



San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 4733

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 18, 2019
To: San Francisco Library Commission
From: Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian
RE: SFPL Biodiversity Initiatives

At the Library Commission meeting of March 21, 2019, Library staff will present an introduction and overview of the Library's biodiversity initiatives which align with the San Francisco Biodiversity Policy.

San Francisco Biodiversity Policy

The San Francisco Public Library is committed to supporting San Francisco's Biodiversity Policy. As background, on April 17, 2018, the Board of Supervisors adopted [Resolution No. 107-18](#), sponsored by Supervisor Fewer and former Supervisor Kim, which was approved by former Acting Mayor Farrell on April 27, 2018. Pursuant to Resolution No. 107-18, over the past year the San Francisco Public Library has been participating in an inter-agency biodiversity working group to collaborate on ongoing and future initiatives to support biodiversity in San Francisco, including:

- Vetting of citywide biodiversity goals that each department supports through its own operations
- Integration and implementation of City policies, plans, and tools that promote habitat-supportive greening in the built environment, such as Green Connections and the SF Plant Finder and many more
- Promotion of equitable experience and awareness, and responsible access and stewardship of nature.

SFPL Biodiversity Initiatives

Through the leadership of the Library's Stegner Environmental Center Librarian, Kelley Trahan, and working in tandem with the inter-agency biodiversity working group, the Library has completed the attached biodiversity survey provided by SF Environment to:

- Acknowledge and celebrate library programs and initiatives that support biodiversity.
- Describe how the Library will help realize San Francisco's Biodiversity Vision through departmental planning and operations.
- Consider opportunities to enhance native biodiversity on City-owned lands.

- Outline collaborative strategies and actions to best integrate and enhance local biodiversity through everyday work.

SFPL's survey results identified many exemplary strategies and initiatives actively in practice related to San Francisco's Biodiversity Vision and gave an opportunity to reflect on gaps, collaboration opportunities and future initiatives, including:

- Nature in the City map collaboration. The creation of a map which highlights the biodiversity that shapes San Francisco through the lens of geology, habitat restoration, history, and interconnections.
- Citizen Science Innovation Fellowship providing *BioBlitz* programs that connect patrons to nature and encourage long-lasting environmental stewardship through involvement in local resource issues.
- Summer Stride partnership with the National Park Service, giving patrons the opportunity to explore the wonders of the national parks with ranger-led tours and tales.
- Partnership of The Mix Teen Center and the SF Green Film Fest on a short video contest for teens which focuses on the City's 0-80-100-Roots Climate goals.
- Participating in the City Government Zero Waste Program, to help ensure that SFPL meets all of the waste prevention, recycling, composting, disposal and environmentally responsible purchasing requirements, pursuant to the Resource Conservation Ordinance (Chapter 5, Environment Code, Sec. 510).
- Creating equitable experience and connection to nature through outdoor gardens, living roofs, seed lending libraries, plant swaps and more at Library locations.
- Expanding green initiatives such as battery recycling, un-used medication mail-back envelopes for proper disposal, and circulating watt meters.
- Using the inter-agency biodiversity working group as an opportunity to identify areas to partner with City departments.

SFPL is committed to working together with SF Environment and inter-agency partners towards San Francisco's Biodiversity Vision, as articulated in the Resolution No. 107-18. As part of an inter-agency biodiversity working group, SFPL is will continue to:

- Regularly convene with the Department of Environment to review progress, receive training, and help identify additional policies and actions as needed.
- Provide regular reporting on progress, opportunities, and resources implications associated with supporting the City's biodiversity vision.

This common goal will encourage conservation of and connection to nature, which is essential for thriving and resilient ecosystems, upon which we all depend for food, health and well-being, clean air, and clean water. This information is provided to the Commission to affirm the Library's support of the San Francisco Biodiversity Policy and share key biodiversity accomplishments and initiatives.