Green Infrastructure Grant Program:  
Board of Supervisor’s Update  
July – September 2021

Program Summary

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s (SFPUC) Green Infrastructure Grant Program (Grant Program) is designed to encourage San Francisco property owners to design, build, and maintain performance-based green stormwater infrastructure (Green Infrastructure or GI), including but not limited to: permeable pavement, rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, and vegetated roofs. The goal of this program is to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff entering SFPUC’s sewer system and improve system performance while also providing co-benefits such as non-potable reuse, groundwater recharge, and educational opportunities.

To receive funding under the Grant Program each project must:

1. Be located on a parcel that is connected to an SFPUC-owned and operated sewer system service area.
2. Manage stormwater runoff from a minimum impervious area of 0.5 acres.
3. Capture the 90th percentile storm (0.75-inch depth) with the proposed green infrastructure features.
4. Provide at least two (2) of the identified co-benefits from the program list, which can be found in the Grantee Guidebook.
5. Have a grant team that collectively demonstrates a history of successful project implementation and has previous experience designing, constructing, and/or maintaining green infrastructure.

More information on the Grant Program can be found at www.sfwater.org/gigrants.

Quarterly Highlights

On July 27th, the SFPUC Commission approved an increase to the maximum grant award from $765,000 to $930,000 per impervious acre managed to account for annual inflation. The maximum grant of $2M remains as the per project cap.

During the third quarter of 2021, no new Green Infrastructure Grant applications were received. No new projects were awarded Green Infrastructure Grants during the third quarter. Two awarded projects, St. Thomas More School and Lycee Francais SF Ortega Campus continued project design during the third quarter. The SFPUC technical assistance team continued to perform socially distanced site visits, completing one new site visit and during the third quarter.
Public Property Coordination Efforts

Since the launch of the Green Infrastructure Grant Program in February 2019, the program has seen higher participation rates from private property owners compared to public property owners. To date, eight grant applications have been submitted by private properties and three from public properties. The SFPUC is now exploring how to provide expanded access to this program for more public properties in San Francisco.

The goals of the Green Infrastructure Grant Program update are to (1) create a program structure that allows for meaningful participation from both public and private property owners, (2) remove barriers to program participation for public agencies and their community partners, and (3) create an equitable program structure that promotes access for diverse property owners lacking technical resources. Over the next several months, the SFPUC will evaluate lessons learned over the last two years of grant program administration, identify key strategies to achieve these goals, and revise the Green Infrastructure Grant Program structure.

Additionally, over the last several months SFPUC and SFUSD completed a district-wide assessment of green infrastructure opportunities to identify eligible properties for Green Infrastructure Grant projects. The assessment includes a prioritization tool to assess schools for green infrastructure and schoolyard improvements based on technical and equity scoring criteria. SFUSD is in the process of evaluating their future bond-funded school improvement projects and identifying the highest priority schools for Green Infrastructure Grant applications.
Program Statistics (February 2019 – September 2021)

Since the launch of the Green Infrastructure Grant Program in February 2019, the SFPUC has awarded grants to 9 projects with a total of approximately $7,880,000 in funding. The following program summary statistics are as of September 30, 2021:

- Applications Received: **11**
- Projects Awarded: **9**
- Projects Completed: **2**
- Total Funding Awarded: **$7.88M**
- Potential Stormwater Captured by Awarded Projects: **5.7 million gallons per year**
- Property Site Visits Conducted by Technical Team: **38**
- Site Opportunities Assessments Completed: **17**
- Presentations Given to Stakeholders: **9**
- Publications and Media pick-ups: **2**

### Awarded Projects to Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Watershed</th>
<th>Grant Award</th>
<th>Impervious Area Managed (acres)</th>
<th>Estimated Stormwater Volume Managed (gal/yr)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette Elementary School</td>
<td>Sunset</td>
<td>$489,142</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Thomas More School</td>
<td>Lake Merced</td>
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<td>Bessie Carmichael Middle School</td>
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<td>Lycee Francais SF Ortega Campus</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Lafayette Elementary School – construction complete!

A new Dry Creek Bed in the schoolyard combines nature-play with stormwater management

Stormwater overflow within Dry Creek Bed
Bessie Carmichael Middle School – construction complete!

Bioretention planters and new trees in schoolyard

Planters receive stormwater runoff from school roof and blacktop
Lycee Francais de San Francisco School – awarded project:

Existing basketball court to be replaced with permeable material

Proposed concept design
St. Thomas More School – awarded project:

Existing schoolyard to be retrofit with rain gardens

Proposed concept design
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church – awarded project:

Existing parking lot to be retrofit with rain gardens

Proposed concept design
Crocker Amazon Park – awarded project:

Existing parking lot to be retrofit with large, centralized rain garden at park entrance

Proposed concept design
St. Thomas the Apostle - newly awarded project:

Existing schoolyard to be retrofit with rain gardens and infiltration gallery

Proposed concept design
St. Monica Catholic Church – newly awarded project:

Existing schoolyard, before retrofits

Proposed schoolyard, after retrofits
**St. Anne of the Sunset** – newly awarded project:

Existing schoolyard to be retrofit with new trees, rain gardens, and permeable pavement

Proposed concept design