

Thank you for joining SF Biodiversity Vision 2020!

Using science, memories and our informed imaginations to plan a more biodiverse future



Questions: Daylighting, priorities, pragmatism and the art of compromise

“Trees, trees, beautiful trees”

- There is conflicting science: What are the truths about carbon sequestration systems?
- Do strong cultural bonds to large, beautiful plants trump local Biodiversity?
- Can local native trees and arboreal shrubs adapt to the built environment as well as exotics?

On Native Perennials:

“Those root systems stored a crap load of carbon. Also they foster microbiomes that store more” Charles C. Mann 2016

Native perennial

Annual exotic



Questions: harm reduction

Should a **Biodiversity index** for all of the **plants being purchased or planted by the city** and/or provided through landscapers and retail outlets be developed?

Should we provide a **list of exotic invasive plants** we believe the **city should ban**?

SF has a very good IPM strategy but many other toxins are readily available at retail stores:

How should we address concern about retail availability of rodenticides and herbicides?

Overuse of fertilizers can cause algal blooms and unnaturally high levels of nutrients on land and in the water. We temporarily lost at least one plant species because of this.

Is this an SF issue?

Irrigation water treated with **chloramine kills almost all aquatic life** and most insects.

Should we warn people about using treated water?

Un-extirpated in SF



Suaeda californica California seablite



Priority species?

Should we develop a list of priority species?

Should we put more energy into bringing back extirpated or threatened species, or those on the brink?



Abundant

Common

Uncommon

Rare

Extirpated

Extinct

Time to bring back the City Bird?



Questions: Practical practices and policies:

With so little native biodiversity remaining, how should we focus our energies?

- How worried should we be about losing genetic integrity of native flora?
- Should we be OK with non SF Bay Area or “California natives”? Cultivars?
 - With almost 500 SF natives why would we need those?



Supply Side: Currently there are very few local natives being grown by some very cool but under resourced native plant nurseries

- Should the city assist local native plant nurseries?
- Should the city nurseries be growing only (or mostly) local natives?
- Is it practical to contract wholesale growers to grow out the most common species?

Questions: Perspective and considerations

The area's human population has never been higher, straining communities sense of balance. Lack of access to nature is a big concern for the health of the community.

Open spaces: it is rare for open spaces to be returned to nature once they have been developed.

- **How do we address the lack of access, especially in the less affluent neighborhoods where there is chronically low access to natural areas?**

Novel approaches for increasing vegetated space in urban areas are on the increase. Bio-swales, green roofs and walls, living shorelines

Development: Anti-development administrations are almost never elected. Only those that are more or less inclined. Additional development is certain.

- **How do we encourage developers and landscape industry to embrace biodiversity?**
- **Are voluntary enticements going to be effective?**
- **Is regulation feasible?**



Questions: Perspective and considerations

Biodiversity is a critical component of climate change issues:

How do we put more resources into building resilience into what is left?

The Biodiversity Movement is global and an important cultural moment:

How do we get the SF community to be informed and inspired by it?

What practical programs and solutions we can suggest to city leaders for better effecting and promoting local Biodiversity?

There are many basic ideas about Biodiversity we all agree on:

Is it beneficial and practical to form a coalition or better for each individual and organization to act independently for the cause?

Is it a good idea to have annual or periodic SF or local Biodiversity Festival?

Who could run such an event?



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