



A landscape architecture rendering of the planned tree nursery.

# Street Tree Nursery Taking Root Near Freeway Ramps

A hardscrabble patch of land tucked between freeway ramps in San Francisco's South of Market will be transformed into a patch of living green where young street trees will be grown to replenish our urban forest.

The San Francisco Public Works Bureau of Urban Forestry nursery will house up to 1,000 trees at a time and bring much-needed green space and beauty to the surrounding neighborhood, which lacks trees and is burdened by the freeway's air pollution. The trees will be cycled out when they're mature enough and planted in neighborhoods around the City that suffer from especially low tree canopy cover.

The nursery also will create green jobs by providing workforce training in landscape maintenance and urban forestry to those facing barriers to employment.

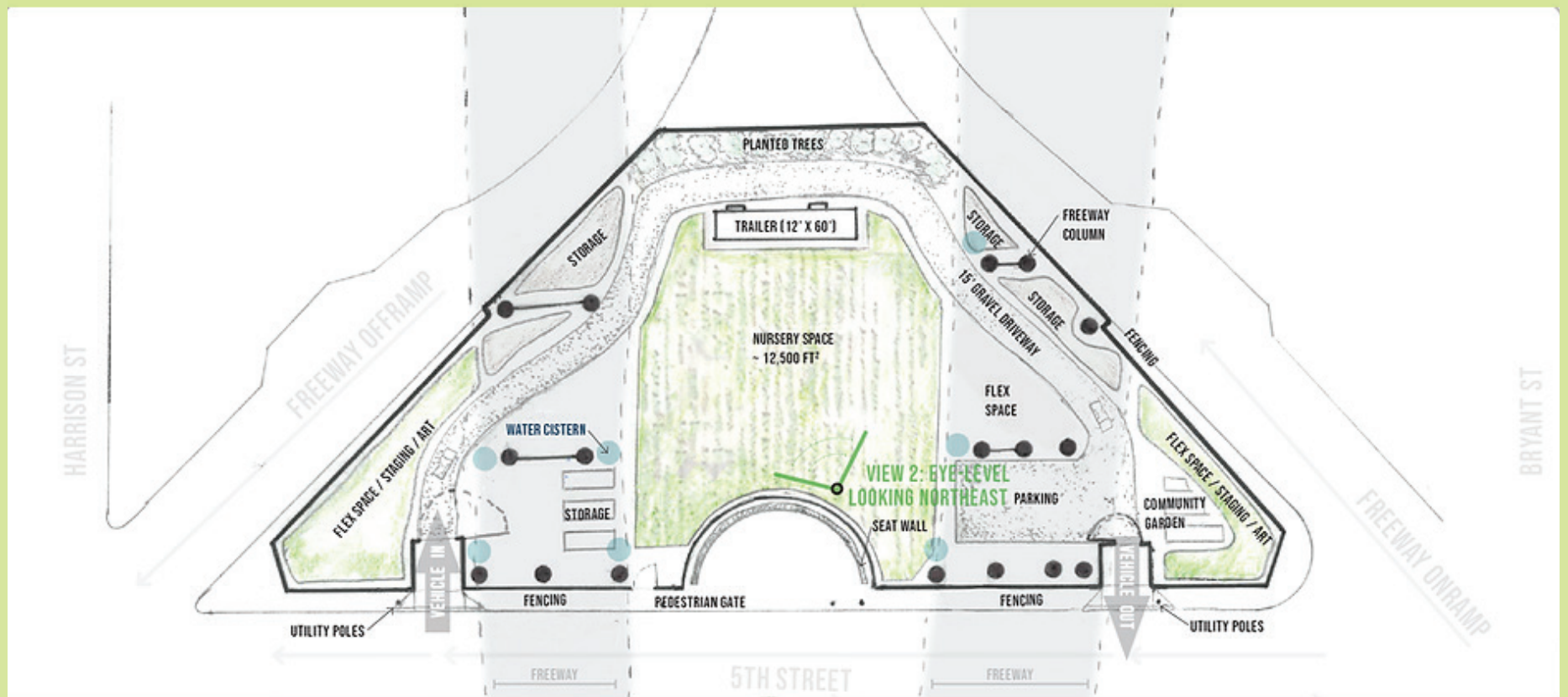
A robust volunteer engagement program is envisioned for the nursery that will involve the local community to assist with nursery operations while learning about urban forestry, climate protection and environmental justice.

The nursery sits adjacent to the busy freeway ramps near Fifth and Bryant streets that serve Interstate 80. Caltrans awarded a \$2.4 million Clean California grant to develop the nursery.



Envision the current site transformed by a tree nursery.

The grant program aims to improve unsightly land adjacent to the state's highways that all too often are blemished with trash and graffiti. The area around the ramps long has been a neighborhood eyesore.



Bird's-eye view rendering of the future tree nursery site.

In addition to state funding, the City is pumping in an additional \$500,000 to get the tree nursery up and running.

The Public Works Bureau of Landscape Architecture created the conceptual design for the 14,000-square-foot parcel, which includes the tree nursery and a community garden.

Construction is set to begin this spring and wrap up in fall 2023.