



San Francisco

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

17 May 2026

Chapter 1

Profile overview



About

Surrounded on three sides by saltwater and comprised of varied topography, geology and soils, and still harboring 500 species of local native plant species, San Francisco, despite being 95% built out is a biodiversity hotspot within the California global biodiversity hotspot. The city's diverse cultures and human communities are equaled by its ecological diversity, and the city nurtures a decades old legacy of community ecological restoration and stewardship.

Overview

Population size

United States

Country

North America

Region

London Breed, Mayor of San Francisco

Head of government

Platform engagement statistics



12

Actions made on the Action Platform

Achievements

Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile
34% complete



Fronrunner profile
80% complete



Star profile
0% complete

The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile
0% complete



Fronrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



Starter profile
0% complete



Fronrunner profile
0% complete



Star profile
0% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile
100% complete



Frontrunner profile
50% complete



Star profile
50% complete

Chapter 2

The Action Platform



The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Action area 1

Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:

Protect, connect and restore ecosystems

Restore and/or rehabilitate terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

Description of how city is taking action

Our municipal Water, Port and Parks departments as well as our local State Park and our local National Park are all engaged in upland, bayshore and coastal saltmarsh restoration projects, and our Climate Action Plan has an action to continue to expand coastal wetland restoration.

Decrease conversion of natural areas and maintain natural/semi-natural areas

Description of how city is taking action

All of our land management agencies that own natural areas have preserved them, are not developing them, and are actively managing them for biodiversity.

Increase protected areas

Description of how city is taking action

We have an action in our Climate Action Plan to work to further add undeveloped open spaces to our natural areas network, so that we can restore more acreage of the city for biodiversity.

Increase connectivity between natural areas

Description of how city is taking action

We have an action in our Climate Action Plan to "develop and implement science-based recommendations for creating ecological corridors where feasible."

Integrate ecosystem protection considerations across policies, plans and programmes.

Description of how city is taking action

We have biodiversity protection language in our City's General Plan, and to a degree in other plans and resolutions, but we need to create an ordinance that is even more protective of our natural ecosystems.

Commitment Made:

Conserve and restore fauna and flora

Maintain or increase the diversity of native species

Description of how city is taking action

Conservation and restoration of native plant and animals is a top priority across all of our land management agencies, and they are all actively managing for native species diversity. Agencies are also partnering with local NGOs to target restoration of particular species populations, e.g., butterflies and birds. The City needs further human resources to continue to maintain the current level of native species management and certainly to increase it.

Restore habitat for threatened and locally valued species

Description of how city is taking action

San Francisco harbors many rare plant species, which include six federally listed species, as well as four federally listed terrestrial fauna. All of these are a priority for management across the different land management agencies. The different agencies will continue to look for opportunities to further secure these species and increase their populations as well as reintroduce some locally extirpated rare species.

Commitment Made:

Manage invasive alien species

Identify and assess priority invasive alien species

Description of how city is taking action

Across our multiple land management agencies, we have been tracking invasive plants and animals for decades. We are part of Bay Area regional and California efforts to align on invasive species awareness and monitoring. In the past, the San Francisco Weed Management Area published an assessment of invasive plants in the city, and we will update our assessment, for fauna as well, as part of the Biodiversity Plan that we will produce as a priority action from our Climate Action Plan.

Control or eradicate invasive alien species and prevent their introduction

Description of how city is taking action

All land management agencies and organizational partners manage their natural areas for biodiversity and the control and invasive species. We work with California to align on priorities for early detection and prevention, and we collaborate with the State on rapid response to incipient infestations. We will continue to implement various projects and programs to manage invasive species, including eradication where appropriate.

Commitment Made:

Control Pollution

Reduce the urban heat island effect by working with nature

Description of how city is taking action

We have an initiative called the Heat and Air Quality Resilience (HAQR) program, and within that a green infrastructure working group. We are hoping to include biodiverse greening, tree planting and other measures in our bond schedule for citywide capital improvements.

Increase the use of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation

Description of how city is taking action

In 2021, the city published and adopted our Climate Action Plan, which has a robust Healthy Ecosystems chapter, which singular goal is to continue to increase the use of nature-based solutions to sequester emissions and restore biodiversity.

Increase the carbon sequestration potential of urban nature

Description of how city is taking action

Within our Climate Action Plan Healthy Ecosystems Chapter, we have several actions that explicitly seek to increase carbon sequestration potential of the City lands and vegetation.

Commitment Made:

Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Other commitments under this action area

Climate change adaptation and mitigation



Action area 2

Use nature sustainably

Other commitments under this action area

Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species

Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry

Promote people's access to green and blue spaces



Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions

Other commitments under this action area

Mainstreaming biodiversity values

Sustainable production and consumption

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

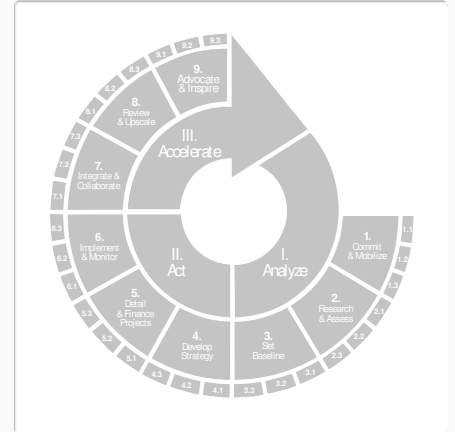
Chapter 3

Nature Pathway



Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



I. Analyze

1. Commit & mobilize

No uploads or resources have been linked

2. Research & assess

No uploads or resources have been linked

3. Set Baseline

No uploads or resources have been linked

II. Act

4. Develop strategy

No uploads or resources have been linked

5. Detail & finance projects

No uploads or resources have been linked

6. Implement & monitor

No uploads or resources have been linked

III. Accelerate

7. Integrate & collaborate

No uploads or resources have been linked

8. Review & upscale

No uploads or resources have been linked

9. Advocate & inspire

Chapter 4

City Biodiversity Index



City Biodiversity Index

The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

Native biodiversity in the city

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points

San Francisco has not started on this biodiversity index section

Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points

San Francisco has not started on this biodiversity index section

Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points

San Francisco has not started on this biodiversity index section

Chapter 5

Tools & resources



Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.

San Francisco has not yet posted any tools and resources



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