



Image: C/CAG FlowstoBay.org – Green Infrastructure Design Guide

# Guidelines for MASTER PLANNING a SUSTAINABLE GREEN STREET NETWORK

## How to move from Vision to Practice

Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter  
Sustainable Land Use Committee



January 20, 2021

Many cities already have:

- ★ Bike master plan
- ★ Complete streets plan
- ★ Green infrastructure plan
- ★ Safe routes to school plan
- ★ Urban canopy/Tree plan
- ★ Parks & open space plan



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SETTING A COURSE

## 5-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Figure 3-7 5-Year Implementation Plan



But often they are developed and implemented at different times and by different city departments and not **integrated** together into a single plan, funded by a sharing of multi-department financial resources (Public Works, Parks, Public Safety, etc.), and implemented congruently.



**Cities need to  
Create a policy  
so that city departments work  
together rather than in silos  
to  
Plan and fund INTEGRATED  
solutions for greening city  
streets**



Image: C/CAG FlowstoBay.org – Green Infrastructure Design Guide

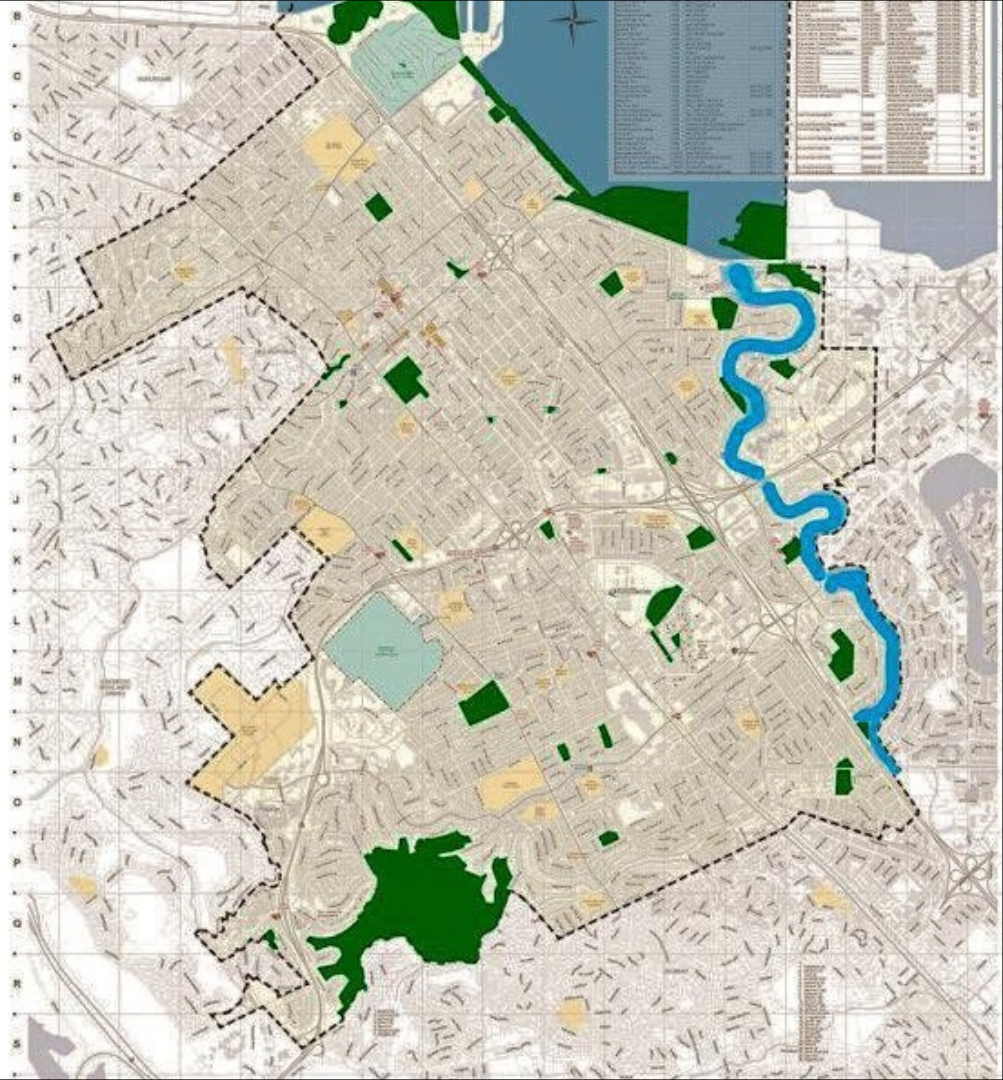
## How to conceptualize an **INTEGRATED** **Green Street** **Network**

Engage multiple city departments, private utilities, and the public to create a citywide Slow, Safe street network with Trees, Plants & Green Stormwater Infrastructure

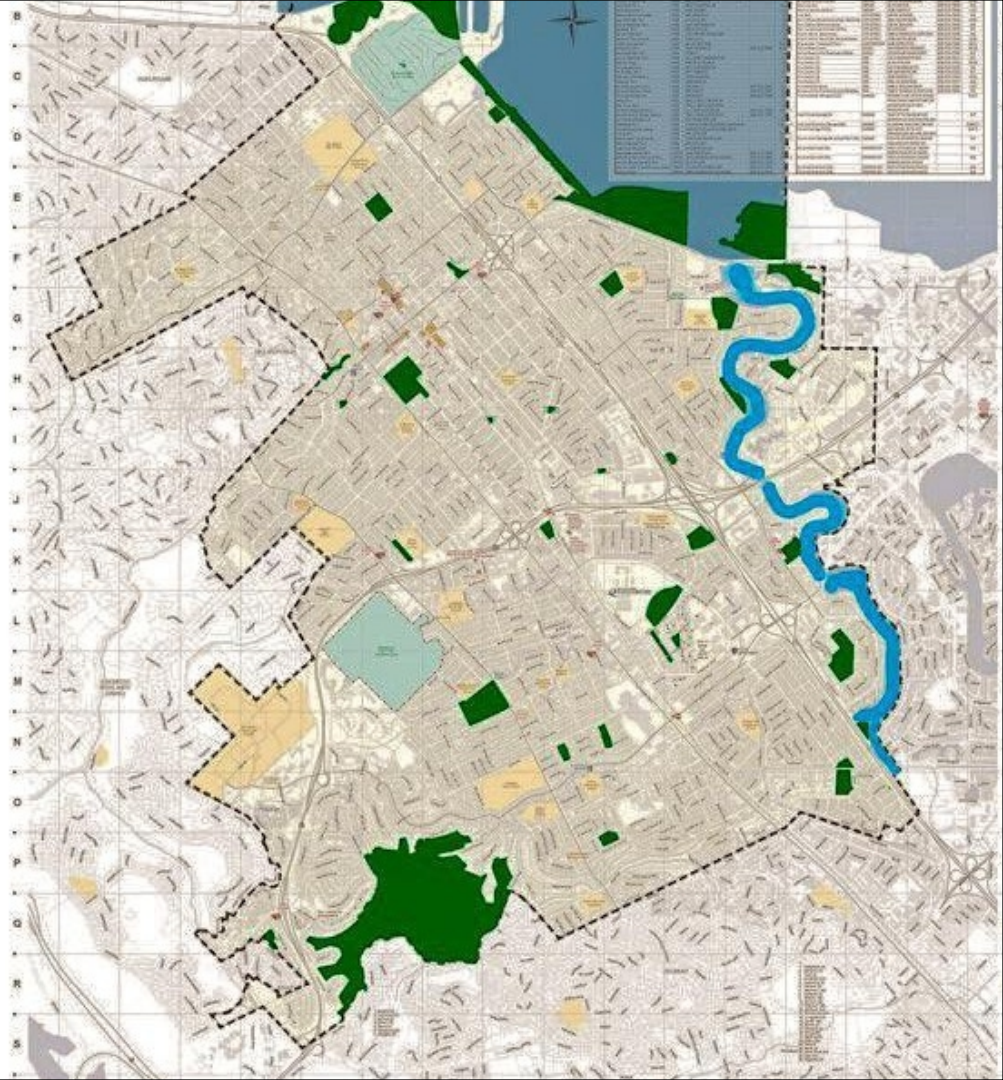
**1. Start with a map of your city**  
**(as illustrated here by the map of the City of San Mateo)**



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## 2. Identify Open Spaces: existing parks & creeks

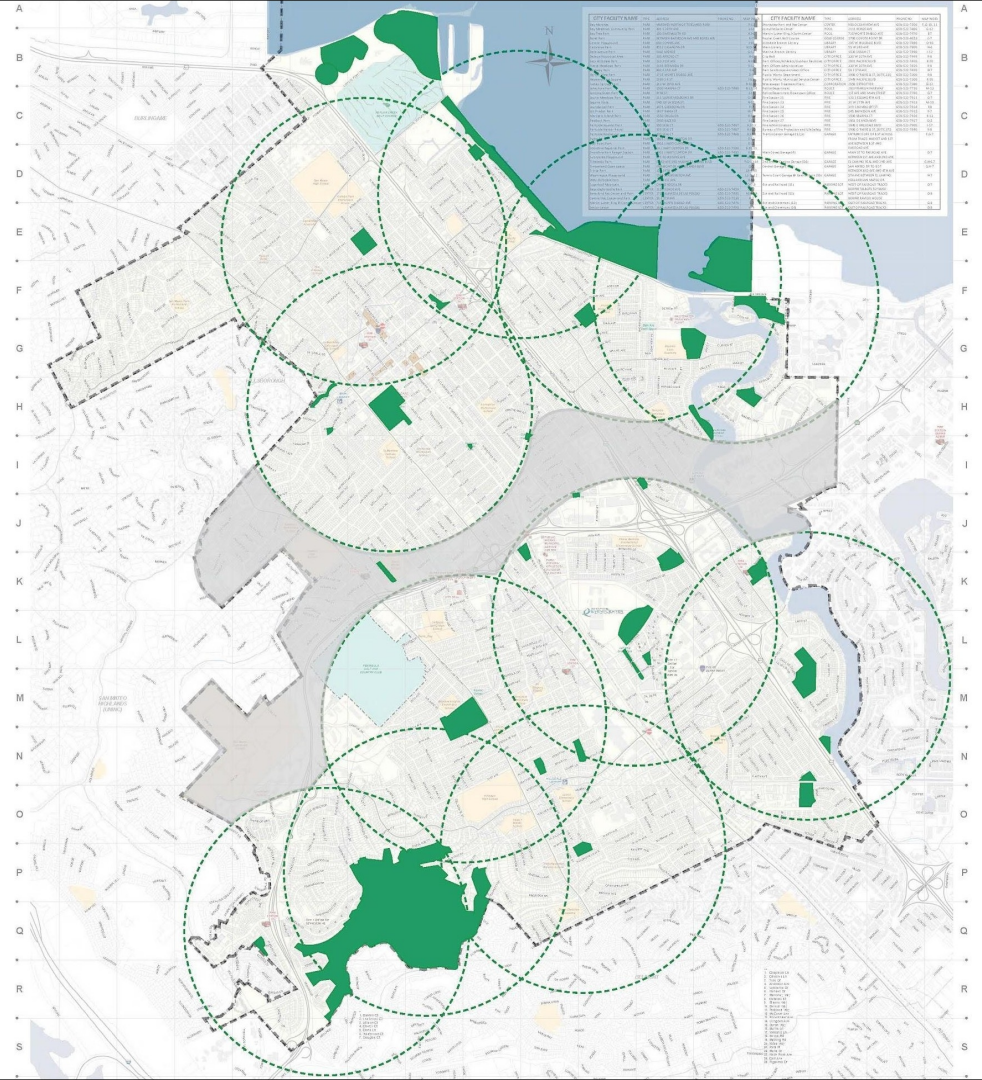


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**3. Add a 10-minute (1/2 mile) walk distance around existing parks to identify areas that lack pedestrian access to parks (shown grey)**

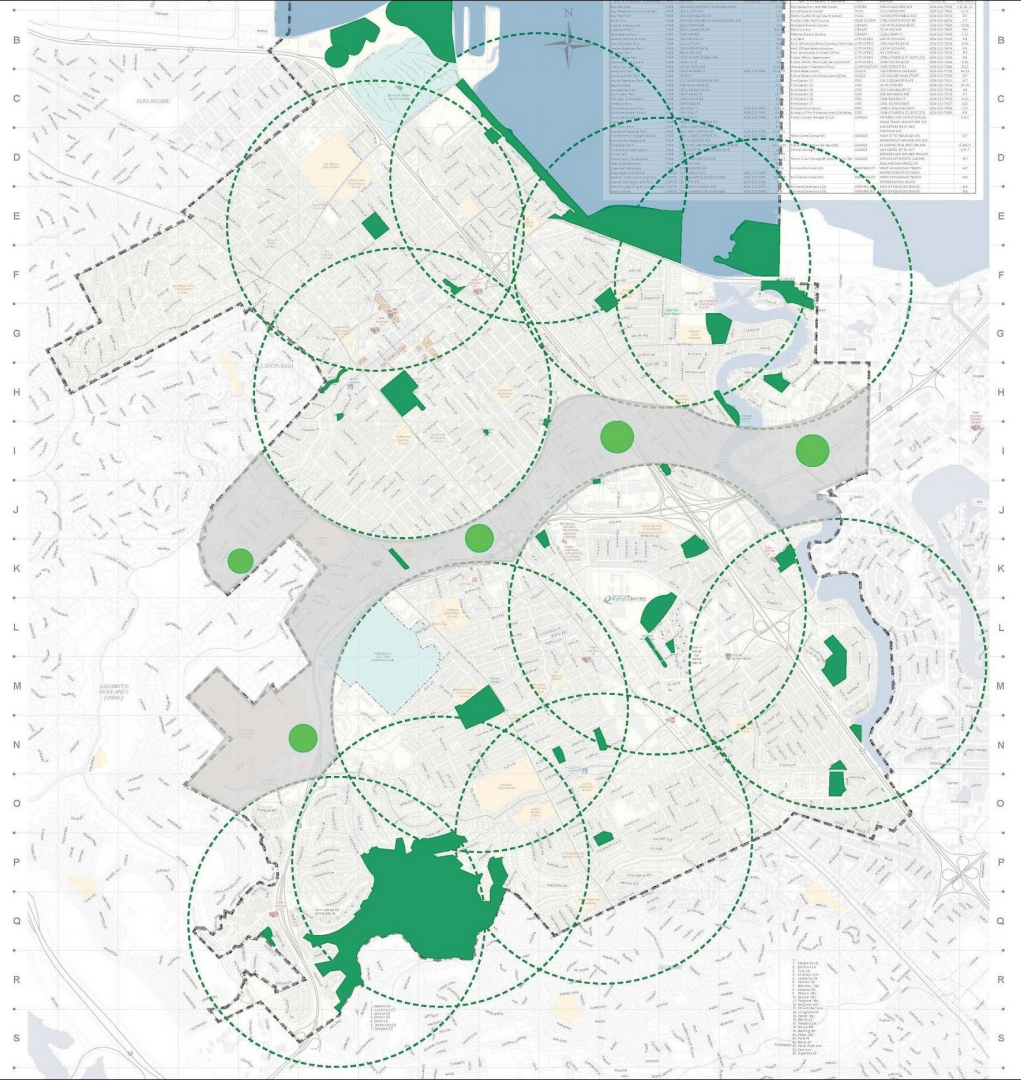


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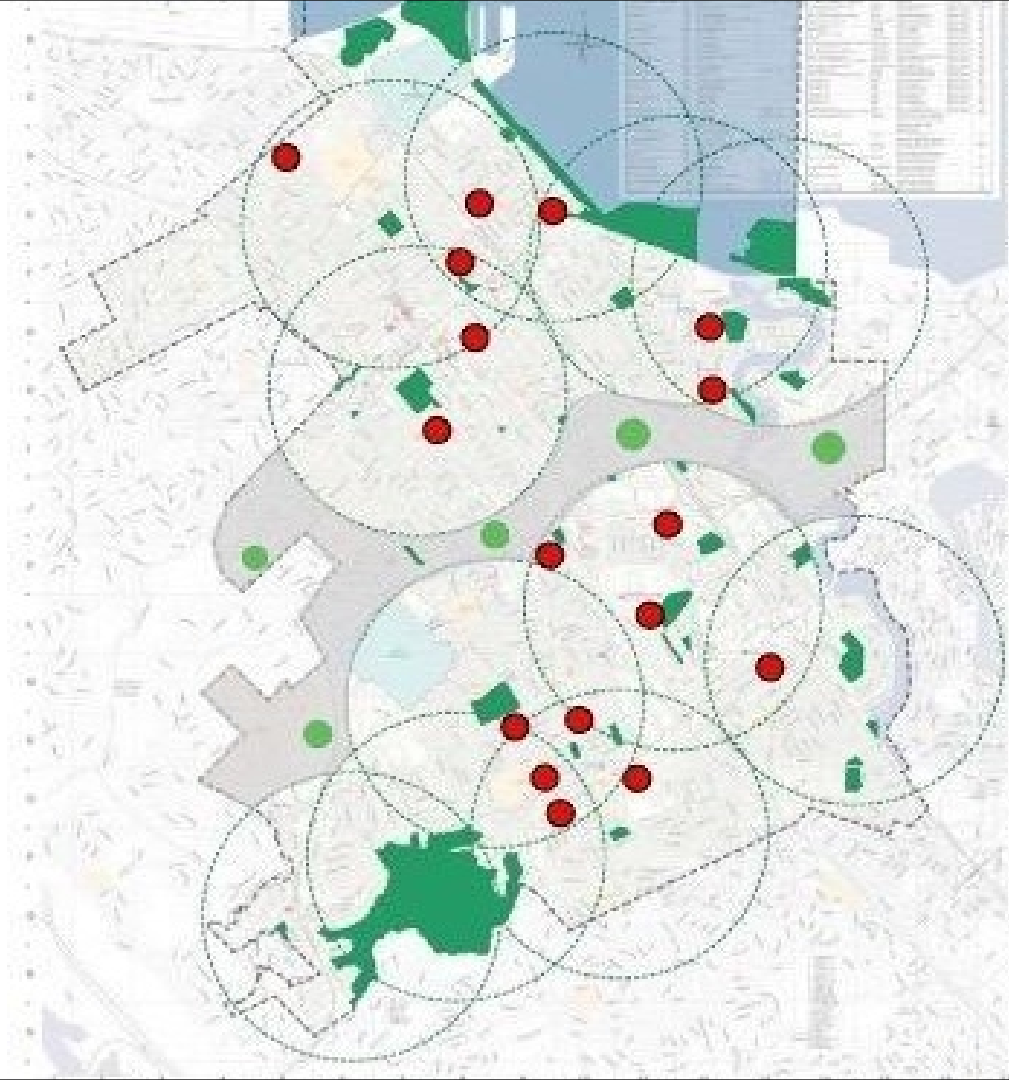




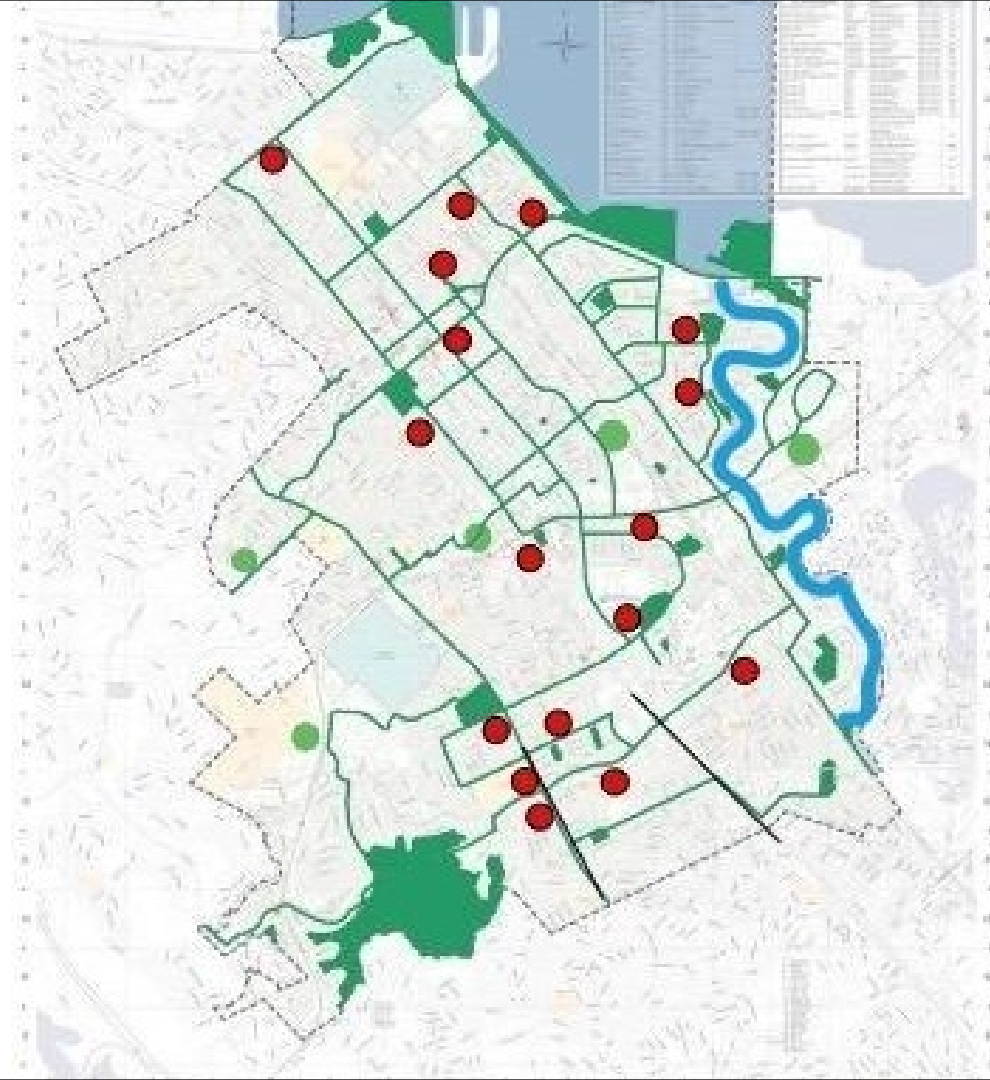
# 4. Plan new green parks in these areas



## 5. Locate existing schools



**6. Overlay Bike Master Plan, Safe Routes to School, & existing slow streets to create a connected network of safe, slow, low-stress pedestrian walks and bikeways that connect the schools, parks, creeks, and the Bay**



## 7. Slow auto traffic to 15-20 mph

- Prioritize a portion of street space for only pedestrians bicyclists, kids, seniors
- Start with temporary and inexpensive materials
- Get feedback



# A Safe Slow Green Street network:

Can include Safe  
Routes to School



## 8. Plant trees along streets to provide shade

- Calms traffic
- encourages walking and rolling
- reduces urban heat island effect
- sequesters carbon
- improves air quality
- reduces energy use



## 9. Include green storm-water infrastructure

- capture rainwater for trees and plants
- clean pollutants
- prevent local flooding
- clean water to bay
- recharge ground water



**10.** Use appropriate planting to Create Ecology / Habitat corridors to attract birds, insects, and pollinators

Select native and high habitat-value planting for:

- . Trees
- . Shrubs
- . Groundcovers





**11. Underground utility lines to avoid conflict with street trees and increase fire safety during storms**

Safe green streets can serve as safe **evacuation** routes in emergencies

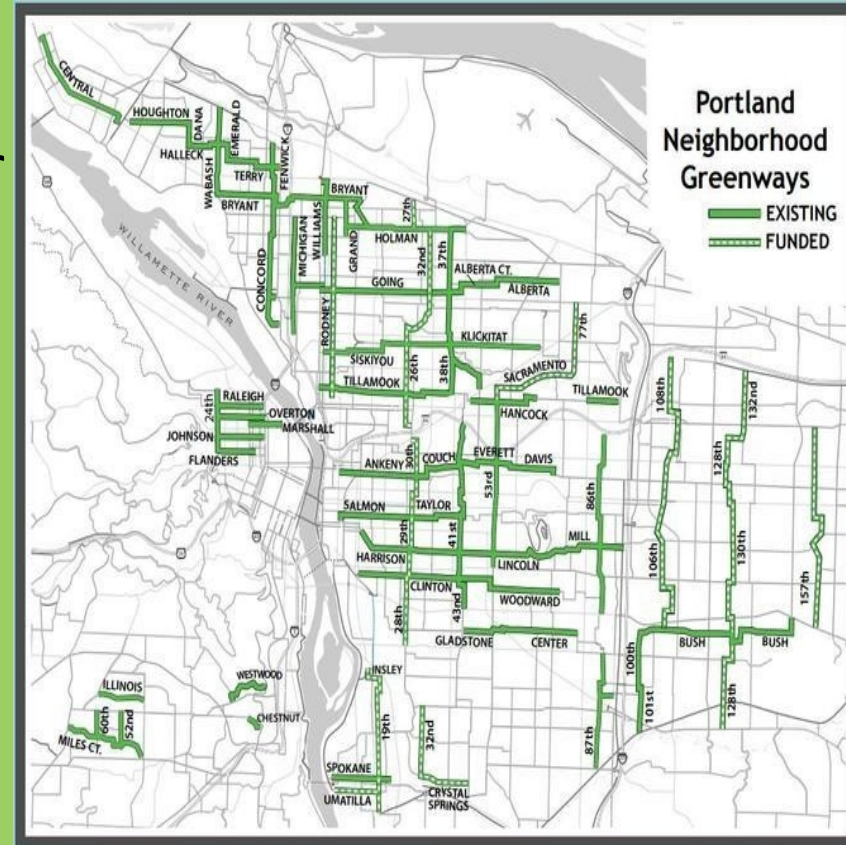


Photo: Emily Korman KCAW Dec 24, 2013

**12. Provide incentives** for property owners along the corridor to replant with native landscaping for habitat



- Encourage Public Works, Public Safety, Parks & private sector to Plan & Implement Green Streets Together
- Encourage and Incentivise shade trees on public and private land
- Start with temporary “slow” (non-arterial) green streets
- Give people time to adjust, then review and re-adjust.
- Reconstruct streets to make temporary changes permanent






# SIGNAGE IS CRITICAL: Examples of explanatory signage for temporary slow streets

Do not create a temporary slow street without clear explanatory signage because closures or street alterations without explanation will confuse people and they will rebel



- **Plan for new evolving non-fossil fuel modes of “last mile” transportation such as scooters, electric bikes, micromobility.**
- Non-auto modes of transportation reduce VMT
- Vision Zero- Safety - top priority
- Anticipate growth





We have learned that pedestrians  
& bicycles blossom given their own  
network of  
**green, slow, safe streets**

**A policy for an integrated design**  
yields benefits on many levels

Climate, Resilience, Safety, Health, Water, Biodiversity



**Green Streets  
create  
Sustainable & Resilient Communities**

[https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/  
guidelines-and-resources](https://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/guidelines-and-resources)

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Photo: duerwater.com