

GUERRERO PARK - Hall's Horse Park



1 Plantings arranged by color; Root ball completes the north end.



2 Raised in-ground planters feature edible apple trees.



3 The 'Sea Monster' serves as a bollard & offers unstructured play.



4 Planters are created by felled trees and plywood connectors.



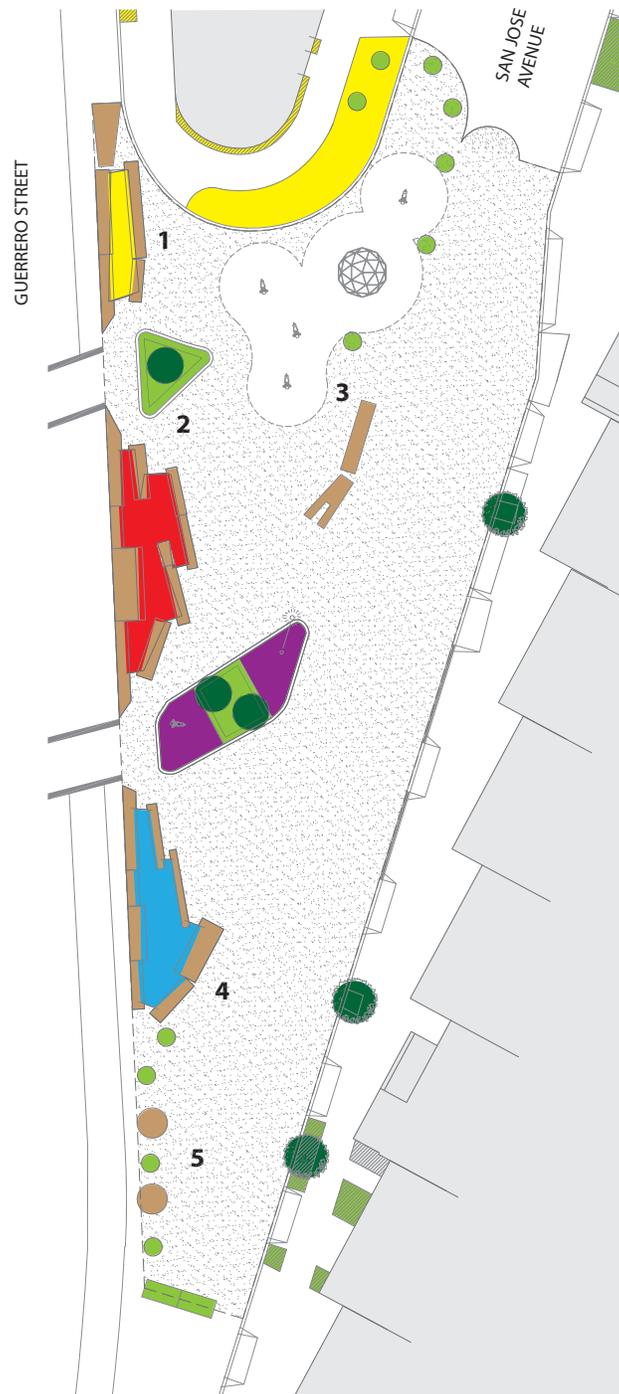
5 Bamboo in cylinder planters & large trunk segments as bollards.

This pedestrian plaza is one in a series of Pavement to Parks projects overseen by the San Francisco Planning Department. The goal is to expeditiously transform excess roadway into park-like spaces for recreation on a temporary trial basis.

This site was previously impacted by high-speed traffic along San Jose Avenue and a dangerous crossing of 28th Street. The traffic islands were frequently used for unsanctioned parking. A 9,000 sf area was made available by closing the crossing of 28th Street and converting a portion of San Jose Avenue to two-way local access for residents. In keeping with the temporary nature of the P2P program, the project had three main parameters: no asphalt could be removed, most materials used must already be in the city's possession and the project must be able to be built by city workers.

Reintroducing nature to the vast expanse of asphalt was inspired by the way engineer William Hammond Hall established Golden Gate Park from a sea of sand dunes in the 1870's despite experts saying it couldn't be done. He recognized that spilled barley where horses were fed took strong hold and would provide a stable base for further planting. At this site, the prevalence of pavement is countered by the use of the very logs which resulted from saplings Hall planted 130 years ago. In nature, fallen trees support new life as they decay. Here, they support a biologically diverse landscape of native and non-native drought tolerant plants. Bamboo provides a windbreak and shade. Fruiting apple trees honor the horses responsible for the barley that facilitated San Francisco's sylvan landscape from shifting dunes.

Made nearly entirely of recycled materials, this formerly inhospitable roadway has been transformed into a pleasurable place for socializing, relaxation and play. Playground equipment will be added pending funding.



All Photos: © 2009 Jane Martin

SH!FT
design studio

© 2009 Shift Design Studio
All Rights Reserved