



**SF Environment**

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco



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## **Biodiversity and Natural Resources Policy History**

The city has a long history of setting biodiversity and natural resources policies. The following documents and policies guide how San Francisco should treat its natural environment. [Federal](#) and [State](#) policies are excluded from this list. National Park Service policies are [here](#).

- 1981** The **San Francisco Park Code** prohibits “disturbing animals, birds, and fish.”
- 1986** The **Environmental Protection Element** of the **General Plan** directs the City to (1) conserve and protect the city’s natural resources; (2) restore and improve the quality of natural resources; (3) coordinate management of natural resources; (4) promote citizen action and environmental education; (5) protect natural plant and animal habitats and rare and endangered species.
- 1993** The **City Charter, section 4.118**, empowers the Commission on the Environment to “investigate habitat restoration and natural resource conservation.”
- 1997** The **Biodiversity Chapter** of the **Sustainability Plan** includes long-term goals and objectives: (1) awareness; (2) ecosystem restoration; (3) sensitive habitat and species protection; and (4) maximizing habitat in the developed and naturalistic environments; and (5) organizing biodiversity information.
- The **Waterfront and Land Use Plan** of the **Port of San Francisco** includes “designating protected wetlands south of China Basin.”
- 1998** The purpose of the **Golden Gate Park Master Plan** is “to preserve...the diversity of cultural, natural and recreational resources...”
- 2001** “The purpose of the **Mount Sutro Open Space Management Plan** is to provide a management framework for protecting, enhancing, and, in some places, restoring the vegetation in the Reserve.”

- 2003** The **Environment Code's** [Precautionary Principle](#) "requires the selection of the alternative that presents the least potential threat to human health and the City's natural systems."
- 2006** The Recreation & Park Department (RPD) **Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan** (SNRAMP, still in CEQA, due in 2015) includes goals for natural resources conservation, ecological restoration, community stewardship, education, research, monitoring and adaptive management.
- 2006** The **SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Sustainability Plan** established indicators to help evaluate project performance around "Habitat Conservation and Biodiversity Protection."
- Guided by its **Water Enterprise Environmental Stewardship Policy**, the SFPUC will "proactively manage the watersheds ... in a manner that maintains the integrity of the natural resources, restores habitats for native species, and enhances ecosystem function."
- 2011** The **Environment Commission's Resolution 2011-05-COE** supports "protecting San Francisco's biodiversity" and directed the Department of Environment to prioritize funding for biodiversity staffing and programs.
- The **Yerba Buena Island Habitat Management Plan** goals all relate to nature conservation, including, to "maintain and expand, where possible, the existing biodiversity on Yerba Buena Island."
- 2013** The **Green Connections Plan** will "increase wildlife habitat" in a network of green street corridors by integrating local ecology into planning and design.
- The **Candlestick Point State Recreation Area General Plan** "seeks to protect and enhance the park's natural resources by adapting to the challenges associated with increased urban growth and sea level rise."
- 2014** The **Updated ROSE** of the **City's General Plan** has a new Biodiversity Objective, which directs the City to protect and conserve biodiversity throughout the city, including the natural areas, other green spaces and the built environment.
- 2015** The **San Francisco Urban Forest Plan** includes recommendations to promote "biodiversity and habitat" among the urban forest of the city's streets.