

**From:** [Moua, Louansee](#)  
**To:** [DowntownWestD6](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Councilmember Dev Davis Prioritizing City-wide Urban Greening  
**Date:** Monday, May 24, 2021 12:03:16 PM

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**From:** Lisa Ruder [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:41 PM  
**To:** District 6 <[district6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district6@sanjoseca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Councilmember Dev Davis Prioritizing City-wide Urban Greening

[External Email]

Hello, Dev (or her assistant).

Since the pandemic began and I have had to jog outside, I've noticed a scarcity of places to run that are not concrete or asphalt. Streets and sidewalks are hard on joints!  
I have been wondering if some sidewalks can be replaced by decomposed granite (DG), which is permeable. Wouldn't this help San Jose's GSI plan? Maybe in the new Google Village? Maybe DG alongside the sidewalks at some parks? This would widen the sidewalk area for more social distancing and allow for people who want sidewalk surfaces for strollers, etc. and those who would like softer surfaces that are still level.

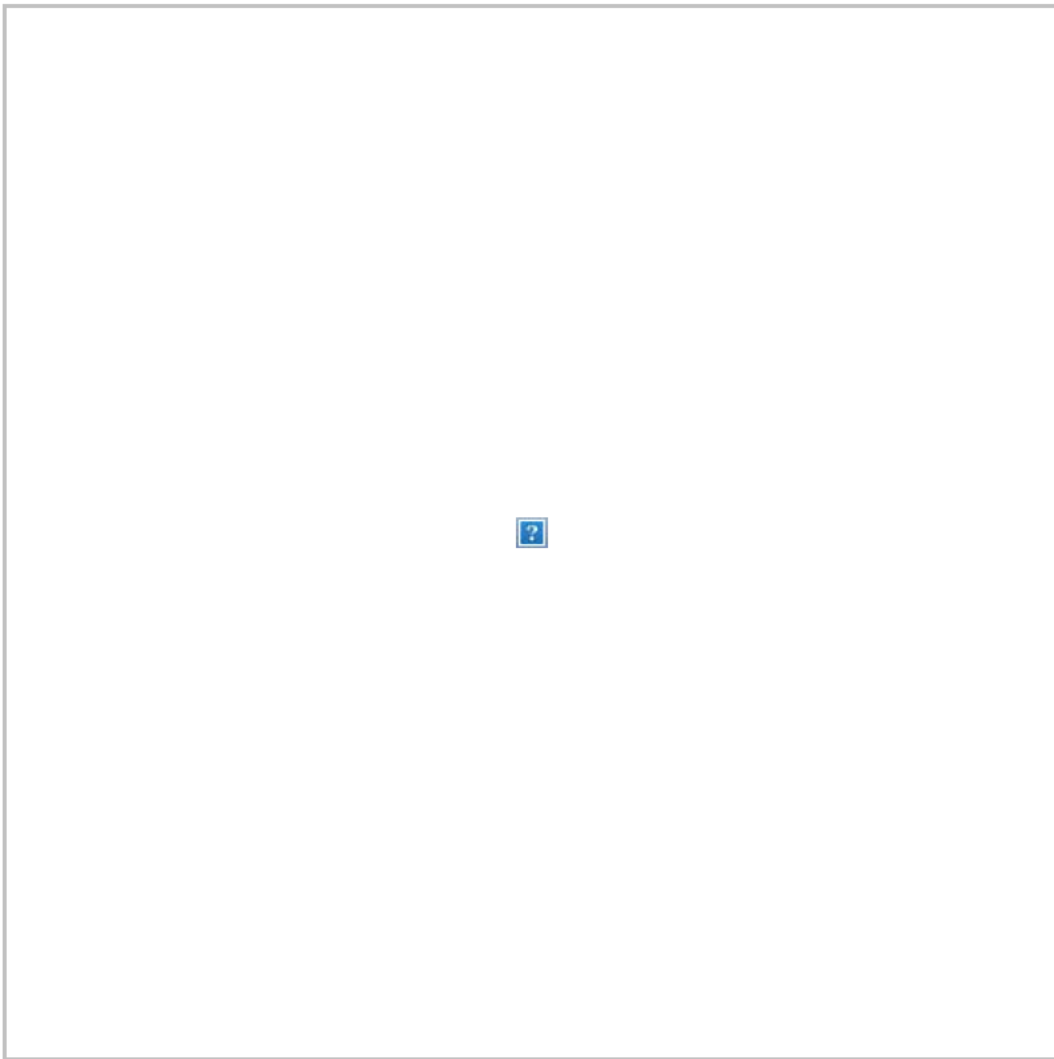
Here is an interesting article about Amsterdam and Rotterdam removing some of their tiles (like sidewalks) and replacing with plants:  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2021-01-05/how-dutch-cities-are-creating-more-green-space>

If this is a plausible idea, what can I do to help?

Regards,  
Lisa Ruder  
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 1:15 PM Councilmember Dev Davis <[district6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district6@sanjoseca.gov)> wrote:





## Urban Greening

Through an approach called Urban Greening, nature can be brought back into our streets and public places, where it can help alleviate problems exacerbated by climate change such as increased urban heat, worsened air quality, and flooding, while also making our cities safer, and a more appealing place to live, work, and play.

Urban greening includes streets with dense tree canopies, providing shade, and cleaner air along with habitat for native species. Concrete and asphalt can be removed and replaced with vegetation that absorbs stormwater and filters it before it reaches the Bay.

**Why do we need to address this now?** San Jose is already undertaking a widespread street repaving program, and many streets are being redesigned to promote transit and bike use. By incorporating greening into these plans, we can speed along these changes and do so more efficiently, by aligning construction projects so we rebuild a street once and do so in a way that meets a variety of needs at the same time. Additionally, this past year we saw significant impacts from heat, wildfires and poor air quality during the summer months, and we know that's going to get worse.

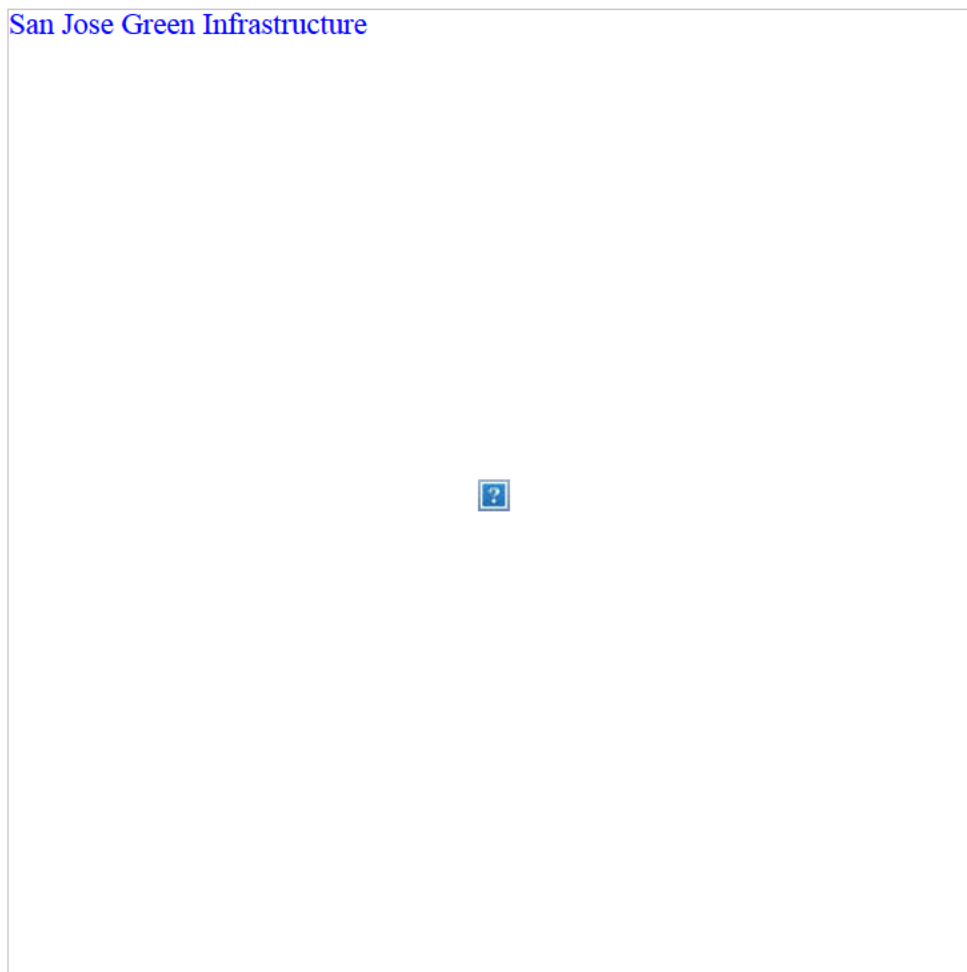
I am calling for a comprehensive, equity-focused implementation plan. Climate change is not going to impact all communities in the same way, and we have to acknowledge that some areas of San Jose have been historically underserved by the city government. This plan requires the city to invest where the need is greatest. Some neighborhoods already have extensive tree canopy and more parks, but those that don't suffer more when temperatures rise.

A lively discussion on this and other city priorities will take place during the City Council Priority Setting Meeting Thursday February 25th 1:30-4:30pm. Tune in online here: <https://sanjoseca.zoom.us/j/97709973705>

I encourage residents of San Jose to support this effort by contacting your city councilmember and the Mayor and ask them to support making urban greening a council priority. If you'd like to learn more, check out [SaveSFBay.org](http://SaveSFBay.org) where they have more information about the benefits of urban greening.

Join me **TODAY**, Wednesday, February 23rd at 5:30 p.m. on Facebook for a full interview with Policy Manager, Josh Quigley, from Save the Bay about why we need this policy now.

You can also watch my interview with Josh Quigley below.



**Office of Councilmember Davis | 408-535-4906 | [district6@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:district6@sanjoseca.gov) | [www.sjd6.org](http://www.sjd6.org)**

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