

Open Space Plan:

San Francisco Comprehensive Action Plan for High-Performing Open Space

Shape the Vision | Imagine the Future | Chart the Steps | Secure the Future

DEFINITION OF OPEN SPACE

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PREAMBLE

San Francisco's open space is a critical part of the City's role in the regional context as the epicenter of ecological, economic and cultural diversity. It is defined by its unique bioregional and geographic context, and by its visual and physical connection to water on three sides. An 'umbrella' definition of open space includes a wide variety of types and scales, all of which serve social, economic and environmental functions.

Public open space is a key component of the City's green infrastructure that serves the social and environmental health of a city and its residents by addressing current and future challenges in creating a sustainable environment. It further defines the role of San Francisco's urban nature as providing places for peace and enjoyment, as well as freedom and relief from the built world.

A variety of publicly-owned open spaces along with supportive privately-owned spaces are important for a city and its community, in that they meet the needs and desires of a mixed population that is subject to change. Small pocket parks downtown are just as useful as beaches or regional parks because they provide different ways of experiencing nature and community life in an urban environment.

DEFINITION

Open Space

***Publicly-owned spaces** and **publicly-accessible-privately-owned spaces** for active and passive recreation, human experiences of urban nature, as well as for resource conservation*

High-Performing Open Space

*A network of publicly-owned spaces (defined above) along with supportive privately-owned spaces that together provide **strategic balance** between **level of service**: care & programming and **distribution**: amenities & location; including, but not limited to, traditional parks, playgrounds, landscaped areas, beaches, recreational facilities, playing fields, waterways, rooftop gardens, parkways, as well as trails, walkways, alleyways and green streets as the network's linkages.*