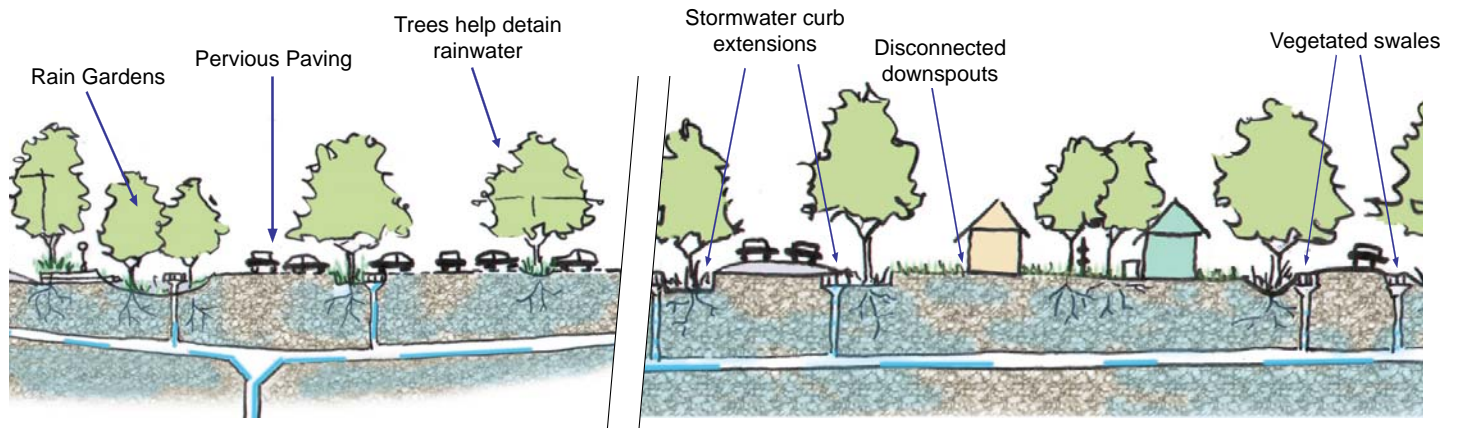


San Mateo County's Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Program

What Are Green Streets and Parking Lots?

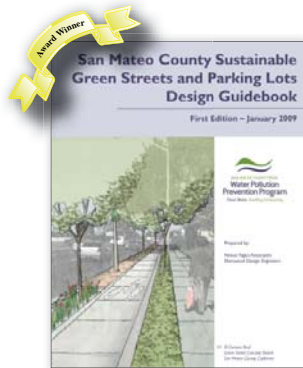
When the natural landscape is urbanized, impervious surface is created that prevents water from being absorbed. Pollutants from streets, parking lots, homes, and other sources are washed into pipes where stormwater flows to water bodies, typically without any treatment to remove pollutants. The high volume and velocity of stormwater emptying into creeks may cause flooding, erosion and destroy natural habitat. The illustration below shows how green streets and parking lots promote infiltration of stormwater into the soil, while slowing and reducing the volume of stormwater runoff and filtering out pollutants.



Green streets and parking lots slow and absorb stormwater, and filter out pollutants before runoff enters the storm drain system.

The Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Program

Created in 2007, the Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Program helps municipalities in San Mateo County implement green street and parking lot projects. The San Mateo City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) provided funding through a countywide vehicle registration fee for congestion management and preventing stormwater pollution related to motor vehicles. The program focuses on: guidance, training, and financial assistance.



Award-Winning Guidance Document

Completed in 2009, the San Mateo County Green Streets and Parking Lots Design Guidebook shows how attractive green infrastructure can be successfully incorporated into a wide range of streetscape improvements, traffic calming, and other projects. The Guidebook won 2009 awards for Innovation in Green Community Planning from the American Planning Association's California Chapter and Northern California Section. The Guidebook can be downloaded at www.flowstobay.org.

Training Workshops on Green Infrastructure

Two workshops, in May 2009, presented the Guidebook's concepts to over 100 members of municipal staffs and the development community in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The workshops included presentations of material in the guidebook, followed by a small-group design charrette activity, to prepare concept drawings of green street and parking lot projects.



Design charrette activity at training workshop in San Mateo County.

Financial Assistance Awarded to Six Municipalities

Six grants were awarded to construct demonstration green streets and parking lots, allocating approximately \$1.29 million of funds collected from a countywide vehicle license fee. Selection criteria included:

- Cost effectiveness;
- Likelihood the project will be completed and maintained;
- Educational opportunities, attractiveness and visibility;
- Ability to demonstrate the use of sustainable, green streets or parking lots for pollution prevention, treatment, and flow duration control; and
- Effectiveness in alleviating adverse impacts to water quality.

Grant-funded projects are listed below:

- Brisbane City Hall green parking lot
- Belle Aire/Third Avenue green street, San Bruno
- Serramonte Library green parking lot, Daly City
- Holly Road green street, Belmont
- Donnelly Avenue/Lot C green street and parking lot, Burlingame
- Fitzgerald Marine Reserve green parking lot, Moss Beach

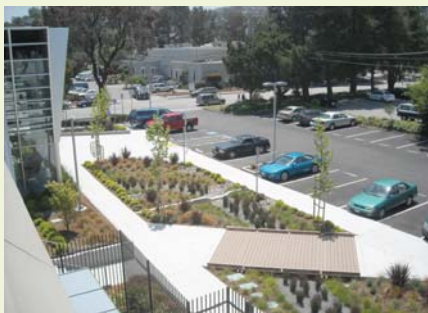


Designs for the Holly Road green street, in Belmont, include a series of vegetated swales and stormwater planters (typical design shown above) along Holly Road.



Scheduled for completion October 2009, the parking lot at Daly City's Serramonte Library will direct stormwater runoff through a series of vegetated detention swales/ponds for groundwater recharge.

Constructed Green Street and Parking Lot Projects



This rain garden/bioretention area removes pollutants from stormwater and provide attractive landscaping for Brisbane City Hall's parking lot and entry plaza.

Brisbane City Hall Green Parking Lot

The parking lot serving City Hall, the Police Department and the City's Dog Park was reconfigured to treat runoff from portions of the parking lot and roof (about a 38,000 square foot catchment area), with no loss of parking. A raingarden/bioretention area was installed at the City Hall Entry Plaza, with plantings selected to require no irrigation after establishment. A vegetated swale was constructed along Valley Drive. These stormwater treatment features provide attractive green spaces, with educational signage explaining the water quality benefits to an estimated 4,000 people per month who use this facility.

Belle Air/Third Avenue Street Creek, San Bruno

A 600-square-foot curb extension was constructed on the west side of 3rd Avenue, between entrances to two parking lots, in the vicinity of Belle Air Elementary School. The project design helps calm traffic from school drop-offs and pick-ups, reduce on-street ponding, and remove pollutants. Stormwater enters the curb extension via curb cuts and is detained and filtered by soils and drought tolerant vegetation. Educational signage explains the water quality benefits to the families of approximately 400 children attending the school. Preliminary estimates show a drainage area of 9,500 square feet.



The design for the Belle Air/Third Avenue "street creek" project was featured as an example project in the San Mateo County Sustainable Green Streets and Parking Lots Design Guidebook.

For more information, go to www.flowstobay.org, or contact Matt Fabry, Program Coordinator, mfabry@ci.brisbane.ca.us, (415) 508-2134.