

## Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Emeryville

### Green Infrastructure Planning in Our Community

Green infrastructure is a natural and environmentally sustainable approach to managing stormwater, using specially-designed landscaped areas, pervious surfaces, and cisterns. While older, “gray infrastructure” approaches to stormwater management use concrete and metal structures to move stormwater quickly away from streets and other impervious surfaces, green infrastructure allows stormwater to infiltrate into native soils, or filter through fast-draining engineered soils. These innovative designs remove pollutants and slow runoff in urban and suburban environments. This helps keep pollutants out of local creeks and the Bay, while also providing other benefits for local communities.

The US Environmental Protection Agency identifies many benefits of green infrastructure in an article at the following link ([www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/benefits-green-infrastructure](http://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/benefits-green-infrastructure)), including:

- **Air quality.** Green infrastructure absorbs and filters particulate pollution in the air and may serve to reduce ground-level ozone (“smog”).
- **Climate resiliency.** Green infrastructure can help improve the resiliency of local infrastructure systems by installing infiltration-based facilities that support floodplain management or help replenish groundwater reserves, or by capturing and retaining stormwater for local use.
- **Social, economic, and health benefits.** Green infrastructure can provide public spaces for recreation, increase property values, provide sources of green jobs, and encourage outdoor physical activity.
- **Habitat improvement.** Green infrastructure can provide habitat for birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies and other insects, as well as reduce sedimentation and erosion, which helps to improve habitat in small streams.



Planted Curb Extension

This green infrastructure unit is on Adeline St. in Emeryville. Water is filtered through engineered soils and cleaned before it is returned to the city stormwater system.

All cities in Alameda County, and the County’s unincorporated areas, are developing green infrastructure plans, to show how they will phase in more green infrastructure facilities over the next 20 years. Each agency’s plan will include projects that meet goals for reducing water quality impacts of urbanization, including targets for reductions of mercury and PCBs – pollutants that continue to be a problem in the San Francisco Bay. Green infrastructure plans will show how green infrastructure facilities can be designed and constructed to help keep mercury and PCBs out of the Bay.