting the railing.



▲ Stormwater trees can be linked together with pervious pavement, modular suspended pavement, and other techniques to expand runoff storage capacity.

Opportunities for Streets

Any place a standard street tree could be located, a stormwater tree can be used. Stormwater trees are helpful in places that have limited or no storm drain systems, are in constrained and urban areas, and for retrofit projects. Even where on-street parking is highly utilized there may be opportunities for stormwater trees. Small planters may be added between parking spaces to provide some stormwater treatment and complete street benefits of shading sidewalks with trees and visually narrowing the street. The use of a tree grate can expand the walking or bicycling surface area. Stormwater trees can be used at the curb edge of sidewalk; within parking lanes; in wider buffers to cycle track facilities; with parallel or diagonal parking, and particularly where red curbs currently exist. Locating stormwater trees upstream of drainage inlets and catch basins will help ensure that street run-off flows to the green infrastructure first, because the grade of the street and gutter should already flow to the inlet. It is generally not recommended to retrofit an existing street tree into a stormwater tree due to existing planter grades and tree roots.

□

Special Considerations for Stormwater Tree Design

- Ensure stormwater runoff can flow back out to the street when the stormwater tree planter area is at capacity.
- Provide adequate tree root volume of planter area to support long term tree health and vitality. This is especially important for trees sited in large extents of pavement. Adequate tree root volume can be met by a variety of techniques including a minimum tree planter area size based on the expected mature size of the tree; using modular pavement support cells; and using permeable pavement and/or infiltration trenches to link trees. These measures aid in allowing roots access to oxygen and water. Refer to Section 3.5.11 for additional information on minimum tree planter sizes and related information.
- Stormwater tree planting areas can be planted with a variety of trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers, depending on site context and conditions.
- If considering turning existing street tree plantings into stormwater trees, work with an arborist to confirm the trees can tolerate the addition of new and/or larger amounts of water inundation.



▲ These stormwater trees are flanked by seating areas. A metal capped inlet should be provided across the face of the planter to prevent vehicles from entering the planters.



▲ The gravel band along the curb helps to dissipate stormwater runoff flows into the planter.



▲ As with other green infrastructure measures, stormwater tree planters will need to be maintained to remove debris and sediment and replant vegetation that declines.

Ch 4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

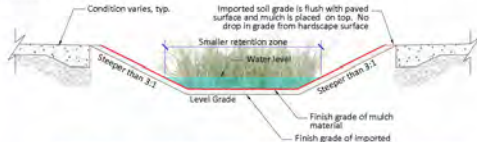
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4.3 <i>Dealing with Steep Topography/Using Check Dams and Weirs</i>	4-8
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Ch 4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

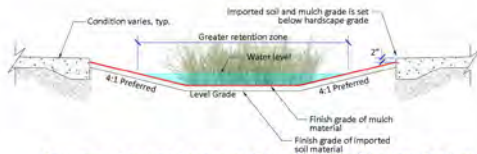
4.9 Key Design and Construction Considerations Soil Preparation, Landscape Grading, and Mulch Placement

Effective Landscape Grading

Many stormwater facilities built in San Mateo County are designed to be too deep and with very steep side slopes. These types of conditions have permanent operation and maintenance consequences including erosion issues, plant desiccation, and difficulty to physically access plant material. For future projects, it is best to design facilities with gradual side slopes and shallow depth facilities to help limit erosion, better mimic natural landscape conditions, and promote more flat space for water contact. The type of green infrastructure facility may need to be reconsidered to have curb walls rather than side slopes in narrow locations to limit the issues associated with erosion, constrained areas for tree planting, and other conditions. See below for grading comparisons.



Undesirable Grading Scenario: Steep Slopes/Deep Facility



Optimum Grading Scenario: Gentle Slopes/Shallow Facility



▲ This newly installed green infrastructure facility will have consistent problems with erosion control and plant health issues because of steep side slope conditions (steeper than 3:1 slope).



▲ This rain garden is graded very shallow to allow ponding of water, but it is not excessively deep or have steep side slopes. Ultimately this rain garden will perform better over time and will be easier to maintain.

Rural and Semi-Rural Streets and Roads

Rural and semi-rural areas of San Mateo County, such as Atherton, Portola Valley, Hillsborough, Woodside, and parts of other communities and the unincorporated County, often have streets and roads that are not fully improved with sidewalks, curbs, gutters, street lights, non-channelized stormwater improvements, and other complete street and infrastructure elements. Roadside may function as "informal" green infrastructure in their current state. However, if these areas also function as shoulders or informal parking, they can become compacted or damaged by vehicles which would impede their function as green infrastructure.

Rights of way are often narrow, topography can be steep and rolling, mature trees may be present, and soils may not be conducive to infiltration. Because of these factors, areas that are feasible for green infrastructure facilities may be limited. In these instances, right of way or easements may need to be acquired to place green infrastructure along streets and roads, and the use of check dams on steeper streets will need to be considered. Further, the type of green infrastructure measures may be limited as well. Opportunities to utilize excess right of way at intersections and other flatter areas for rain gardens can be a viable way to provide some green infrastructure that treats and manages run off from existing swales along roads. In some cases, existing swales along roads could be modified to become terraced or non-terraced stormwater planters or as vegetated swales that slow, pre-treat, and transport stormwater to a rain garden or infiltration system.

Remember that new trees planted along streets within a project area can be designed or considered as tree wells, stormwater trees, or interceptor trees. In addition, existing trees that are preserved as part of a project and meet C.3 guidance can be considered as interceptor trees. It may also be more efficient for communities with these conditions to identify watershed or sub-watershed scales public projects for green infrastructure



▲ Linear landscape or swale areas along streets can be retrofitted into vegetated swales, pervious pavement parking areas, rain gardens, or other green infrastructure measures.



▲ A shallow green gutter is retrofitted along a rural residential street. The project also incorporated a pervious concrete sidewalk that now allows children to safely walk to a nearby elementary school.



▲ Narrow rights of way and steeper terrain in rural and semi-rural areas limit the ability to use green infrastructure measures. Flatter intersections and cross streets may offer locations for green infrastructure.

Ch 4 Intro to Design Strategies and Guidelines

CHAPTER 4

4.12 Key Design and Construction Considerations

Sizing of Green Infrastructure Facilities

Standard Sizing Methodology

MMAP Provision C.3.d specifies minimum hydraulic sizing requirements for stormwater treatment measures in regulated projects. Regulated projects must treat the water quality design flow or volume of stormwater runoff through infiltration, biotreatment, or capture and use. Certain regulated projects must also meet the sizing requirements for hydromodification management (HdM) in Provision C.3.g, depending on the location and amount of impervious surface created and/or replaced on the site.

Chapter 5 of the **C.3 Regulated Project Guide** contains detailed procedures for sizing specific stormwater treatment measures using volume-based sizing criteria, flow-based sizing criteria, or a combination flow and volume approach. The volume-based design standard is capture and treatment of 80% of the annual runoff (the small, frequent storm events). There is also a simplified sizing method for biotreatment in which the surface area of the treatment measure is equal to 4% of the contributing impervious area, i.e., a sizing factor of 0.04.

In general, green infrastructure facilities are required to meet the same sizing criteria as regulated projects. Green infrastructure should be sized to treat the C.3.d flow and/or volume of runoff from contributing impervious surface areas in the public realm (e.g., streets, sidewalks, parking lot, etc.) as well as portions of adjacent parcels that drain to those areas if necessary. If site constraints in the public right-of-way prevent using green infrastructure to meet C.3.d sizing requirements, the alternative sizing methodology described below may be used.

Alternative Sizing Methodology for Street Projects

Recognizing that green infrastructure in the public right-of-way may not be able to meet the standard sizing methodology due to constraints such as lack of space, utility conflicts, or other factors, the MMAP allows non-regulated green street projects with documented constraints to use an alternative sizing methodology. SASMAA has developed regional guidance for alternative sizing, based on a hydrologic modeling analysis, with sizing curves for the minimum bioretention surface area needed to provide treatment of 80% of annual runoff (per C.3.d) and design approaches to use when the C.3.d sizing requirements cannot be met.

The hydrologic analysis report provides an equation to calculate the minimum bioretention sizing factor to meet C.3.d based on the mean annual precipitation (MAP) of the project site:

$$\text{Sizing Factor} = 0.00060 \times \text{MAP} + 0.0085$$

Where: Sizing Factor is the ratio of the surface area of the bioretention facility to the impervious area contributing runoff

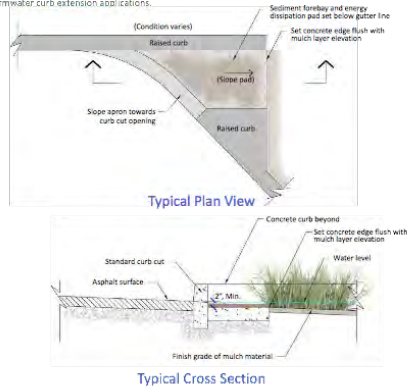
Based on this equation, green street bioretention facilities in some areas of the County can be sized with as low as a 2% sizing factor and still meet the C.3.d sizing requirements.

If a green street opportunity is constrained such that the minimum sizing factor cannot be achieved, undersized green infrastructure measures may still be worth constructing to provide some water quality, runoff reduction, urban greening, or other community benefits. The sizing curves in the SASMAA guidance can be used to determine what percentages of the C.3.d volume are treated in smaller facilities. Refer to Appendix 7 for the complete document, *Guidance for Sizing Green Infrastructure Facilities in Street Projects*, and its companion technical memorandum, *Green Infrastructure Facility Sizing for Non-regulated Street Projects*.

SASMAA, 2018. "Guidance for Sizing Green Infrastructure Facilities in Street Projects."

Sediment Forebays for Stormwater Curb Extensions

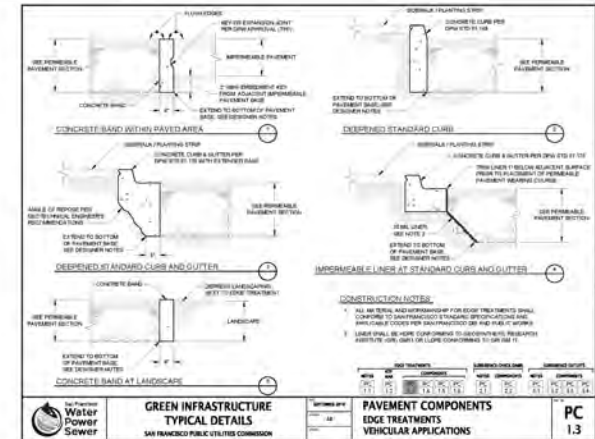
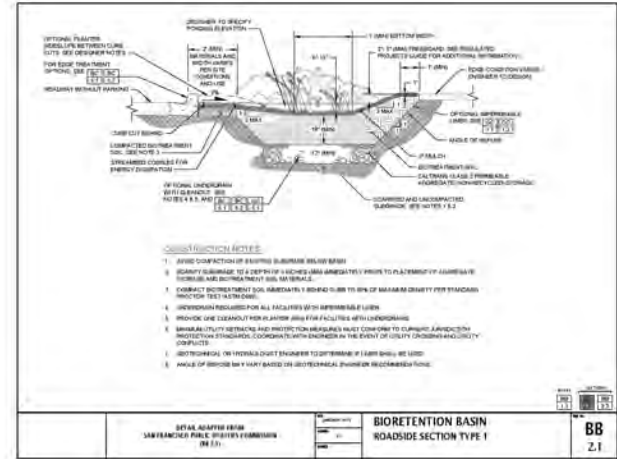
Because streets are typically the primary conveyance system of stormwater runoff within the urban watershed, they often produce and transport the highest sediment load. For this reason, special consideration should be made to allow for a sizeable sediment forebay for stormwater curb extensions receiving gutter flow. The sketches below illustrate some basic guidance on sediment forebays for stormwater curb extension applications.



Appendices

■ Sustainable Streets Typical Design Details

- How to use
- Customize for site specific conditions
- Base details: SFPUC GI Typical Details
- Verify most current version is used
- Verify if jurisdiction where project is has different details
- SMCWPPP modified/new typical details
- References to other agency typical details



Appendices

■ Sustainable Streets Specifications

- How to use
- For permeable pavements, biotreatment soil, and composted mulch
- Plant palette and MWEO
- Customize for site specific conditions
- Design and functional considerations
- Base specs: SF PUC or Bay Area Pervious Concrete
- Verify most current version is used
- Verify if jurisdiction where project is has different specifications



DIVISION 32 – EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS

Section 32 12 43 – Porous Asphalt Concrete

3.04 POROUS ASPHALT PLACEMENT

DESIGNER NOTE: Designer should specify where a tack coat should be applied (e.g., face of curb, structures,) if at all.

- A. Porous asphalt equipment, transportation, spreading, and compacting shall comply with the Caltrans Specification applicable to Open Graded Friction Course (OGFC), except as noted below or as specified in the approved mix design.
- B. Qualified Personnel: The qualified foreman as defined in 1.05.B.2 shall be onsite for the duration of porous asphalt placement.
- C. Spreading and Compacting Equipment: shall conform to Section 39-1.10 of the Caltrans Standard Specifications except that pneumatic tire rollers shall not be used.

DESIGNER NOTE: The compaction could be established by the contractor rather than prescribed below depending on whether the contracting agency prefers to take a prescriptive approach or performance based approach. Prescriptive because full depth porous asphalt is an emerging technology and the density specifications for open graded (porous) asphalt mixtures. But taken to ensure this prescriptive specification is compatible with the acc

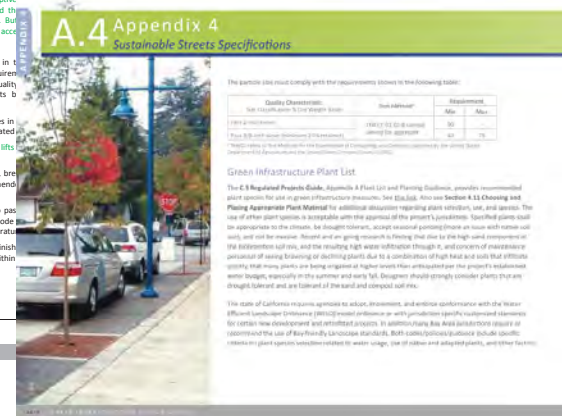
- D. Spreading and Compacting:

The type of rollers to be used and their relative position in the sequence shall be dictated by the contractor provided the requirements met and the completed porous asphalt meets the required quality specified in Section 1.05. Deviation from the requirements be approved in advance by the Engineer.

1. The porous asphalt shall be laid in lifts of up to 4 inches in approved equipment to achieve the total thickness indicated.
- DESIGNER NOTE:** Designer should consider using thinner lifts practical to ensure better compaction.
2. The temperature of the Porous HMA mix during laying, bre and finished rolling, shall be within the supplier-recommended range.
 3. Breakdown rolling shall be performed with one or two pas 10-ton vibratory roller operated in low amplitude mode temperature is within the supplier-recommended temperature range.
 4. Finished rolling shall be performed with a double-drum finish in roller mode when the mix temperature is within the supplier-recommended temperature range.

DESIGNER NOTE: Designer should consider using thinner lifts practical to ensure better compaction.

February 2016



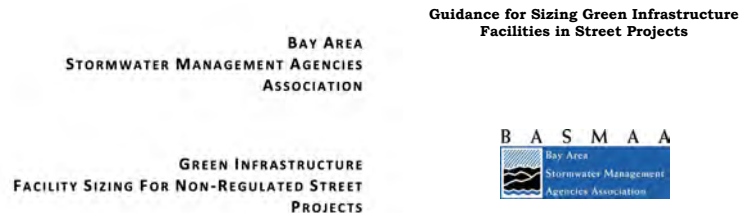
Appendices

■ Ap 7 Guidance for Sizing GI Facilities in Streets

- BASMAA's regional approach for alternative sizing for constrained non-regulated street projects

■ Ap 5 Sample Maintenance Plan Forms

- Maintenance checklists for:
 - Landscaped Stormwater Facility
 - Pervious pavement

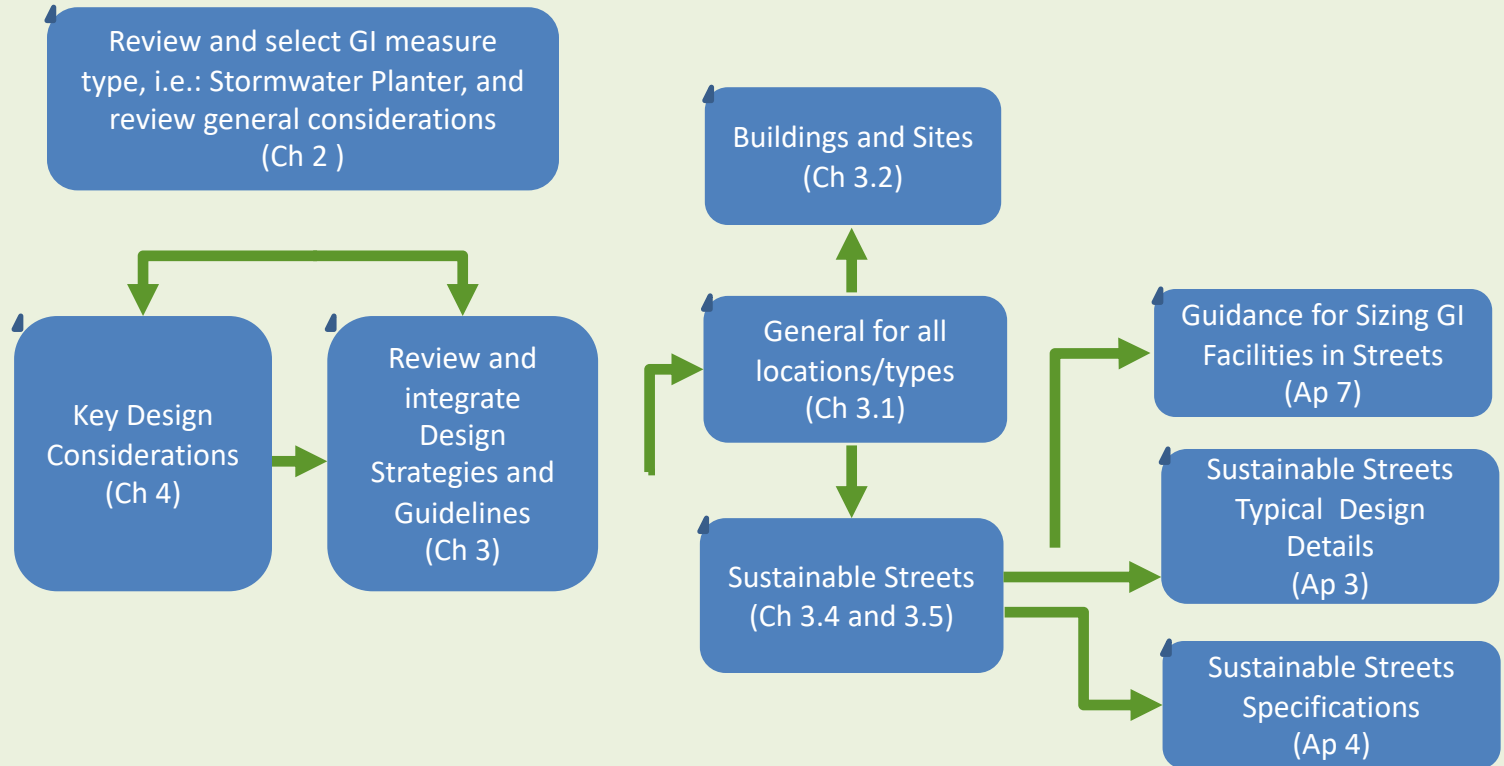


Pervious Pavement Maintenance Checklist

1. POOR DRAINAGE ACTIONS:	Expected Positive Results:	Issue Remedied?
Identify any sediment build-up within the pervious pavement area or between paving joints <input type="checkbox"/>	There should be no areas of standing water after the rain has ceased after 1 hour.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Vacuum every sediment build-up within the pervious pavement joints or between paving joints <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments:	
Work on any sediments that during any conditions additional actions needed <input type="checkbox"/>		
2. PAVEMENT SETTLEMENT ACTIONS:	Expected Positive Results:	Issue Remedied?
Identify areas of pervious pavement settlement <input type="checkbox"/>	There should be no areas of unexpected settlement within the pervious pavement system.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Remove sections of settled pervious pavement, reset pavement system to designed conditions <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments:	
Reinforce entire pervious paving conditions Additional actions needed <input type="checkbox"/>		
3. PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIONS:	Expected Positive Results:	Issue Remedied?
If ADA accessibility is required, determine if pervious paving is maintaining ADA accessibility compliance (i.e. no trip hazards, low detectable slip resistance, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/>	Pervious paving should not be a public safety hazard at any time.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Determine if the pervious paving is damaged and poses a safety issue. Take actions to remedy damaged areas <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments:	
Determine if pervious paving is obstructing runoff from hazardous material sources, and take further actions to remedy Additional actions needed <input type="checkbox"/>		

How to Use the GI Design Guide

User Experienced with GI and Ready to Design



Green Infrastructure Design Guide

- Questions?



Green Infrastructure Design Guide

First Edition | 2019

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