



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A SUSTAINABLE SAN MATEO COUNTY

Mitigating flood risk, protecting our Bay and waterways, creating safer communities— these are just a few ways green infrastructure (also known as nature-based infrastructure) can lessen the impacts of climate change and heavy storms. Green Infrastructure means a stronger, safer, and more prepared San Mateo County.

HOW DOES GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORK?

There are various types of Green Infrastructure (GI) that range in size, scale, and function. The vast majority of GI projects are built to be multi-beneficial and can provide habitat, flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water. GI uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to soak up and manage water. The natural filtration that occurs through GI also works to remove pollutants and improve water quality. By mimicking nature we can create healthier urban environments.



IMAGE COURTESY OF SCVURPPP



SAN MATEO COUNTYWIDE WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM
Clean Water. Healthy Community.



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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AT WORK



01

REDUCE POLLUTION

Green Infrastructure employs natural filtering processes that reduce the quantity of water pollutants such as PCBs, mercury, and trash from entering water bodies which flow into the Bay and ocean. At the same time, Green Infrastructure works above ground to filter air pollutants and particulates.



02

MANAGE FLOOD RISK

Green Infrastructure can mitigate flood risk in our communities by slowing and reducing stormwater runoff during storms.



03

PROMOTES SAFER COMMUNITIES

Green Infrastructure promotes traffic calming and increases bike and pedestrian safety through protected lanes and other planned community designs.



04

KEEPS WATER LOCAL

Green Infrastructure captures stormwater and increases infiltration into the ground to help recharge local groundwater supply.



05

INCREASE NATURAL HABITAT

Green Infrastructure projects create habitat for wildlife in urban areas by increasing vegetation.