



BEFORE



AFTER

Shotwell Street Greenway

Permeable Landscape Model Installation

This model sidewalk garden is an example of Green Sewers. A joint project of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, Department of Public Works and Public Utilities Commission and Shotwell Street property owners, the process was facilitated by Plant*SF. Installed in Spring 2005 by removing significant portions of formerly existing concrete sidewalks, it demonstrates one approach to reducing storm loads on the combined city sewer system. Instead of entering the sewer, rain water is now permitted to permeate the exposed soil and nourish plants. If implemented throughout the city, this method can result in a significant reduction on the currently overloaded sewer system, reduce Combined Sewer Overflow discharge of untreated sewage into the bay and ocean; while providing tremendous above-ground beautification. Further, it virtually eliminates chronic sidewalk parking and creates a pleasant physical barrier between pedestrians and cars, important features in this heavily trafficked area with many children. Permeable pavers at driveways will complete the project.

Drought tolerant plants were selected by the neighborhood association in collaboration with the Department of Public Works who installed them. The species were chosen to reflect the local culture and to give a coordinated identity to the street. A variety of low- to medium-height plants with variation in color and texture, they provide habitat for insects, butterflies and birds. Plantings were undertaken during the wet season and no permanent irrigation is provided nor required.

Special thanks to: Daniel Homsey, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Ed Lee, James Chia, Paul Sacamano, Grace Kwak and the ground crew of the Department of Public Works
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Shotwell Street Neighborhood Association
Shift Design Studio