



Common Questions Concerning the CRMC Urban Coastal Greenways Policy

1. What's the difference between a CRMC buffer as required in RICRMP Section 150 and the new Urban Coastal Greenway provisions for the Metro Bay Region?

Answer: An Urban Coastal Greenway (“UCG” or “greenway”) is generally more compact (i.e., not as wide) than a typically required coastal buffer and is not entirely vegetated, as a portion of the greenway is designed to accommodate a public access path. In addition to pollution abatement and wildlife habitat benefits, the greenway is designed for public access along and to the urban waterfront.

2. Which UCG option should I choose for my project?

Answer: The choice of a UCG will be dependent upon the mapped zone the project is located within (See maps in the UCG policy). Thereafter, the UCG choice should be based upon a realistic assessment of the parcel’s capacity to accommodate the scope of the proposed project, while protecting the coastal resources and the public’s interest in public access along and to the waterfront.

3. What if I choose not to provide public access as part of my project?

Answer: You are required to provide mitigation as described in UCG Section 200 on a ratio of 2:1 by purchasing a parcel designated as a High Priority Conservation Area (HPCA) or establishing a successful habitat restoration project. In either case, a project will not be permitted until: (1) the HPCA has been purchased with a conservation easement in perpetuity granted to the CRMC; or (2) the habitat restoration project has been completed with a successful first year growing cycle.

4. Am I required to provide compensation?

Answer: Yes, if you choose a compact UCG rather than a standard UCG width, you are required to provide compensation (either in direct fee or commensurate public benefits) based on the method described in UCG Section 230. Applicants with parcels that meet the definition of “small lot” must also provide compensation whenever the UCG is less than 50 feet wide, with compensation based on the difference between the chosen greenway width and 50 feet.

5. How do I meet the 15 percent vegetative cover requirement?

Answer: Fifteen percent of the entire project parcel must be vegetated. The greenway portion of the site counts towards meeting this requirement along with other vegetated areas within the parcel. This may include a mix of greenroofs, permanent planters, low-maintenance sustainable turf, and other vegetated bioretention areas on the site. In some cases, especially densely constructed parcels in the downtown area, a greenroof may satisfy the entire 15% vegetated cover requirement.

6. How do I meet the 100 percent stormwater requirement?

Answer: You must treat the first one-inch of runoff from your project site to remove 80% total suspended solids (TSS) as required by RICRMP Section 300.6. This treatment standard will be modified as part of the revisions to the RI Stormwater Manual that will be completed by July 2008. In addition, all projects within the Metro Bay Region must incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to treat stormwater runoff to the maximum extent practicable. This is also consistent with the requirements of the “Smart Development for a Cleaner Bay Act of 2007”. See the *Urban Coastal Greenways Design Manual* for guidance.

7. How do I demonstrate that my project has incorporated Low Impact Development techniques to the maximum extent practicable?

Answer: Your project must be reviewed by someone who has completed the LID training course and has received a LID Master Design Certificate. This person must complete and sign the LID review sheet (available from the CRMC), which must be submitted with your project application for a CRMC Assent. A list of qualified persons is available on the CRMC website.