FACT SHEET
Green Street / Green Alley

DESCRIPTION
Green Streets incorporate a wide variety of green infrastructure (GI) elements including street trees, permeable pavements, bioretention, water quality devices, planter boxes and swales. Although the design and appearance of green streets will vary, the functional goals are the same: provide source control of stormwater, limit its transport and pollutant conveyance to the collection system, restore predevelopment hydrology to the extent possible, and provide environmentally enhanced roads. Other benefits include aesthetics, safety, walkability, and heat island reduction.

Green Street technologies can be applied to residential, commercial and arterial streets as well as to alleys. The range of GI technologies that can be incorporated into a Green Street allow its developer to manipulate the stormwater management strategy of a given project. For example, San Mateo County, CA identified five levels of green street design as shown in the graphic on Page 2.

For specific details on the individual GI technologies (e.g., pervious pavement, bioretention, planter boxes etc) that can be incorporated into a Green Street, please consult the specific GI fact sheet.

BENEFITS
• Provides efficient site design
• Balances parking spaces with landscape space
• Utilizes surface conveyance of stormwater
• Adds significant tree canopy
• Provides alternative transportation options/improve walkability
• Increases pedestrian safety
• Improves aesthetics
• Reduces effect of urban heat island
• Reduces runoff volume, increases groundwater recharge and evapotranspiration
• Significant public education potential
• Enhances tree health/longevity

Potential Limitations
• Maintenance needs
• Utility conflicts
• Conflicts with structures and other infrastructure (building foundations, etc)

Potential Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ultra Urban</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retrofit</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highway / Road</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreational</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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MAINTENANCE

- See maintenance requirements for individual GI practices

COST

- $120-$190 per linear foot of block managed (i.e. capture of 1” of runoff)

VARIATIONS

- Porous pavement (street and/or sidewalk)
- Vegetated curb extensions
- Infiltration planters
- Infiltration trenches
- Enhanced tree plantings
- Water quality inlets

KEY DESIGN FEATURES

- See individual Gi fact sheets: Tree Trench, Vegetated Curb Extension, Porous Pavement, etc.

SITE FACTORS

- Slope
- Soils
- Utilities
- Size of right-of-way
- See site factors for individual GI practices

Level 1
Maximizes landscape areas along the street & minimizes overall impervious areas of the land. Some runoff from sidewalks may be managed in landscape areas.

Level 2
Significant tree canopy is added to the urban streetscape.

Level 3
Fully manages street, sidewalk & driveway runoff by using a landscape system. Design solutions are cost effective, provide direct environmental benefits & are aesthetically pleasing.

Level 4
Green street provides direct focus on alternative modes of transportation including mass transit, biking & walking.

Level 5
Green Street frontage manages both public & private stormwater runoff. Building, site & street frontage become one integrated space designed for stormwater management.