Project: Urban Greening Bay Area

Description: Urban Greening Bay Area (UGBA) was a large-scale, grant-funded effort to re-envision Bay Area urban landscapes to develop stormwater-friendly dense, green urban infrastructure that addresses challenges associated with climate change, infiltrates or captures stormwater and pollutants near their sources, and in turn, promotes improved water quality in San Francisco Bay. Urban Greening Bay Area was funded by an EPA Water Quality Improvement Fund grant awarded to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), a joint powers agency acting on behalf of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP), a program of ABAG. BASMAA was one of the subrecipients of the grant and took the lead on two of the grant project tasks – a Regional Green Infrastructure Roundtable process and a Design Charrette.

The Regional Roundtable was a two-year process, with work groups as needed, to identify and develop a list of recommendations for integrating GI and stormwater management funding and investments with future climate change and transportation investments within the region. The Roundtable included convening meetings with local, regional, and state stakeholders, agencies, elected officials, and staff to produce draft and final task reports that identified and recommended possible legislative fixes, agency agreements, consolidated funding mechanisms, and other means and actions as appropriate. The Roundtable used innovative participatory processes that included key experts, regulators, decision-makers, and other stakeholders to share information, solicit and discuss ideas and solutions, and to identify next steps (i.e., develop a “roadmap”). The Final Roadmap of Funding Solutions for Sustainable Streets was completed in April 2018. Following completion of the Roadmap, BASMAA and SFEP formed a Roadmap Committee to guide future implementation of the Roadmap.

The Design Charrette task involved coordinating with the cities of San Mateo and Sunnyvale to conduct a Bay Area design charrette to develop cost-effective and innovative “typical” designs for integrating GI with bicycle and pedestrian improvements at roadway intersections. The overall goal of developing standardized, transferable designs was to make progress in addressing the high cost of design, implementation, operations, and maintenance that inhibits the widespread use of GI and LID features.

Work products of the Urban Greening Bay Area grant are posted at: http://www.sfestuary.org/urban-greening-bay-area/#planning. The Planning section includes documents related to the Regional Roundtable and the Implementation section includes documents related to the Design Charrette.
Urban Greening Bay Area

FY: 15/16 through 20/21

Grantor: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Overseer: Development Committee

Contracting Agency: BASMAA

Contractors: Horizon Water and Environment, LLC

Participants: City of San Mateo, City of Sunnyvale

Budget: $268,725 (FY 15/16 = $14,052; FY 16/17 = $158,065; FY 17/18 = $24,851; FY 18/19 = $14,559; FY 19/20 = $39,648; FY 20/21 = $17,550)

Status: Done

Deliverable(s): Regional Roundtable Interview Summaries; Roundtable Strategy; Three (3) Roundtable Meeting Agendas, Handouts, Participants, Presentations, and Summaries; Roadmap of Funding Solutions for Sustainable Streets; Design Charrette Site Identification Memo; Information Compilations and Design Details; Charrette Summary; Outreach Presentation