

Green Streets

Green streets are streets designed to extend a park-like appearance through the community and serve to create an interconnected network of parks, recreation areas, schools, and other civic facilities. Green streets should be designed or redesigned when feasible to have one or more of the following elements:

One or more rows of trees along both sides of the roadway (along City right-of-way or on private property)

One or more rows of trees down the center of the street/roadway located within islands.

Space for wide sidewalks or off-street trails on one or both sides of the roadway

No overhead utility wires that interfere with the growth of overstory trees

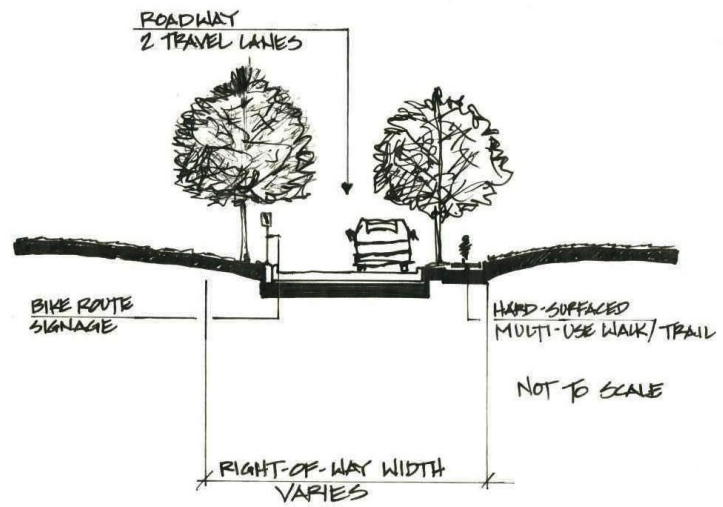


Figure 53: Neighborhood Green Street Section (Typical)

Green streets may include signage, benches, nodes, and landscaping. Existing street right-of-way widths would dictate specific design on a street-by-street basis. Figures 53, 54, and 55 show typical cross-sections of the three types of green streets. The hierarchy of green streets is neighborhood, secondary, and primary green streets. Neighborhood green streets are through streets within a neighborhood, secondary green streets are traffic collector routes, and primary green streets are major traffic arteries. Figure 55 shows an alternative cross-section with plant material in the center of the street.

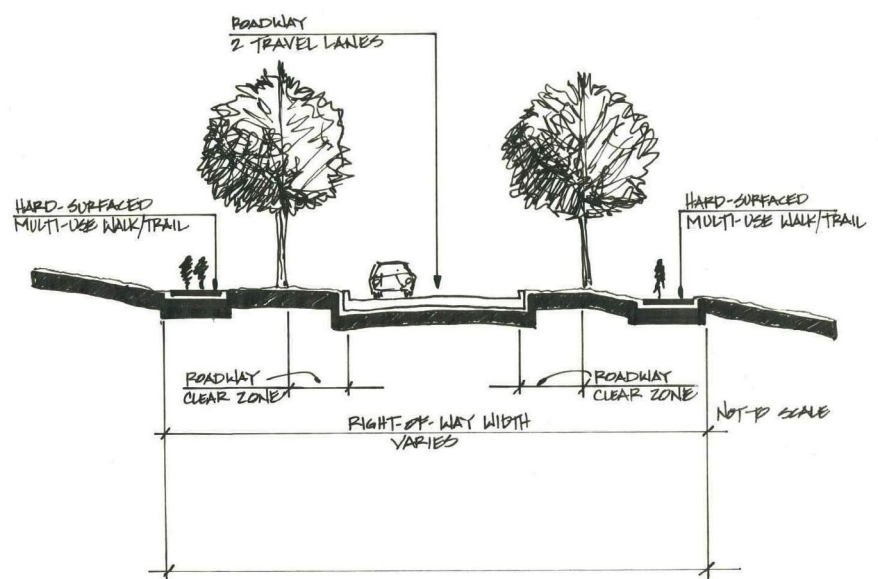


Figure 54: Secondary Green Street Section (Typical)

All proposed street trees should have approval by City staff on species type and location regarding all existing and proposed infrastructure. Tree height near power lines and root systems near sewer and water lines shall be considered. All proposed green streets should be planned/designed accordingly with all existing or proposed utilities. With typical green street sections, the existing walk on both sides of the street should be widened to eight feet, extending it toward the street. If there is less than two feet remaining between the widened walk and the curb, it is recommended this strip also be paved, since an area less than two feet wide could likely not be maintained efficiently and effectively in grass or any other plant material. An additional five-foot easement should be acquired from adjoining private property, if necessary, in which street trees should be planted. Trees should be located three feet from the edge of the walk, spaced at approximately forty-foot intervals. Allowances should be made for existing items in the R.O.W., such as driveways or fire hydrants. In summary, green streets that cannot follow the typical sections should include the following, starting from the street curb:

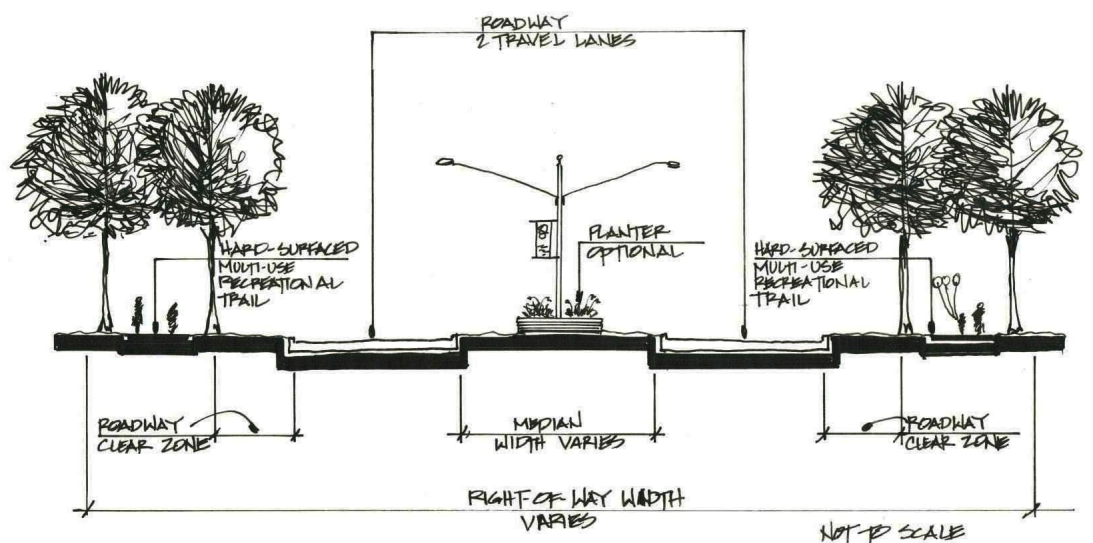


Figure 55: Primary Green Street Section

Grass strip, if more than two feet between curb and walk (if less than two feet from street to walk, strip should be paved)

Eight-foot wide walk

Five-foot easement, in which street trees are planted three feet from the walk

Implementation of designated green streets in Lexington would ensure that the tree-lined streets become part of the landscape throughout the City. It would also help create a pedestrian and bicycle movement network through the City that would link parks and public recreational areas together as a continuous, interconnected system. The City should consider implementation of such green streets where feasible.