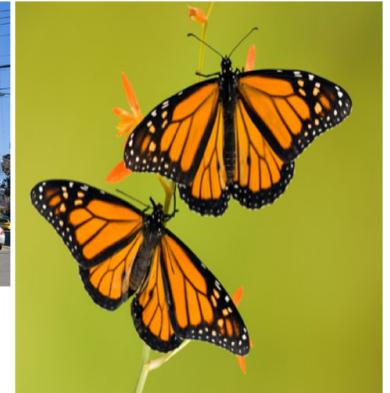


Traffic Circle Vegetation and Tree Policy Recommendations



City of Berkeley Traffic Circle Policy Task Force
Presentation to City Council
November 12, 2019

Key Traffic Circle Policy Recommendations

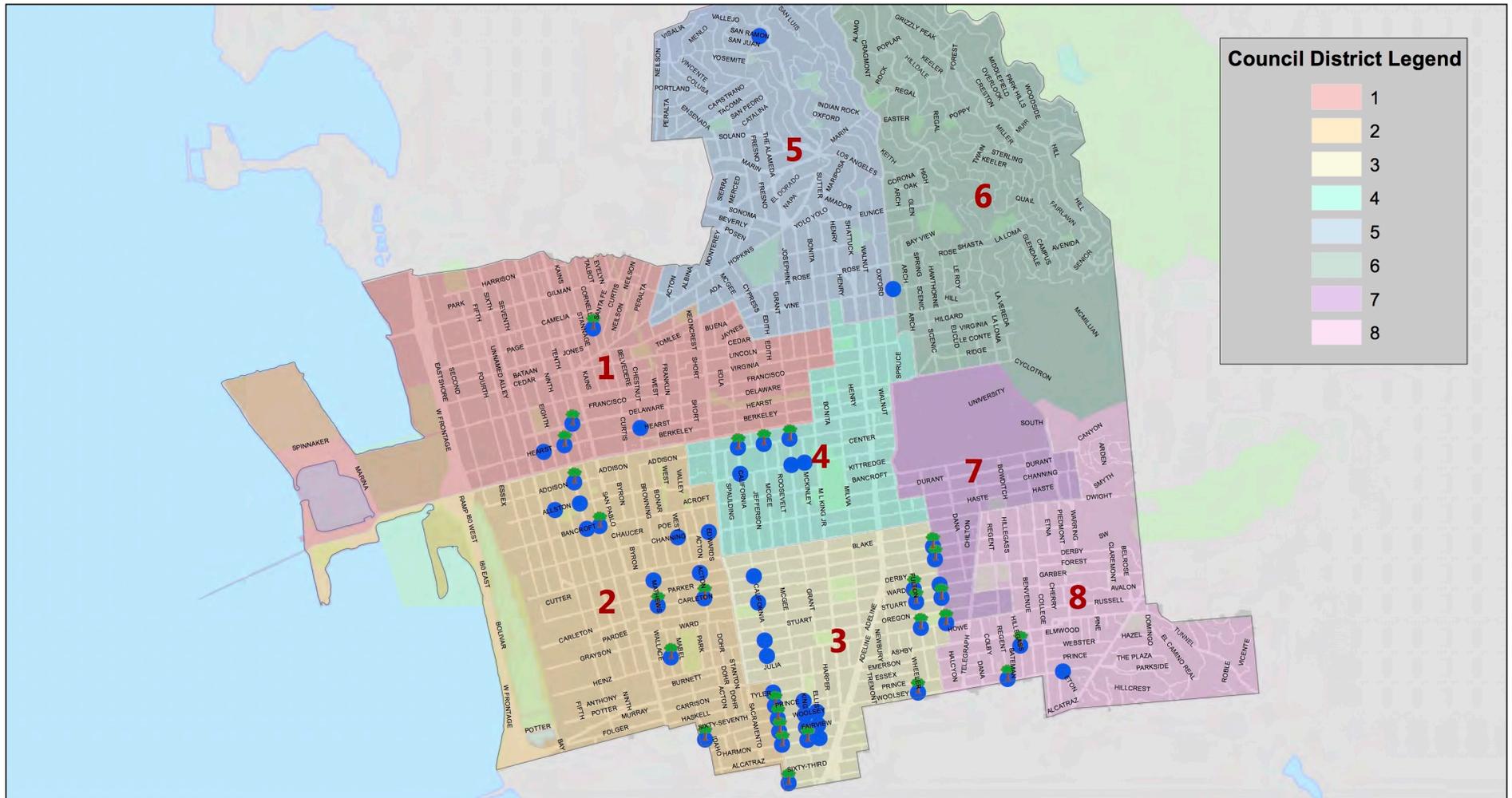
- Preserve all existing trees
- Low vegetation required and new trees allowed
- All vegetation and trees maintained for visibility and safety by community volunteers

Task Force Background

- Mayor established February 2019
- 12 Task Force members
- 2 Public Meetings
- 7 Task Force Meetings
- 3 Subcommittees
- Public Works and Transportation staff actively participated

Traffic Circles in Berkeley

- 62 total circles; 31 with trees



City of Berkeley Traffic Circles By Council Districts

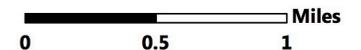
Legend



Traffic Circles



Trees



Purpose of Traffic Calming Circles

- A “circle” is not a “roundabout”
- Calm and slow traffic in neighborhoods
- Reduce speed of travel and collisions
- Trees and vegetation enhance visibility

Benefits of Traffic Calming Circles

- **Safety** – Make streets safer for bicycles, pedestrians & vehicles
- **Equity** – Urban greening, especially in park-poor neighborhoods
- **Cost** – Organized volunteer programs save the city money
- **Climate** – Trees and vegetation sequester carbon & reduce heat

Task Force Research

- Reviewed national guidance documents
- Researched City policies and documents
- Interviewed traffic and landscape experts from over 20 cities

Traffic Calming ePrimer (USDOT FHA 2017)

- “A traffic circle . . . is most effective when it is defined by a raised curb and landscaped to further reduce the open feel of a street. A traffic circle can be landscaped with ground cover, flowers, and street trees.” (US Department of Transportation)



Source: [Traffic Calming ePrimer - Module 3](#) (U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration)

Urban Street Design Guide (NACTO 2013)

- The National Association of City Transportation Officials states: “Mini roundabouts and neighborhood traffic circles¹ lower speeds at minor intersection crossings...**Shrubs or trees** in the roundabout **further the traffic calming effect** and beautify the street, but need to be **properly maintained** so they do not hinder visibility.”



Source: [Urban Street Design Guide](#) (NACTO 2013)