

What is a Green Street?

- A green street is a stormwater management approach that incorporates vegetation (perennials, shrubs, trees), soil, and engineered systems (e.g., permeable pavements) to slow, filter, and cleanse stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces (e.g., streets, sidewalks).
- Green streets are designed to capture rainwater at its source, where rain falls (whereas, a traditional street is designed to direct stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces into storm sewer systems).
- Green features include permeable pavement, rain gardens, vegetative curb areas, sidewalk trees, etc.

Urban Streets

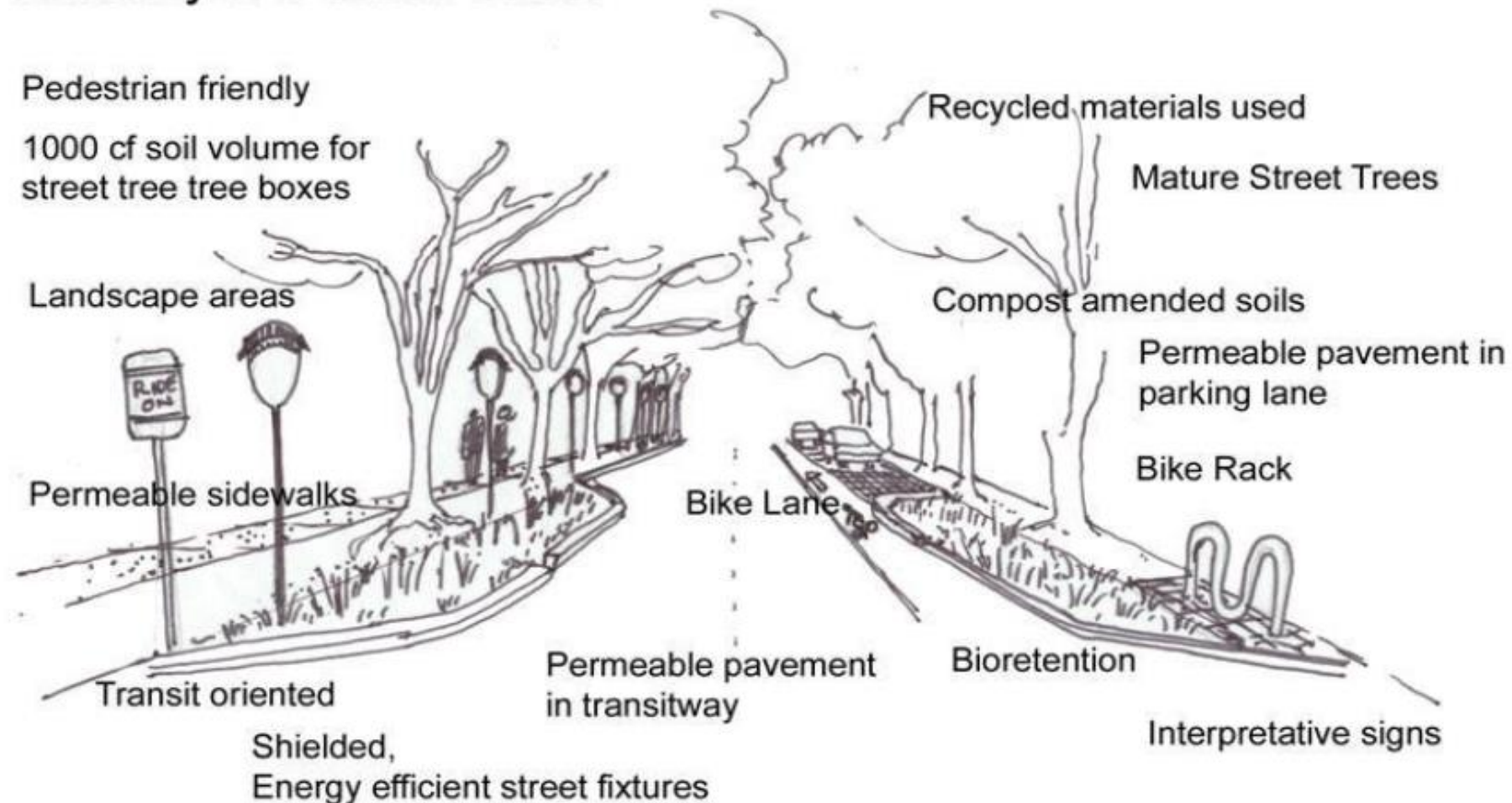
- Comprise a significant percentage of publicly owned-land.
- Represent *(Portland OR Metro 2002):*
 - ~ 20% of the urban area
 - ~ 50% of impermeable surfaces
 - ~ 50% of runoff
 - ~ 65% of pollutants in clear water
- Create opportunities to integrate and connect grey-to-green infrastructures and networks (ENV-462).

Green streets

- Incorporate a wide variety of design elements
- provide source control of stormwater to limit the transport of pollutants to stormwater conveyance and collection systems,
- restore predevelopment hydrology to the extent possible, and
- create roadways that help protect the environment and local water quality.

<https://www.epa.gov/G3/learn-about-green-streets>

Anatomy of a Green Street



Green streets can be used to

- Minimize stormwater impacts on the surrounding area through natural systems/infrastructures;
- Increase infiltration and/or filtration of runoff, reduce flows, and enhance watershed health;
- Reduce the amount of water that is piped and discharged directly to streams and rivers;
- Make the best use of the street tree canopy (water, heat, air quality mitigation/improvement);
- Mitigate or prevent localized flooding;
- Encourage pedestrian and/or bicycle access;
- Improve the aesthetics of a community; and,
- Increases a community's livability.

Green Street Resources

The following provides additional information on green street design and use:

- [A Conceptual Guide to Effective Green Street Design Solutions: Green Streets \(PDF\)](#) (7 pp, yy, 6 MB)
- [Managing Wet Weather with Green Infrastructure - Municipal Handbook - Green Streets \(PDF\)](#) (19 pp, 2 MB)
- [The City of Portland Oregon: A Green Street Overview](#)