



From Greyfield to **Green**: Reimagining A Historic Site In Oakland California

Patricia Yusuf | Capstone Project | UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program | Meg Coffee / Jim Pickel | Summer 2026

Experiencing Los Angeles through the lens of the landscape architecture and landscape horticulture programs has been an eye-opening journey. Although I was born in L.A. and spent my childhood growing up in the Baldwin Hills community, I left the city for college and since then, have lived in several U.S. cities.

Currently my family lives in the Upper Rockridge neighborhood of Oakland, California. After reading in the July edition of The Rockridge News neighborhood monthly newsletter that a conceptual proposal had been submitted to build a drive-through fast food restaurant on the project site, I decided to submit a letter to the editor. In the letter, I referenced Oakland's General Plan that was released earlier this year, and past park studies conducted by the city, making the case for building a walkable, bikeable accessible park-like open space on the site. Only a couple of letters are posted each month. The editor contacted me saying that the board really liked my letter and that it would be published in the September 2026 edition of the Rockridge News (rockridge.org). Hopefully, enough community members will agree and we can collectively advocate for this site and others like it to become something more meaningful for the community.



Acknowledgments

In honor of my late mother Laura Bowman

For Ramon & Medina; the centers of my universe!

Thank you Kareem for your unwavering support of me throughout my journey into
landscape horticulture and landscape architecture

A Very Special Thank You to Kimberly Velazco, Pamela Brief, Stephanie Landregan
and Melissa McDonald for all that you do for the UCLA Extension Landscape
Architecture and Landscape Horticulture Programs!

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CONCEPT EXPLORATION

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

From 1864 through 1946, the Oakland Paving Company and Bilger & Blake Company operated a quarry on McAdam Street in Oakland, California.

The quarry that defined the neighborhood now known as 'Rockridge' was the largest source of quartz diorite used to construct roads, highways, and buildings throughout the City of Oakland.

The former quarry parcel was later developed into a commercial district, and the intersection became Broadway and Pleasant Valley Avenue.

A planned three-phase redevelopment of the plaza began in 2015, with an expected completion date of 2020. While Phases 1 and 2 were successfully completed, Phase 3 was stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving a six-acre greyfield surrounded by chain-link fencing and vulnerable to excessive urban heat, storm water runoff, and the loss of vegetation that had existed within the previous retail plaza.

PROJECT STATEMENT

Transforming the Urban Landscape

This design will transform the site through climate-resilient strategies that address urban heat, storm water management, and ecological restoration while helping mitigate environmental challenges associated with Oakland's extensive paved urban landscape.

PROJECT SITE

The Ridge Plaza Oakland, California

PROJECT SITE
6.75 Acre
Greyfield

San Francisco

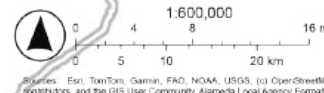
Oakland



The project site is a 6.75 acre greyfield located in the City of Oakland, California.

It is part of a larger parcel that has been subdivided and is zoned for commercial use.

The site is located at the intersection of, and is bounded by, Pleasant Valley Avenue on its southern edge and Broadway on its western edge.



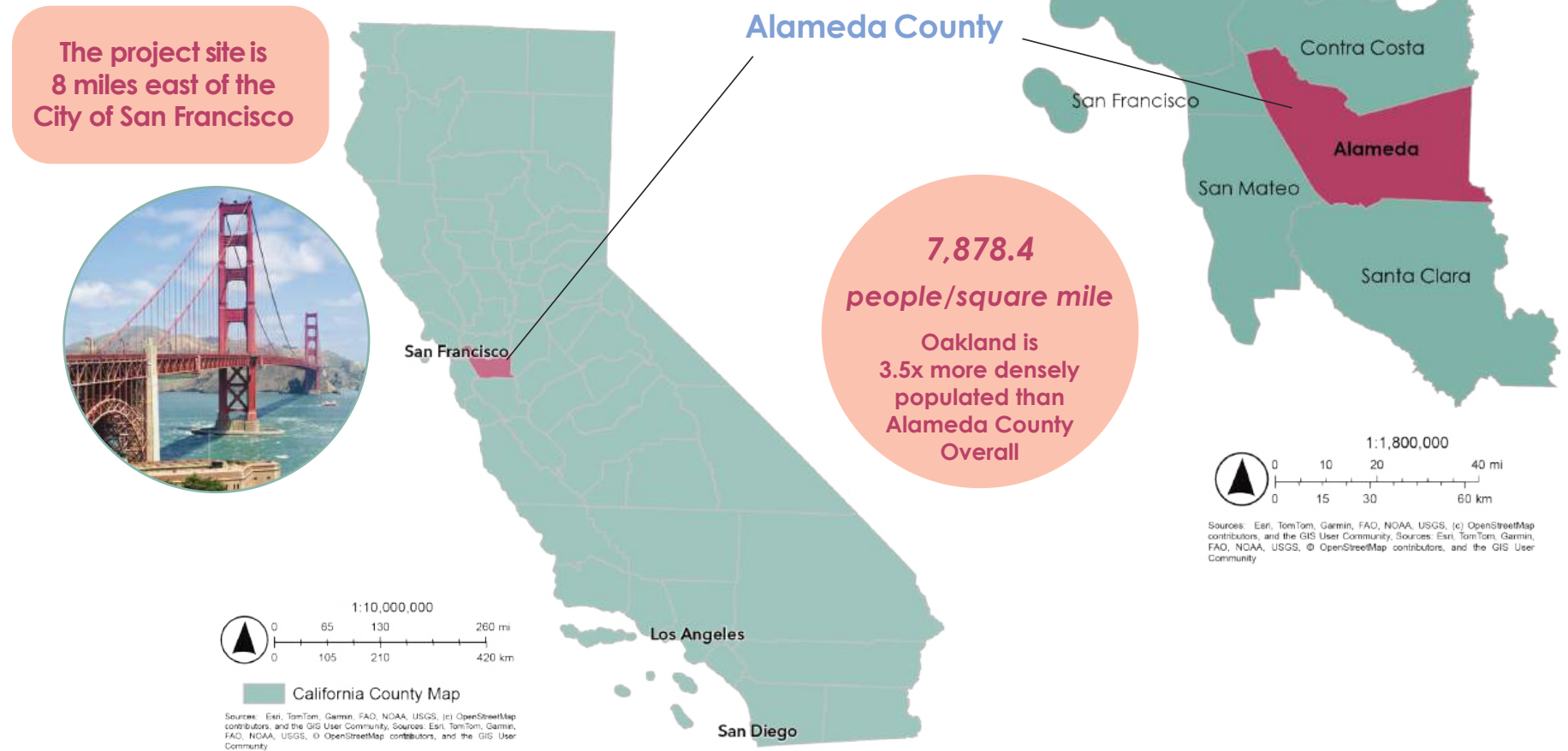
LOCATION MAP

Geographic & Demographic Context: San Francisco Bay Area

Oakland is located East of the San Francisco Bay in Alameda County.

Of the 9 Bay Area Counties, Alameda ranks 5th in land area and 2nd in population density (behind San Francisco).

Most of Alameda County's population live in the City of Oakland.



SITE HISTORIC CONTEXT

The City of Oakland / Rockridge Historic Timeline

The Huchiun (also referred to as Chochenyo speakers) occupied the lands stretching from the Berkeley/Oakland Hills to the San Francisco Bay. The Huchin utilized a deep, sophisticated knowledge of seasonal cycles to hunt, fish and gather native plants.



1772 - 1800's Spanish Influence

Spanish explorers, most notably the Fages Expedition of 1772, were the first Europeans to traverse the East Bay. This was followed by the de Anza Expedition in 1776, which further explored and documented the region.

1821 - 1840'S Mexican Ranchos



Spanish soldier Luis Maria Peralta was granted a large tract of land including what is present day Oakland, Alameda and Piedmont after Mexico gained its independence from Spain. Peralta used the land for cattle grazing and agricultural production that was characteristic of the Mexican California ranching economy of the early nineteenth century.

1852 Oakland Incorporation



1860's

The Livermore Family



Horatio P. Livermore purchased large portions of land through grants originally issued during the Spanish and Mexican periods. Previously Vicente Peralta managed a vast amount of the land covering over 600 acres, and including parts of Oakland' present day Rockridge neighborhood. The Livermore Family became one of the most prominent Bay Area families.



1903

***Claremont
Country Club***

1924

***Rock Ridge
Historic Business District***



1911

Rock Ridge Established

Following the Mexican Rancho era, Anglo-American settlers began conflicts with Indigenous Californians and the Mexican government of Alta California. Ultimately Mexico ceded its northern territories to the United States in 1848 under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Four years later, in 1852, Anglo-American settlers incorporated the City of Oakland with a population of approximately seventy-five residents.

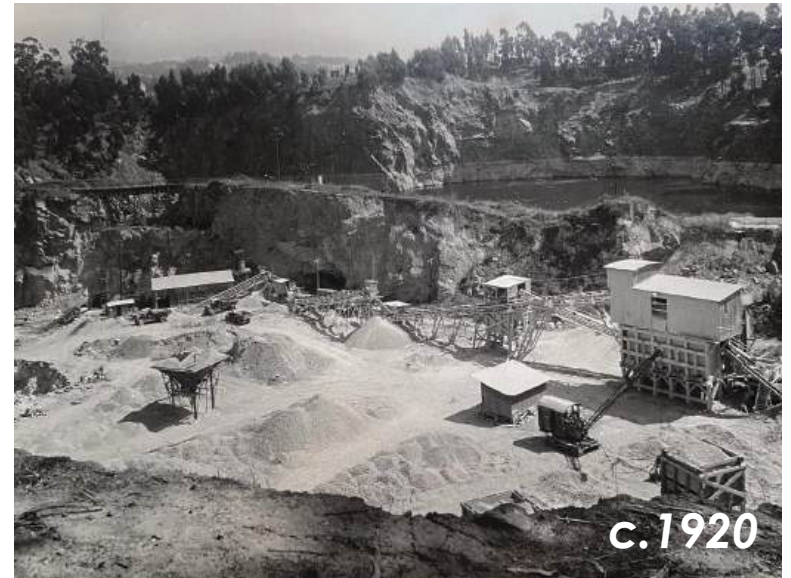
SITE HISTORIC CONTEXT

Site Historic Timeline

Each of the following images represent development on the site between its early days as a quarry up to its present condition as a partially developed neighborhood shopping plaza.



Early days of the Bilger Quarry Oakland, California.



Bilger Quarry Oakland, California, c. 1920's. Photograph courtesy of Bob DeMello



After the quarry closed in 1946 the site remained undeveloped until the first shopping plaza was completed in 1967



Prior to recent redevelopment of the site, the quarry reservoir remained unfenced

The site is part of a larger 15.67 acre parcel which includes The Ridge Plaza Phases 1 & 2.

The undeveloped portion of the plaza (the project site) is currently zoned for commercial use.



The Claremont Country Club

quarry reservoir

SITE COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The Claremont Country Club + Mountain View Cemetery



The most extensive open spaces in Oakland are Mountain View Cemetery and The Claremont Country Club.

A local historic landmark in the Rockridge neighborhood, **The Claremont Country Club** grounds cover approximately 120 acres featuring tennis courts, two outdoor swimming pools and an 18 hole, par 68 golf course designed by Alister MacKenzie in 1929 as well as other amenities.

In 1932, The Claremont Country Club, which lies just beyond the ridge to the north, purchased the rights to the Bilger Quarry reservoir, providing the private club with "an abundant low-cost source of water" to this day

Adjacent to the Claremont Country Club is another historic and cultural landmark; **Mountain View Cemetery**. Spanning 226 acres this Fredrick Law Olmsted Sr. designed open space feature drought resistant plants and trees that Olmsted himself selected. With varying topography extending into the Oakland Hills, there are scenic views of San Francisco, Marin County, The Berkeley Hills and the San Francisco Bay. Many local residents can be found walking or jogging, picnicking, sketching and birding on the grounds of the cemetery.



SITE COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Site Adjacencies + Business Districts

Residential / Mixed-Use

Merrill Gardens Mixed-Use Senior Living

Independent, Assisted Light Support and Memory-related 24/7 Supervised Living for **Seniors 62+**



Baxter at the Ridge Mixed-Use Residential

Working-age & Young Professionals with and without pets. **Average age 25 - 45**



Additional Multi-unit Residential

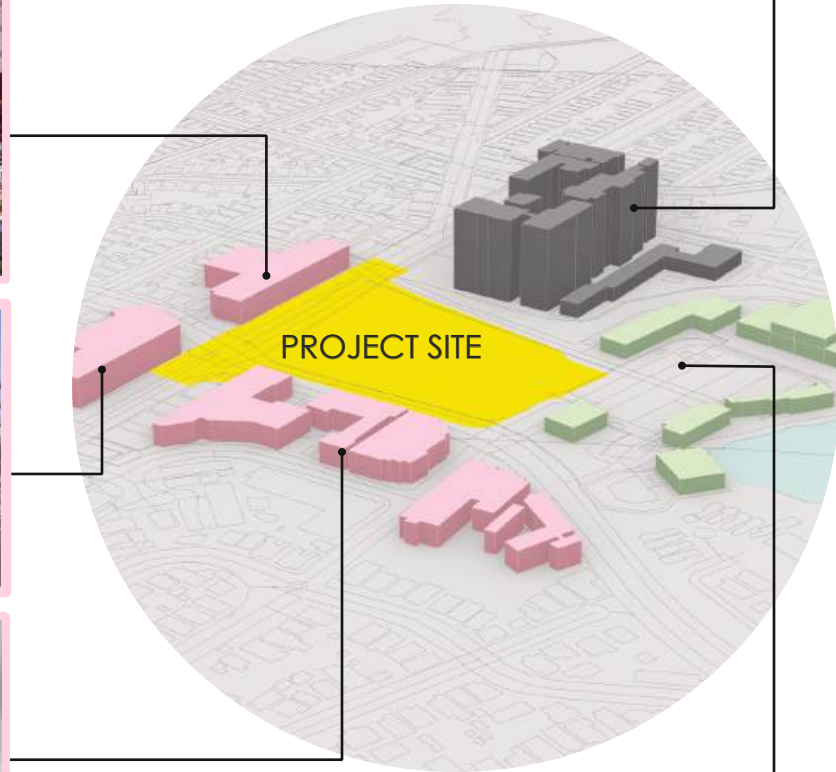
Located along Pleasant Valley Avenue opposite The Ridge Plaza Phases 1 and 2 and the project site



Institutional

Former California College of the Arts Campus

Slated for mixed-use residential commercial redevelopment



Commercial

The Ridge Plaza Phases 1 & 2

The Ridge Plaza Phases 1 and 2 is anchored by a Safeway market, Starbucks Coffee and a Chase Bank Branch. There are also several fast-casual restaurants and retail services



Rockridge Business Improvement District / College Avenue

Beginning at the intersection of Broadway and Pleasant Valley Avenue, the Rockridge BID spans from Broadway to College Avenue and up to the City of Berkeley limit at Alcatraz Avenue. Lined with local businesses, and restaurants there is also an Oakland Public Library Branch, Market Hall gourmet foods and professional office building, the Rockridge BART light rail station and Claremont Middle School.



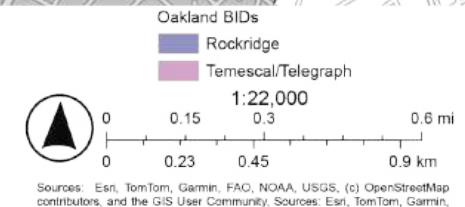
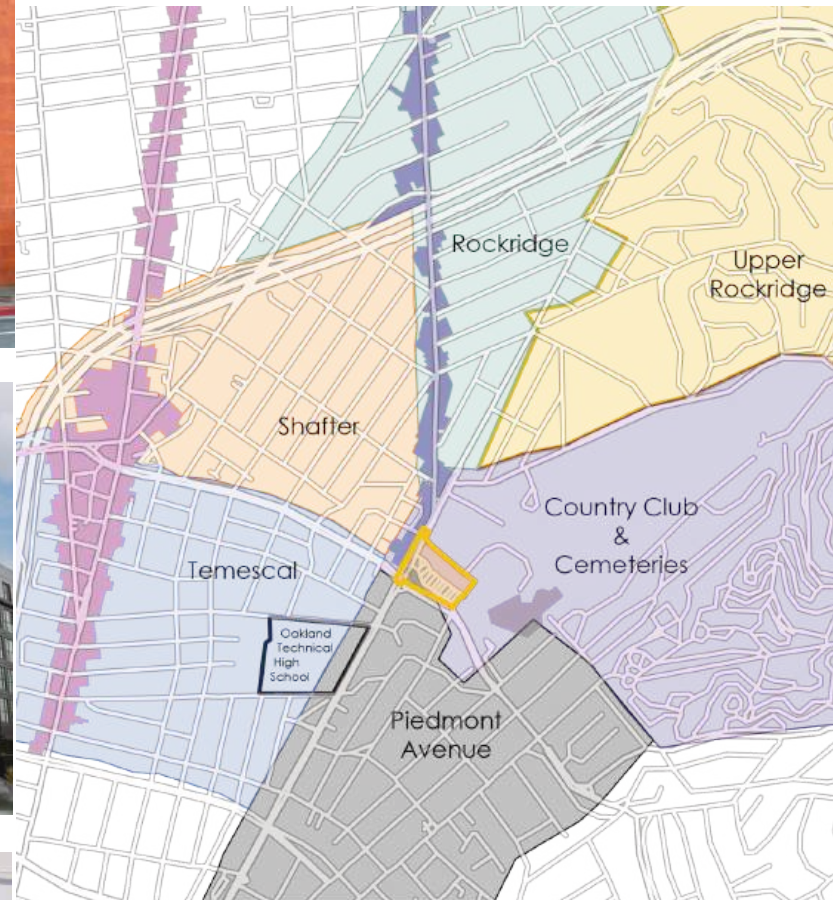
Temescal Business Improvement District / Telegraph Avenue

The Temescal BID runs along Telegraph Avenue west of our project site. With access within a 1/2 mile walk, there is a Whole Foods Market and several fast-casual restaurants, retail services and locally owned shops and businesses.



Oakland Technical High School

Oakland Technical High School Students, Faculty and Staff. With a **Student Body of 1,815** large groups of students visit the plaza during lunch breaks and walk along the site perimeter during their morning commute, and to off-campus classes held on the former CCA campus.



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The City of Oakland General Plan Oakland Draft Land Use Framework

OAKLAND DRAFT LAND USE FRAMEWORK GOALS & OBJECTIVES

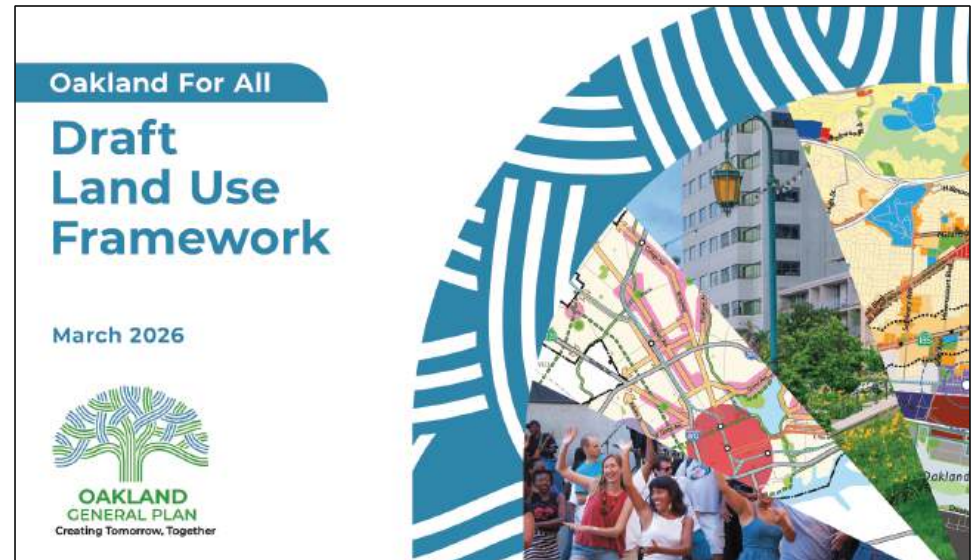
Central to the ODLUF objectives is a commitment to:

provide underserved 'flatlands' neighborhoods with more **equitable access to public open space** by creating green spaces that are a 10-minute walkable distance for nearby residents,

provide more **opportunities for social connection** by creating safe community gathering spaces for residents, and

to **expand the urban tree canopy** and urban greenways in an effort to **reduce the urban heat island effect and enhance climate resiliency** in the City of Oakland.

The Draft Land Use Framework provides direction for land use policies and practices in the city, however it is not considered an adoptable policy manual. The text of the framework describes it as a "bridge" to help guide the Land Use and Transportation Element and the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element updates to policies and practices governing the City of Oakland.

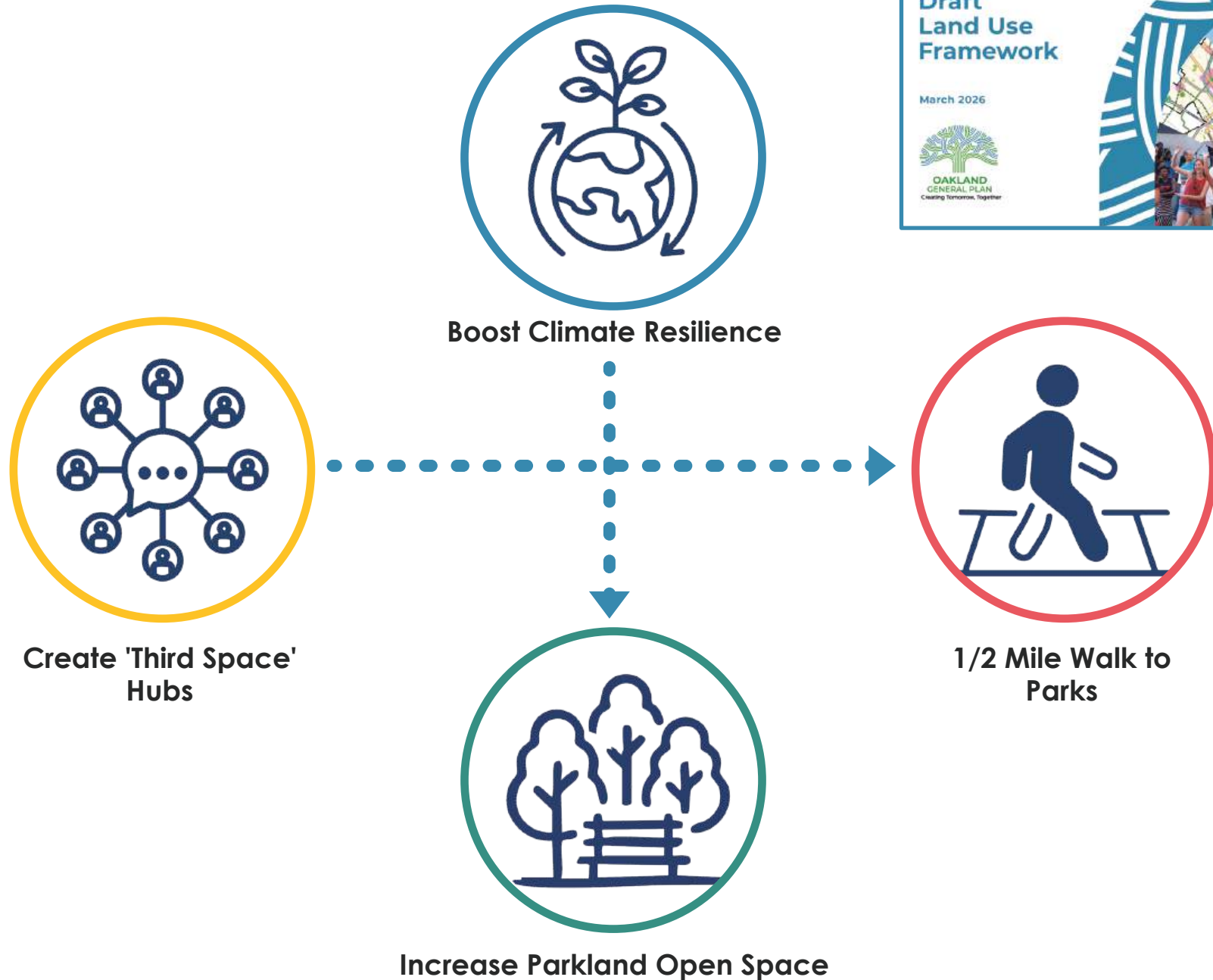


The Oakland Draft Land Use Framework released in March of 2026 as part of the City of Oakland's General Plan laid out the City's vision for the next 20 years.

In summary the City of Oakland's vision is to:

1. Boost Climate Resilience
2. Increase Parkland to 4 acres per 1000 residents
3. Provide parks within ½ mile walk for all residents in the City
4. Create 'Third Space' Hubs with features that foster social connection

The goals and objectives of this project are aligned with those laid out by the Draft Land Use Framework.



PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Boost Climate Resilience



Boost Climate Resilience

- Reduce non-permeable surfaces on the site
- Add green infrastructure and plant materials to help protect the site and surrounding community from extreme weather events, specifically the urban heat island effect and flooding
- Expand the tree canopy on both the site and significant adjacencies

METHODOLOGY

Climate Resilience Infrastructure Applications



Maximize water infiltration on the site by applying LID techniques:

- permeable surfaces
- tree canopy
- green infrastructure

Materials will include permeable surfaces and paver pathways, bio-retention infrastructure, planted bioswales along the path edges and regionally native plant and tree species



Aesculus californica



Acer macrophyllum



Quercus agrifolia



Sequoia sempervirens



Eriogonum luteolum var. *caninum*



Arctostaphylos pallida (endemic)



Papaver heterophyllum



Amsinckia grandiflora

PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Increased Parkland in Oakland

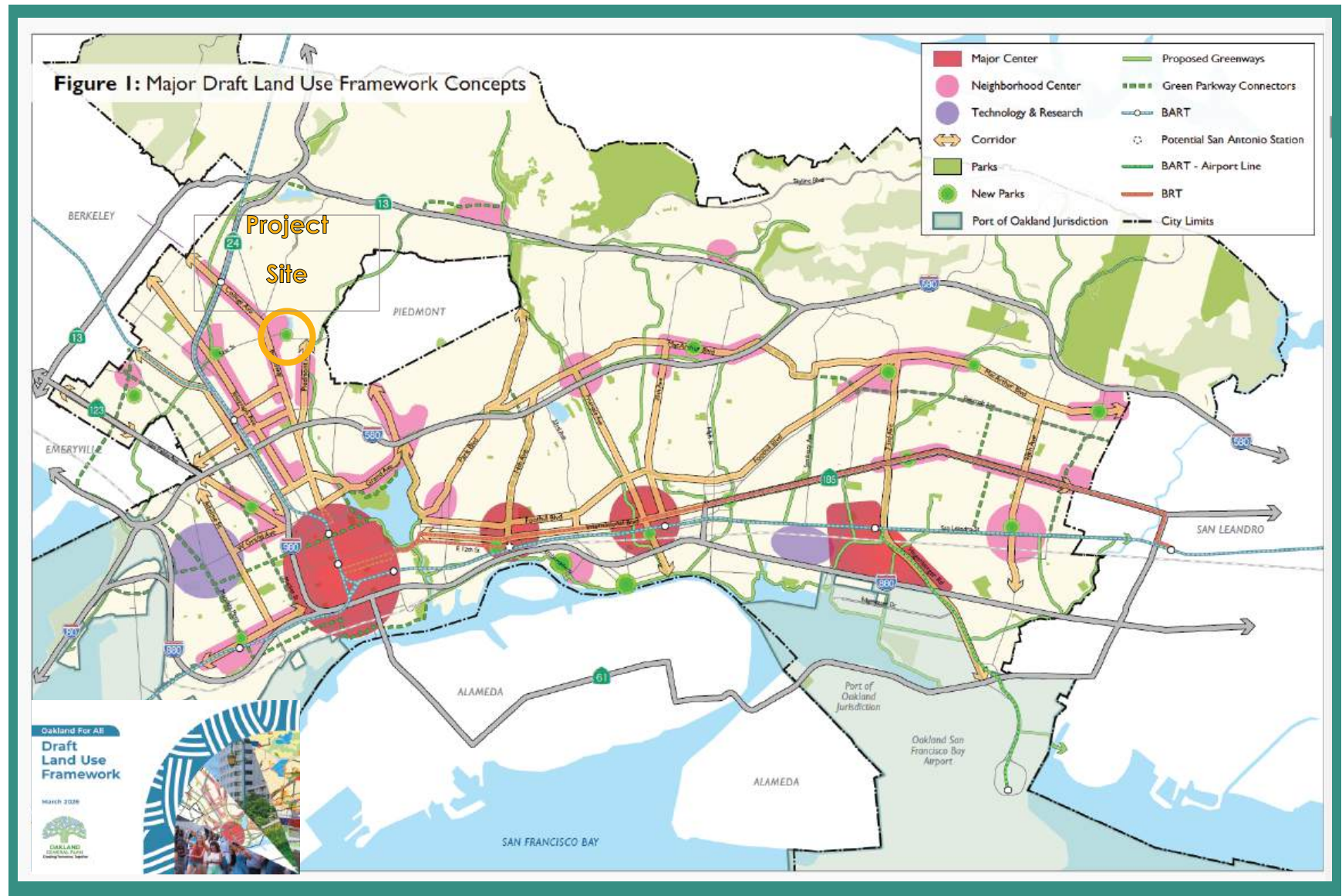


Increase Parkland Open Space in Oakland

- A step toward building 4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in the City of Oakland
- A step toward the ODLUF goal of creating a network of greenways throughout the city
- Use Urban Greening and tree canopies to support neighborhood health & investment

METHODOLOGY

Urban 'Greening'



The Oakland Draft Land Use Framework provides a vision for transforming the City of Oakland streetscape over the next 20 years. The project site was identified as one with potential to be a new park in the city.

PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Walkable Access to Nature

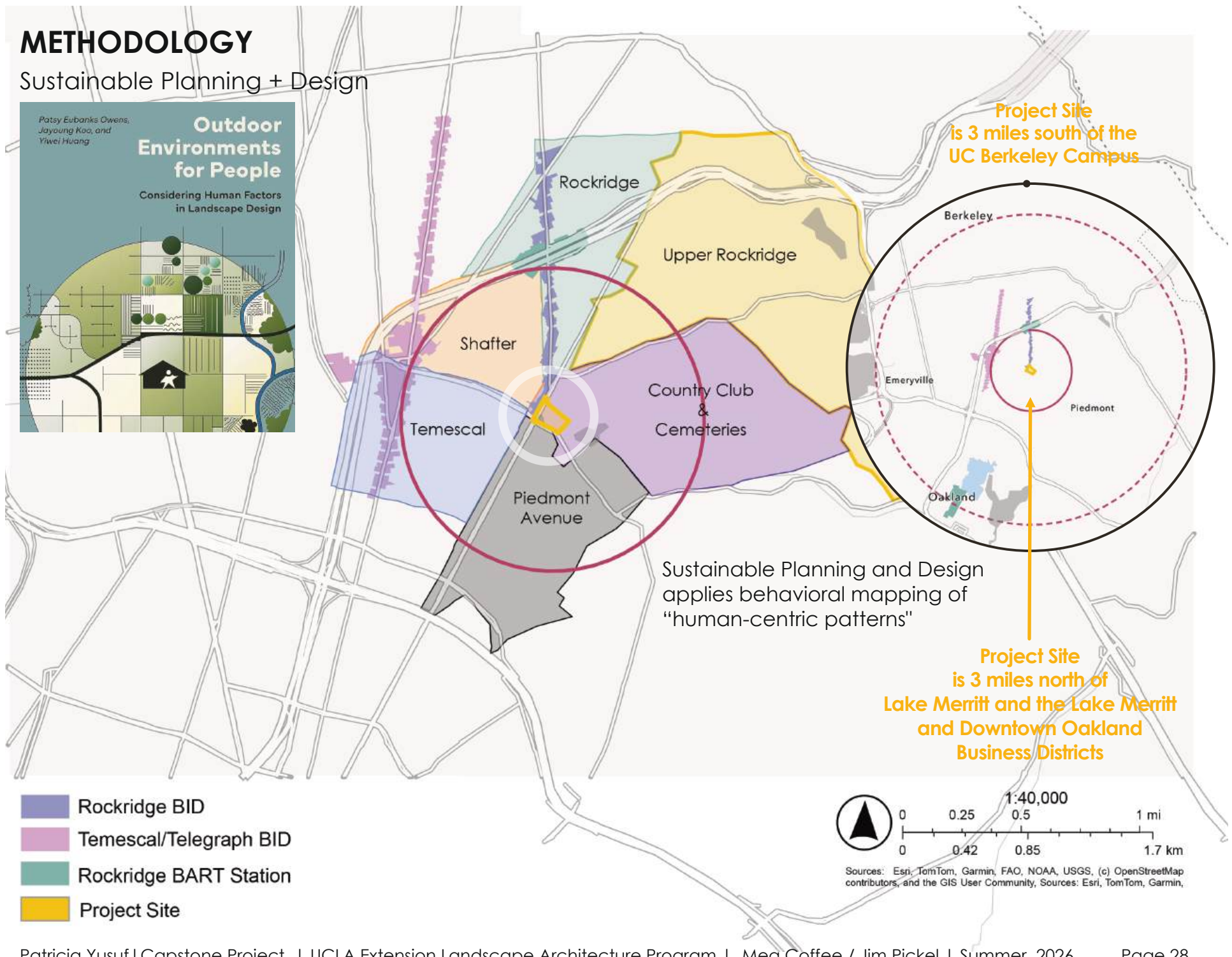
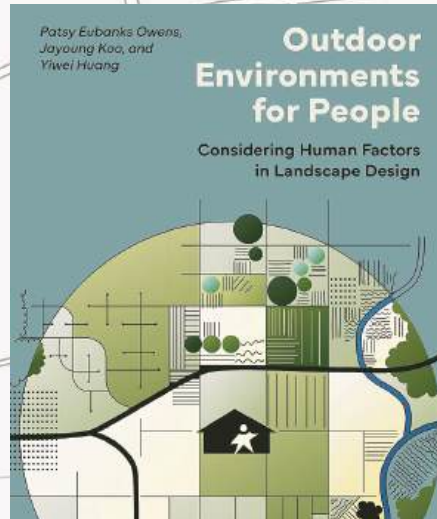


1/2 Mile Walk to Parks

- Provide residents in surrounding neighborhoods with a ½ mile walk (approximately 10 minutes) to a park or public open space
- Make improvements to infrastructure surrounding and on the site that make it accessible to those who are mobility challenged or/and use mobility devices
- Add features that support activities for better health such as jogging and dog walking and spending time surrounded by nature
- Take one step toward creating open space in ‘flatlands’ neighborhoods that have historically been underserved

METHODOLOGY

Sustainable Planning + Design



PROJECT GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Create A Community Hub

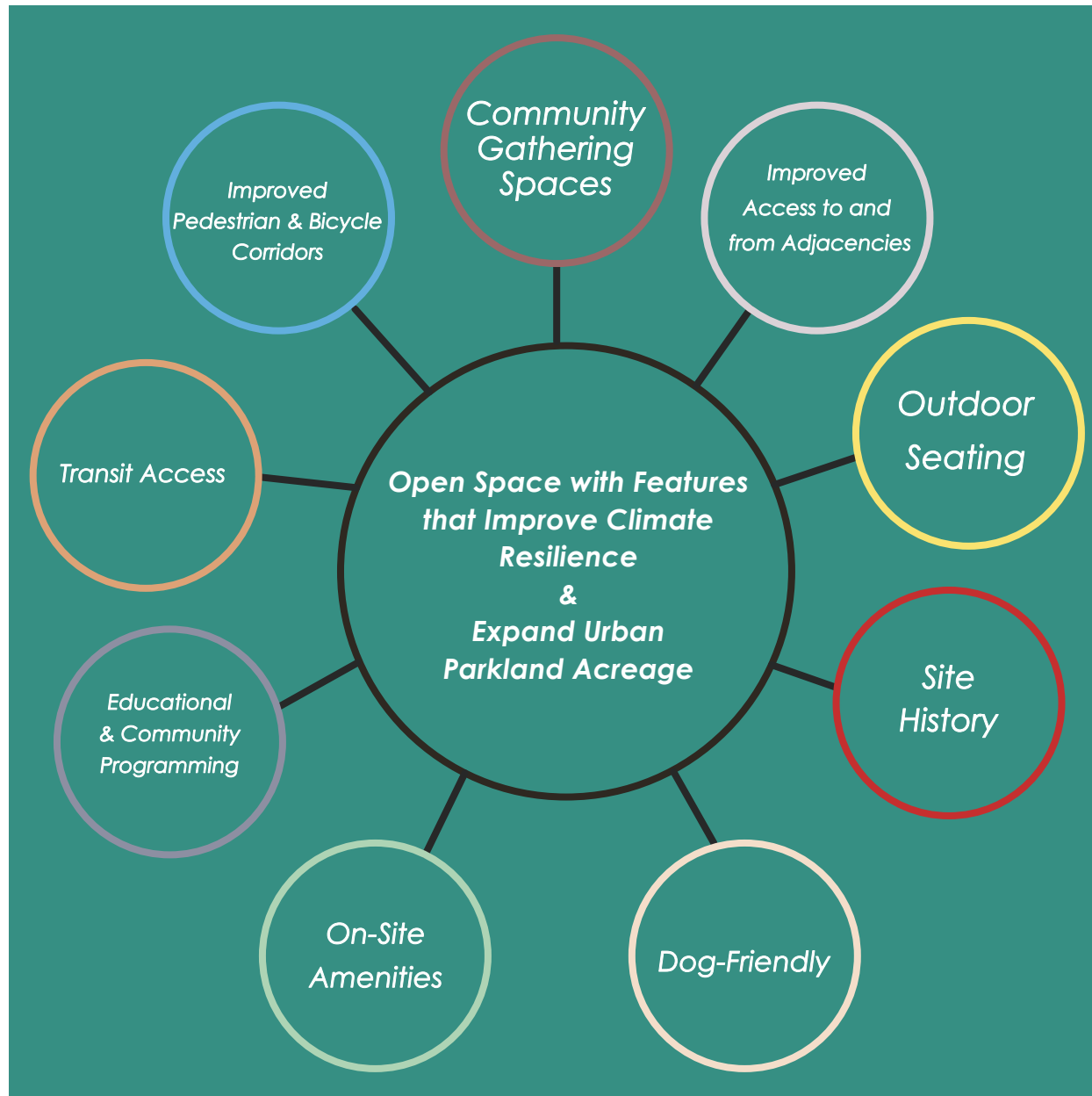


**Create 'Third Space'
Hubs**

- Add features that encourage community gathering, foster social connection & better integrate with adjacencies, transit & existing bicycle lane networks
- Design to compliment Phases 1 & 2 of the plaza, completed in 2017
- Celebrate/Integrate the history of the site into its program

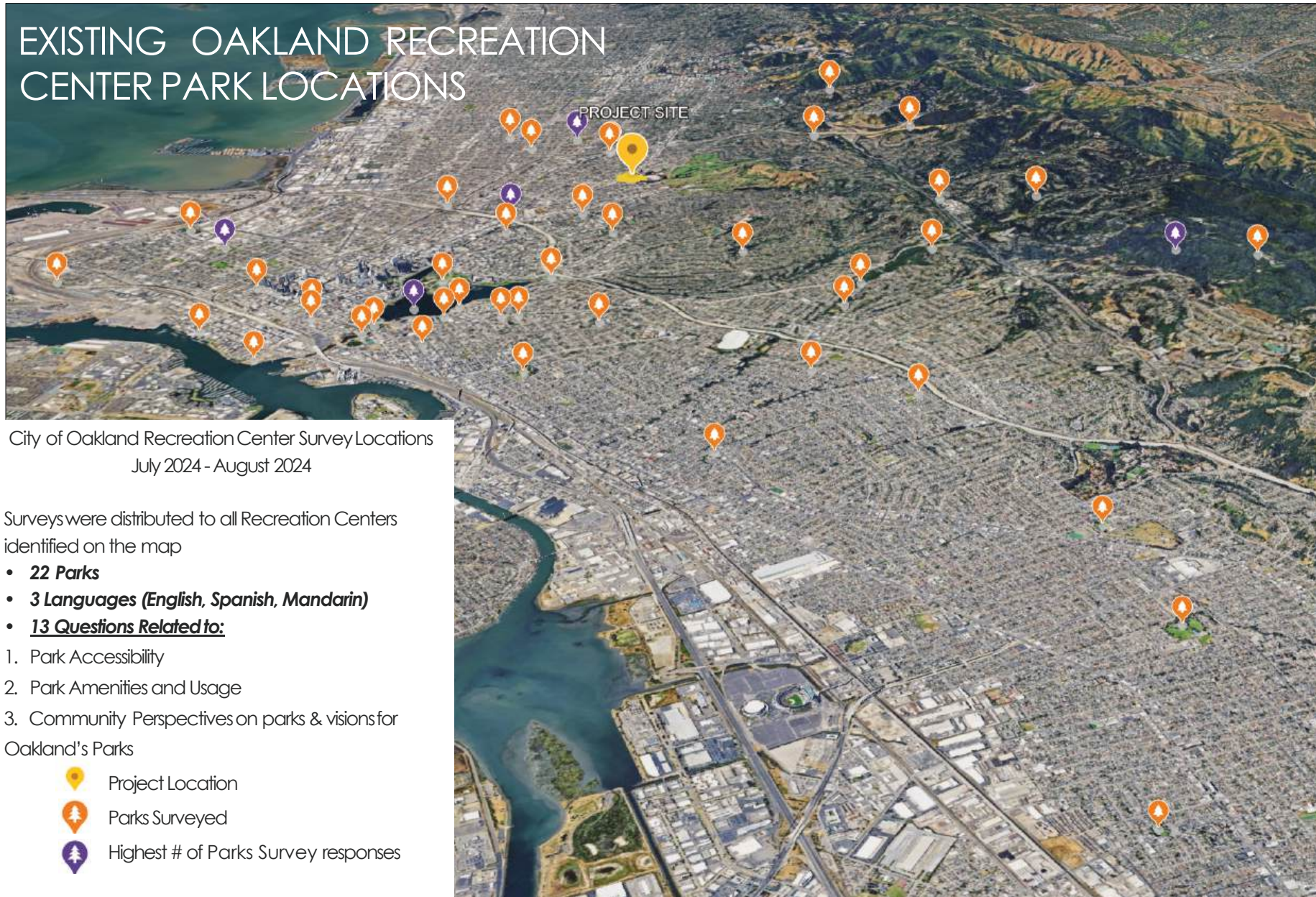
METHODOLOGY

Community Connection + Adjacency Integration



THE CITY OF OAKLAND GENERAL PLAN

Research + Data Collection Methods



The City of Oakland Parks Survey

Findings + Recommendations

Based on a survey distributed to directors and programmatic staff at 22 Recreation Centers in the City of Oakland between August 20, 2024 and September 20, 2024 the following information was gathered

Survey highlights:

- Need for more open spaces that are within a walkable/bikeable distance
- Need for better maintenance at existing parks
- Need for access to/maintenance of restrooms at existing parks
- Desire for programming such as trails and rollerskating at local 'flatlands' parks

Key Findings:

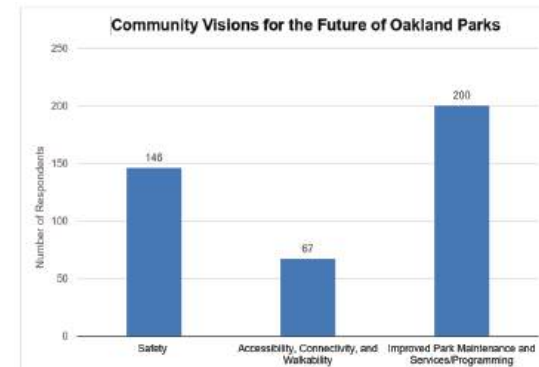


Figure 12: Priorities for a safe and connected Oakland parks system

In the future, respondents would like:

- safety
- accessibility, connectivity, walkability
- maintenance, services / programming

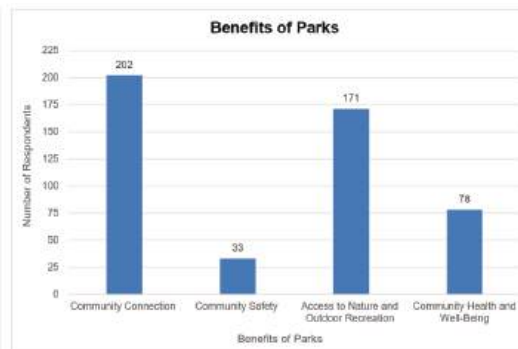


Figure 11: Community Benefits from Parks

Benefits include:

- connection with others
- safety
- access to nature
- health / well-being

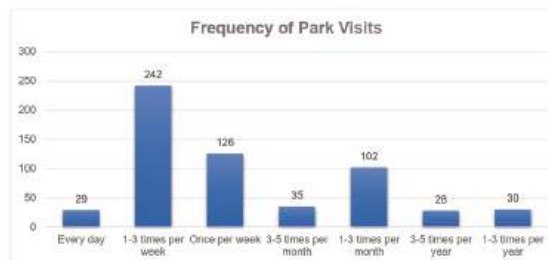


Figure 5: How often do you go to the park?

Respondent Demographics:

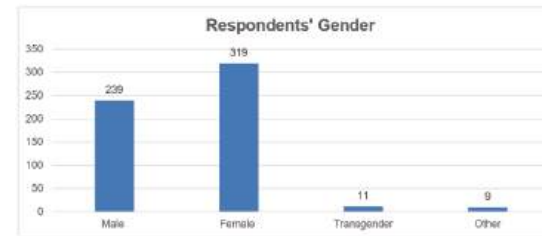


Figure 111: Gender of Respondents

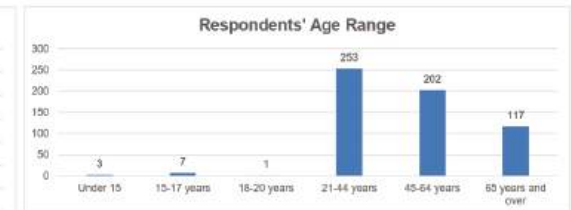


Figure 102: Age Range of Respondents

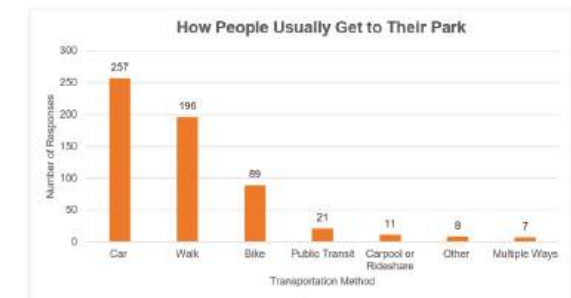


Figure 3: How do you usually get to the park?

Over 1/2 of respondents visited parks at least once per week, with many visiting multiple times per week

Many respondents use a car to access their park. This may be due to distance, but also attributed to convenience when visiting with:

- infants, toddlers and small children
- the elderly / mobility challenged

DESIGN PRECEDENTS

Case Study 1: Dutch Kills Green, Queens New York

Landscape Architect: WRT; Margie Ruddick Landscape

Completed in 2011, this 13-acre greenway at the foot of the Queensboro Bridge transformed eight city blocks of roadway into a safer, greener, and more accessible public space. The project demonstrates how investment in urban green infrastructure can improve environmental quality, public health, and community connectivity.

Key Design Features

Equitable Public Space: Improved pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure enhanced safety and expanded access to open space along Queens Boulevard.

Climate Resilience: New vegetation reduced noise levels, improved air quality, and helped mitigate urban heat island effects.

Community Benefits: The greenway supports recreation, active transportation, and social interaction while preserving historic milestones uncovered during construction.

Sustainable Infrastructure: Recycled construction materials, permeable paving, and storm water infiltration systems reduce environmental impacts and improve site performance.

Design Approach

Design Approach

The project transformed a vehicle-oriented corridor into a resilient urban landscape through green infrastructure, sustainable materials, and native, climate-adapted plantings. By prioritizing environmental quality and public access, it demonstrates how equitable investment in green space can enhance climate resilience and improve quality of life in dense urban neighborhoods.



DESIGN PRECEDENTS

Case Study 2: Monon Boulevard + Midtown Plaza Phases 1 + 2, Carmel Indiana

Landscape Architect: Rundell Ernstberger Associates

Completed in 2019, the 7.4-acre Monon Boulevard transformed a former industrial corridor into a vibrant mixed-use district that combines climate-responsive design, multi-modal transportation, and accessible public open space. The project demonstrates how strategic investment in green infrastructure can strengthen community connections while supporting environmental resilience and economic development.

Key Design Features

Green Infrastructure: Storm water management systems capture and infiltrate runoff, reducing flooding and improving water quality.

Expanded Tree Canopy: Extensive tree planting provides shade, reduces urban heat island effects, improves air quality, and supports long-term carbon sequestration.

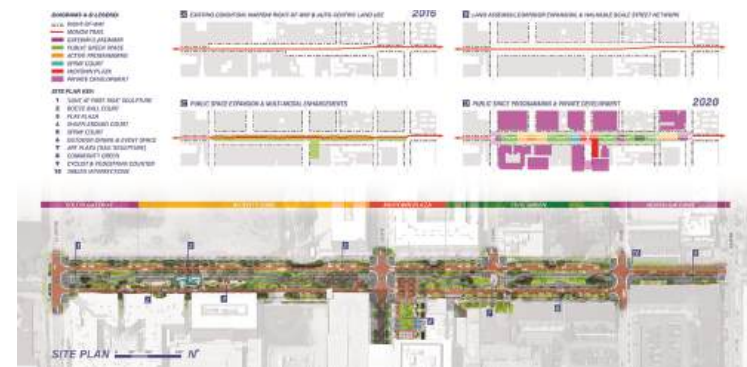
Safe Multi-modal Connectivity: Complete street improvements enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety while linking Carmel's Arts & Design District with the City Center.

Inclusive Public Spaces: Active and passive recreation areas create year-round destinations that serve people of diverse ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Economic Vitality: Public realm improvements support local businesses by increasing foot traffic, visitation, and commercial activity.

Design Approach

The project integrates green infrastructure, healthy soils, and extensive tree planting to reduce stormwater runoff, lower surface temperatures, and improve environmental performance. High-quality paving, lighting, furnishings, way-finding, and public art create a cohesive identity while ensuring the corridor functions as both a community gathering space and a resilient urban landscape. By expanding access to green space and active transportation options, Monon Boulevard demonstrates how public investment can advance climate resilience, community health, and economic opportunity.



DESIGN PRECEDENTS

Case Study 3: The Amazon HQ2 Metropolitan Park, Arlington Virginia

Landscape Architect: Field Operations

Located in Arlington Virginia's National Landing district HQ2 combines a corporate campus with a sustainable landscape design bringing work, community gathering and a resilient landscape design into focus. With the first phase of this corporate campus opening in 2023, the 9-acre campus consists of a metropolitan park, streetscapes, a linear park and rooftop landscapes.

Key Design Features

Native and Adaptive Planting:

Including a pollinator habitat to help support native ecology and an extensive tree canopy that helps create micro-climates and mitigate urban heat.

Sustainability Features:

Stormwater management and water reuse by way of reclaimed rainwater and greywater systems, and HVAC condensate for landscape irrigation. Landscaped roofs top LEED certified office buildings on the campus

Multi-generational Flexible Spaces:

Flexible lawn space for community gathering, even accessible walking paths, children's play areas, dog runs and other recreational facilities.

Design Approach

Transforming a heavily built urban site into a connected, publicly accessible green landscape while combining ecological infrastructure with spaces serving different ages and activities



DESIGN PRECEDENTS

Case Study 4: Downtown Cary Park, Cary, North Carolina

Landscape Architect: OJB Landscape Architecture / Machado Silvetti

Completed in 2023, the 7-acre Downtown Cary Park has helped to revitalize the area as both a regional destination and business hub. The park's series of outdoor rooms are connected by garden walks and pathways that lead to a children's play area, dog park, public art, gathering gardens, courts and an elevated skywalk.

Key Design Features

Botanical and Native Planting Areas: Ecological landscapes prioritized and integrated into each program area.

Multi-generational Programming: Extensive community engagement informed the Master Plan ensuring that all community members' needs and desires for the park were integrated into the design.

Multi-generational Flexible Spaces: A Great Lawn and performance pavilion, botanical and native planting areas, interactive water features, contribute to the overall community feel of the park.

Economic Vitality: Public realm improvements support local businesses by increasing foot traffic, visitation, and commercial activity.

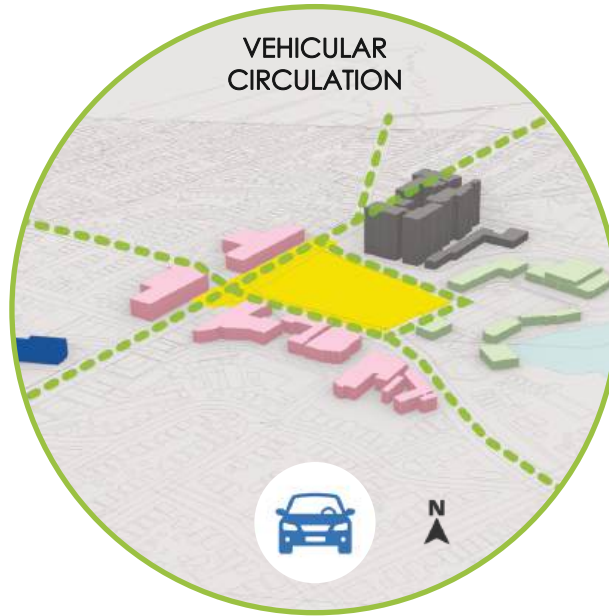
Design Approach

Downtown Cary Park demonstrates how a relatively small urban site can support children, adults, seniors, events, recreation, ecological landscapes and passive gathering simultaneously -- while functioning as an economic and social anchor for the surrounding district.

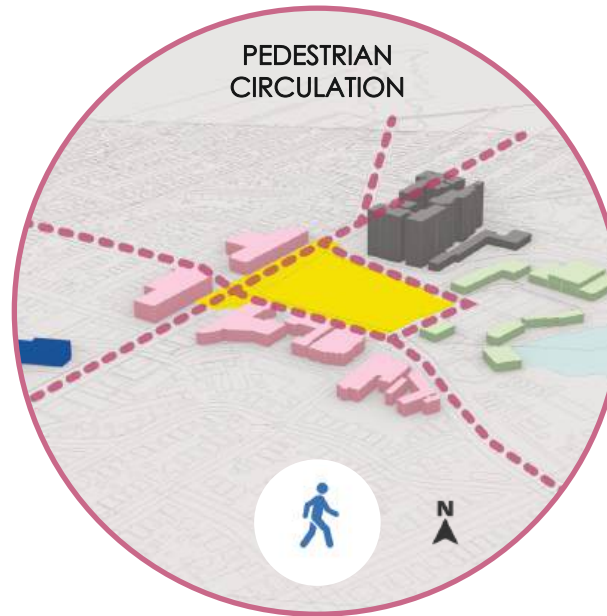


SITE ANALYSIS

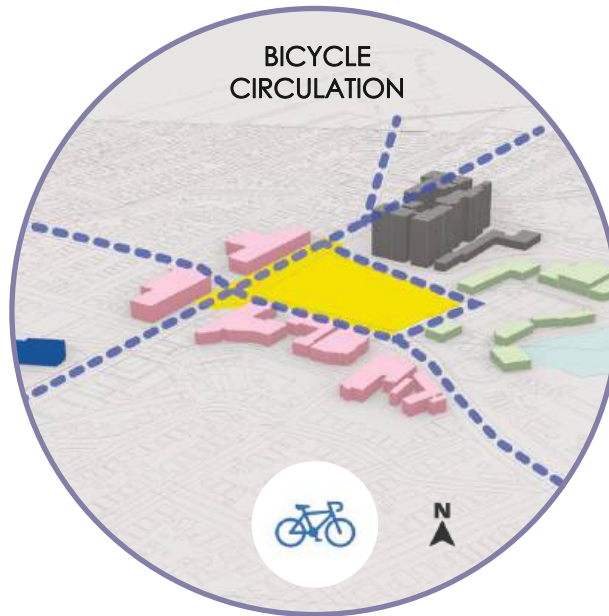
Circulation



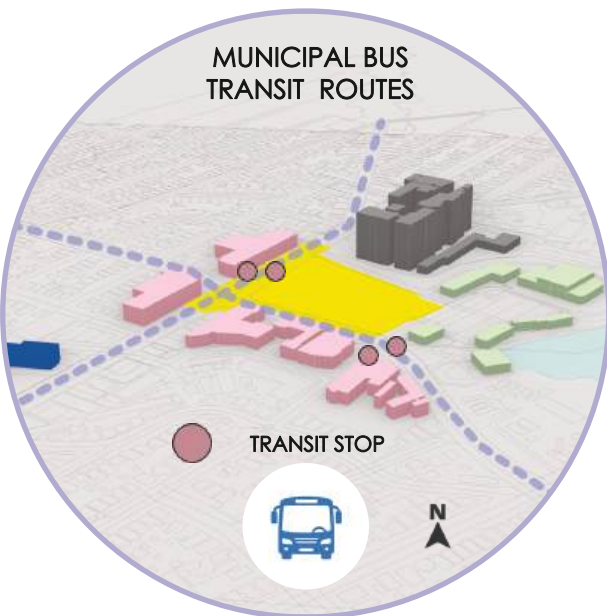
heavy vehicular traffic into and around the site, with peaks during the morning and evening commute period



the surrounding neighborhood context and streets score high in walkability



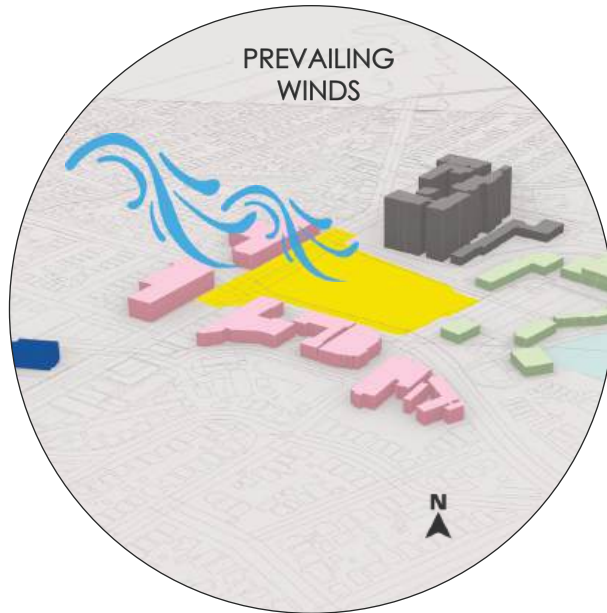
dedicated bicycle lanes exist going into and around the site and are connected to an extensive city-wide bicycle lane network



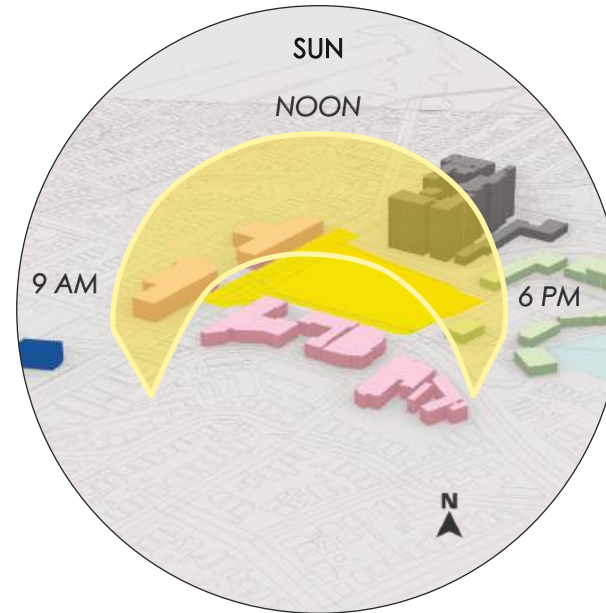
the site lies at a highly used municipal intercity and transbay bus transit route

SITE ANALYSIS

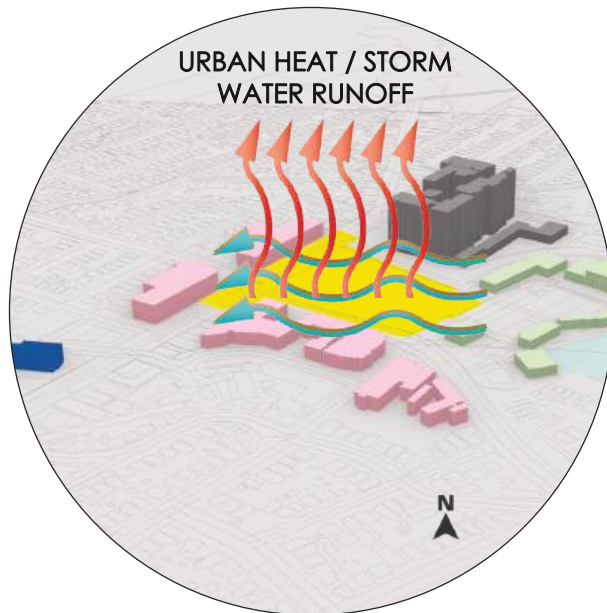
Environmental Conditions



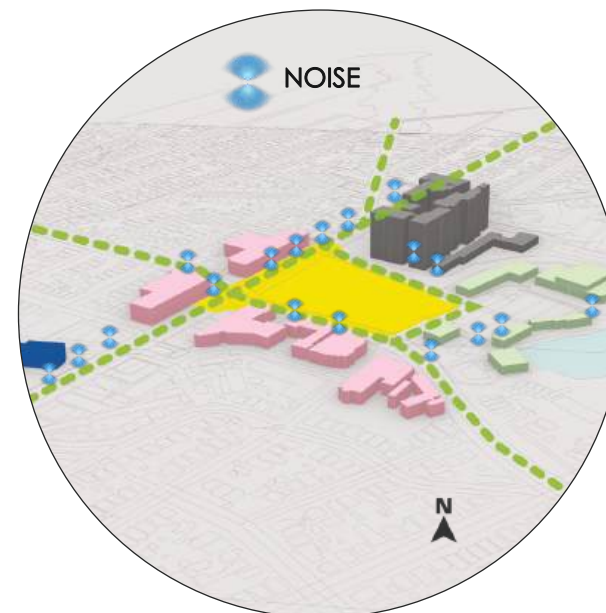
prevailing winds from the west and northwest impact the site



the site receives full sun throughout the year



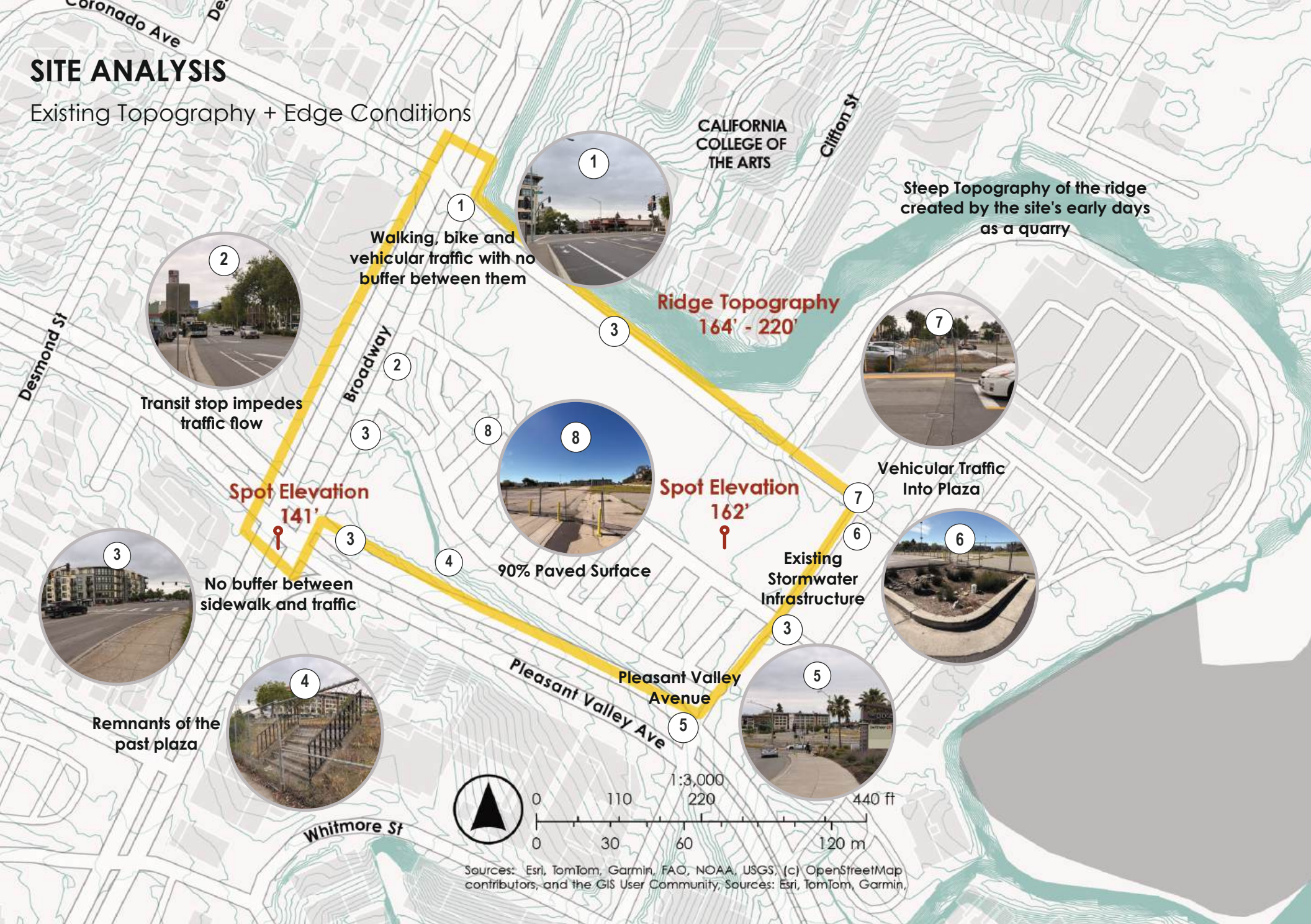
with an over 90% paved and/or impermeable surface, the site is highly susceptible to the urban heat island effect and storm water runoff



heavy vehicular traffic is the greatest contributor to noise around the site

SITE ANALYSIS

Existing Topography + Edge Conditions



SITE ANALYSIS

Topography, Park Equity and Access To Nature / Open Space



Many of Oakland's residents, especially those living in what is locally known as 'Flatlands' neighborhoods have less parkland, open space and access to nature when compared to 'Hills' neighborhoods and other Cities in Alameda County. This difference has been well documented and the subject of over 30 years of research.

CONSTRAINTS

Significant Challenges on the Site



Climate
Resilience



Parkland &
Open Space



Walkability



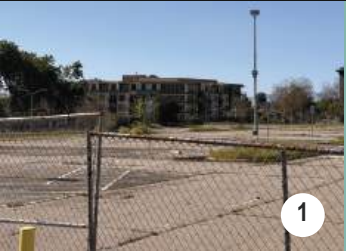
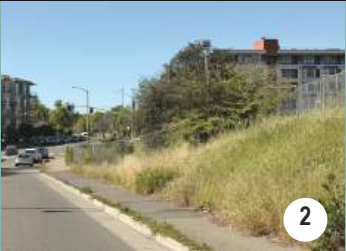
3rd Space Hub/
Community
Connection

Relative to the 4 project goals and objectives

the most significant constraints on the site are:

- its highly paved surface
- lack of vegetation
- and its busy noisy edges that impact safe access to the existing businesses and services on the parcel



GOAL/OBJECTIVE		 	  	 	  
LOCATION ON SITE					
CONSTRAINT	Climate Resilience Challenges due to the site being covered in over 90% pavement	Lack of fertile permeable soil / habitable areas for wildlife	Indirect circulation routes for adjacencies, neighborhoods and nearby BID's	Busy, noisy intersection / limited traffic calming; No visibility triangle at key access points	Main transit stop is significantly distant from on-site amenities. Also impedes traffic

OPPORTUNITIES

A Blank Slate



Climate
Resilience



Parkland &
Open Space



Walkability



3rd Space Hub/
Community
Connection

The Oakland Draft Land Use Framework identified this site as one that could ideally be developed into a green open space to serve at least 5 adjacent neighborhoods.

Due to the site's proximity to:

- Walkable residential neighborhoods within 1/2 mile
- Oakland's transit network
- Oakland's bicycle network
- Rockridge BID
- Temescal BID

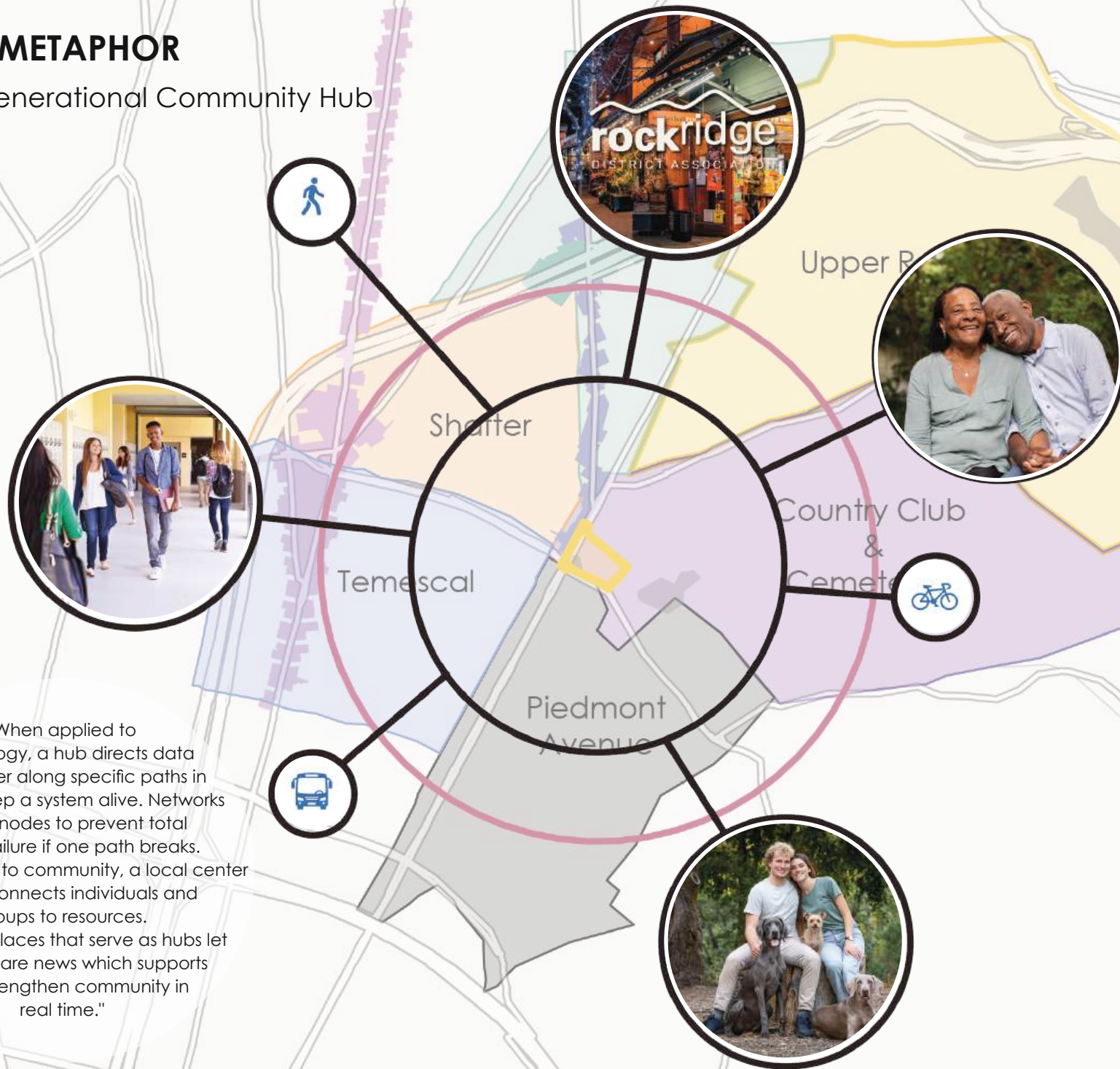
all four goals mentioned could easily be attained.



GOAL/OBJECTIVE	 	 	  	 	  
LOCATION ON SITE					
OPPORTUNITY	Creating an open space here would provide at least 5 adjacent neighborhoods with a park within 1/2 mile	50-70% vegetation with a focus on native plants will improve climate resiliency and access to parkland	pedestrian scrambles contribute to safer walkable access reducing the need for access by car	protected bike access can contribute to safety and accessibility	Improved transit infrastructure can positively impact accessibility and create less dependence on vehicular access

DESIGN METAPHOR

An Inter-generational Community Hub



"When applied to technology, a hub directs data and power along specific paths in order to keep a system alive. Networks rely on nodes to prevent total system failure if one path breaks. When applied to community, a local center or hub connects individuals and groups to resources. Gathering places that serve as hubs let people share news which supports and strengthen community in real time."

DESIGN METAPHOR

Inspiration Images



Downtown Cary Park Cary, NC



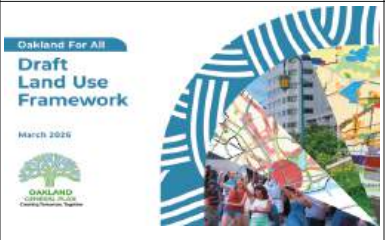
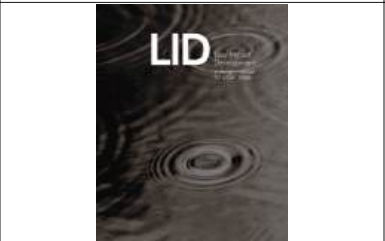
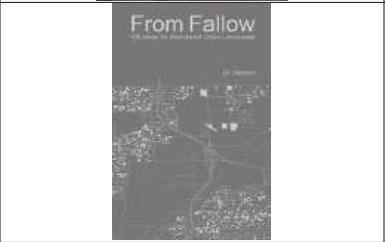
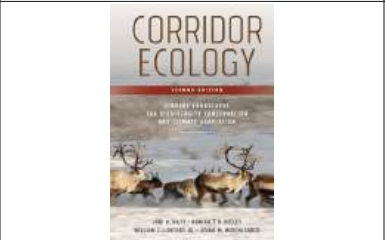
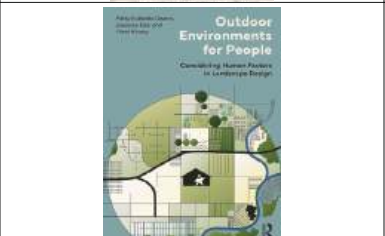
Amazon HQ2 Campus Arlington, VA

The Amazon HQ2 Campus in Arlington transforms a heavily built urban site into a connected, publicly accessible green landscape while combining ecological infrastructure with spaces serving different ages and activities.

Downtown Cary Park demonstrates how a relatively small urban site can support children, adults, seniors, events, recreation, ecological landscapes, and passive gathering simultaneously—while functioning as an economic and social anchor for the surrounding district.

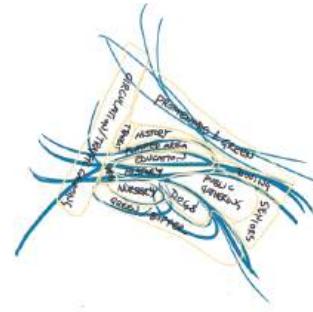
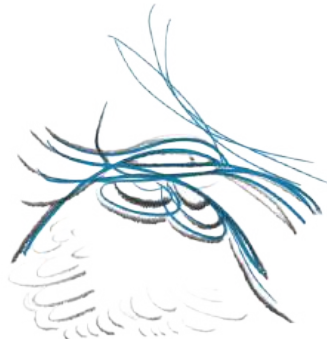
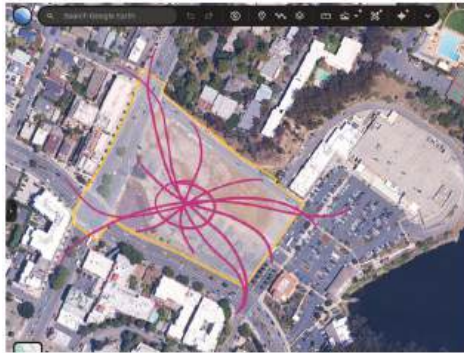
METHODOLOGIES CONSIDERED

Sources for Methodologies Applied

METHODOLOGY	GUIDING PRINCIPLES
	Align Goals and Objectives with the City of Oakland Draft Land Use Framework incorporate the guiding principles in the ODLUF that define the vision of how the City of Oakland should grow over the next 20 years. - design to demonstrate the land use strategy and urban form objectives outlined in the ODLUF - incorporate the vision for parks, open space and environmental systems outlined in the ODLUF - ensure that the design integrates the goals of economic development, culture, and community facilities - ensure that the design aligns with Oakland's Equitable Climate Action Plan - ensure that the design addresses Oakland's Environmental Justice objectives
	Reduce impervious surfaces on the site - create/enhance landscape biodiversity diversity - maximize water infiltration and eliminate runoff through techniques that allow water to slow, soak and spread into the soil and vegetation - design the proposed promenade as a shared street minus the vehicular traffic - design the edges as Eco-boulevards - create a link in the urban greenway network to help maintain nutrients, resources and habitat flows through the city
	Alter the abandoned urban landscape - create a wildlife corridor, particularly for native birds, pollinators and species that are part of the natural ecosystems that exist in the region - establish a native plant nursery facilitated as part of the OUSD student curriculum - enhance the connections between the plaza and the adjacent neighborhoods as well as transit, local BID's and privately held quarry reservoir
	Enhancing biodiversity and habitat in the urban landscape - applying the approaches used to achieve habitat connectivity through creating urban habitat patches that flora and fauna can travel through - consider species persistence when choosing materials and methods to apply to the site design - apply habitat restoration principles where possible
	Applying human factors to site design - applying behavioral mapping techniques to assess the patterns of usage around the plaza - assessing current safety and security measures; applying CPTED principles to enhance users experiences when visiting the site - projecting for future use of the site based on changes in demographics, modes of travel and land use patterns

CONCEPT EXPLORATION

3 Design Concepts: Process Diagrams

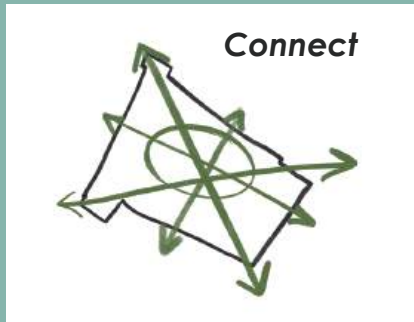


Before reaching the final concept for the design, many iterations of these diagrams were completed. Shown is a sampling of that process

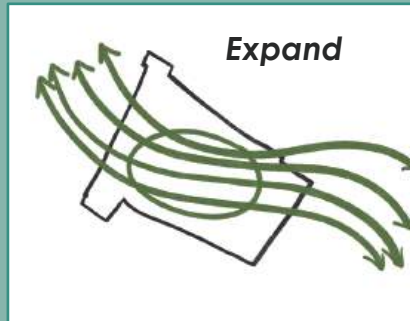


CONCEPT EXPLORATION

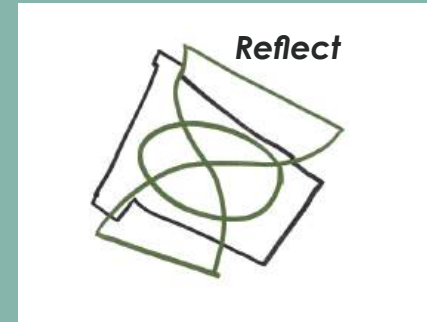
3 Design Concepts



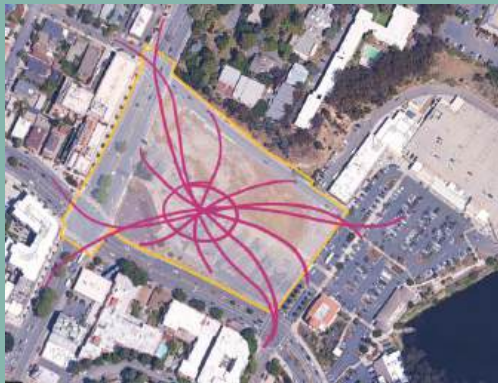
With nature community,
and businesses



The urban tree canopy
and access to nature for
people and wildlife



On the site's history



Bridging the site with the surrounding community. Linking provides visual, physical and visceral connection recognizes the separation of entities that have an impact on the surrounding community



Focus on creating habitat; the open space in the hills and the open space that the sf bay provides for wildlife. use the site as a step toward expanding that habitat by being a piece of a larger patchwork or network of parks and greenways



Highlights the sites history and celebrates it through design features and historical education for the community. Apply a complimentary aesthetic from Phase 1 + 2 site amenities to the new design

Impact on Existing Conditions

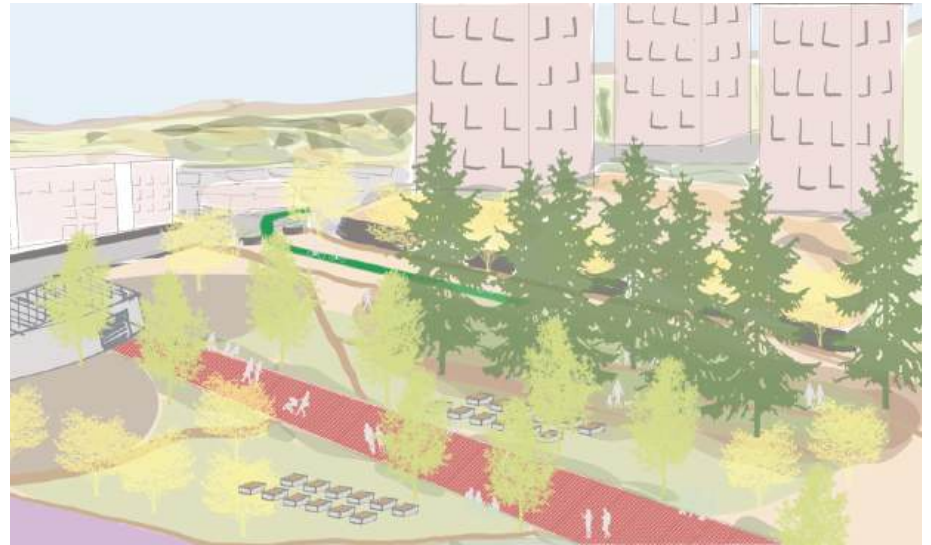
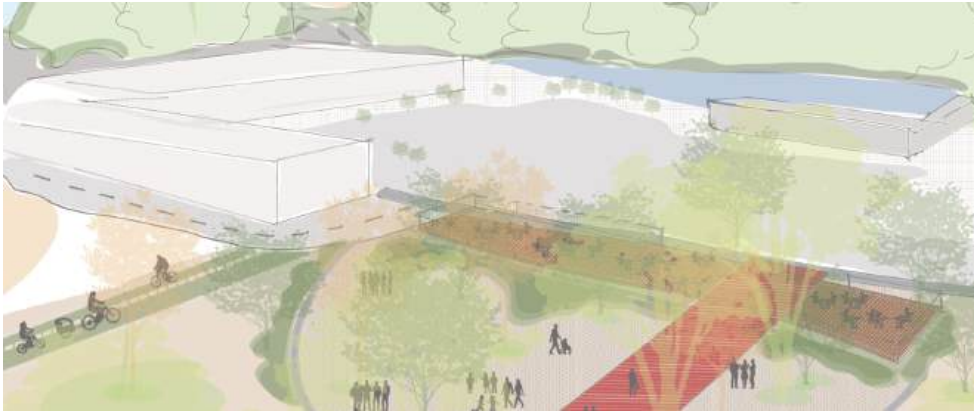


- California Native Gardens (habitat focus)
- Native Plant Nursery/Greenhouse (5,000 ft. sq)
- Pavilion w/Programming & Activities for Seniors (11,000 ft. sq)
- Expanded Historic Signage
- Educational programming (habitat & historical) (11,000 ft. sq)
- Flexible Community Space - can be used as a performance space (35,000 ft. sq)
- Outdoor Eating/Cafe Tables (8,000 ft. sq)
- Promenade from Broadway to main plaza (26,000 ft. sq)
- Improved pedestrian paths / bike lanes into plaza
- Restroom (<500 ft. sq)
- Dog-friendly spaces & paths w/pet waste stations (5,000 ft. sq)
- Improvements along the Broadway corridor intersecting streets and the plaza that define the connections to the park and plaza (2,500 ft. sq +)
- All remaining space will be dedicated green space/planted areas

CONCEPT EXPLORATION

Concept Diagrams + Process Sketches

Using Morpholio Trace and Adobe Illustrator an exploration of possible programming and design considerations including space allocation, tree canopy, walking, bicycle and transit access, and materials, and overall design concept.



CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Cohesive Design: Plaza Phases 1 + Phase 2 Considerations

Phase 1 of The Ridge Plaza incorporates site amenities including historic signage, accessible pathways and updated site furnishings. There is also a slight view into the quarry reservoir that is now fenced off from general public access.

There are well maintained California Native Plantings and accessible pathways to the existing businesses on the site.

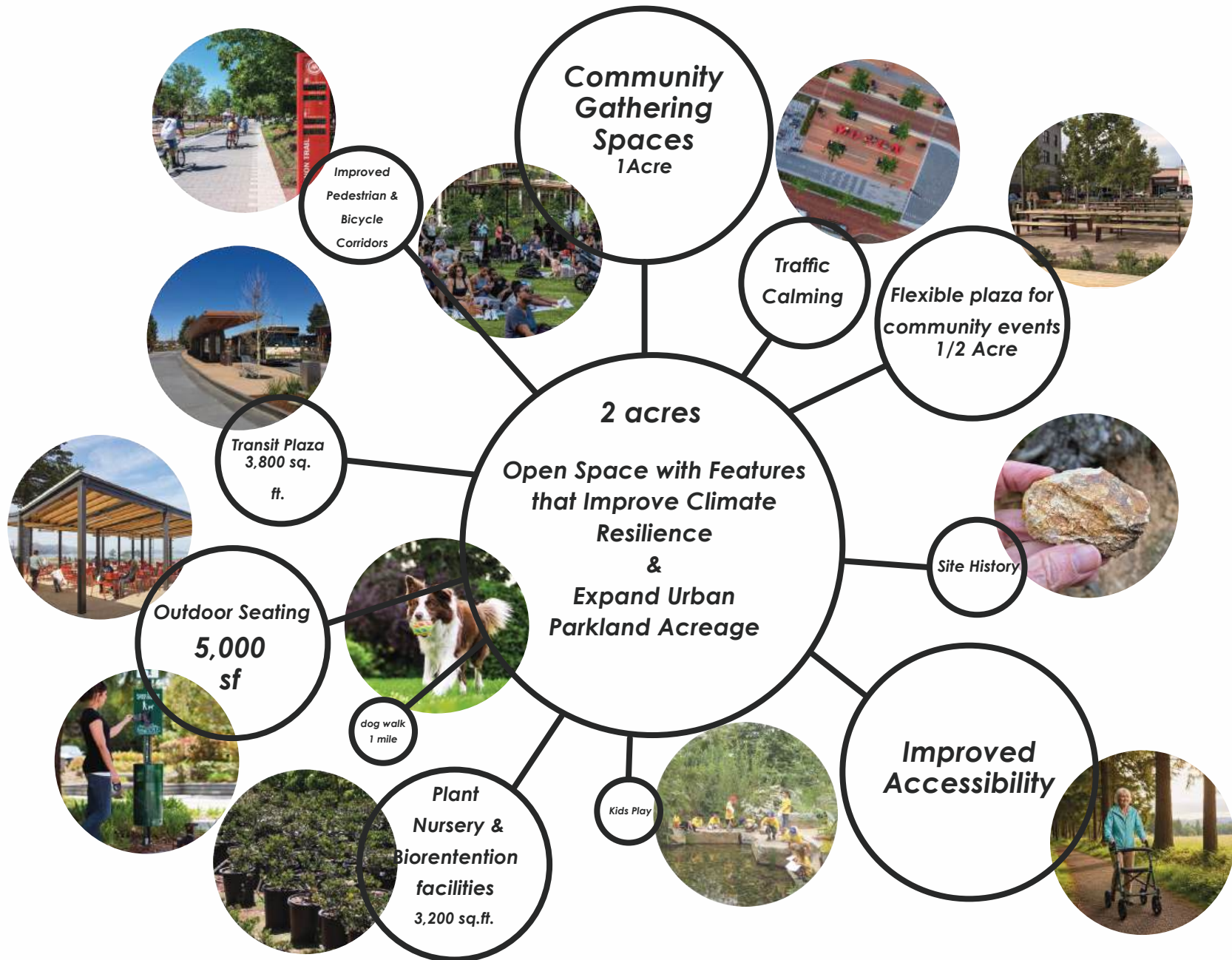
There is direct access to the transit stop on Pleasant Valley Avenue.

The site design will incorporate furnishings and features that will compliment these existing conditions.



CONCEPT PROGRAM

A Place For Connection to Nature, History + Community



CONCEPT PLAN

Rockridge Park Promenade + Gardens



legend

- ① Bioswale
- ② Access
- ③ Planted Area
- ④ Oak Plaza
- ⑤ Urban Forest
- ⑥ Naturalistic Play Area
- ⑦ Bike Lane Into Plaza
- ⑧ Left Turn Protected Bike Lane
- ⑨ Transit Center (Bus / Bike / Ride-share)
- ⑩ Transit Plaza
- ⑪ Pedestrian Scramble
- ⑫ Planted Buffer
- ⑬ Park Promenade
- ⑭ Site History
- ⑮ Community Room & Elevated Garden
- ⑯ Outdoor Cafe-Styled Seating Area
- ⑰ Botanical Stroll
- ⑱ Plant Nursery
- ⑲ Flexible Plaza
- ⑳ Traffic Calming & Greenway

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Planting + Materials Palette



Permeable Pavers + Modern Seating



Heteromeles arbutifolia



Cercis occidentalis



Aesculus californica



Acer macrophyllum



Integrated Bench + Planter for Terrace



Eriogonum fasciculatum



Prunus ilicifolia



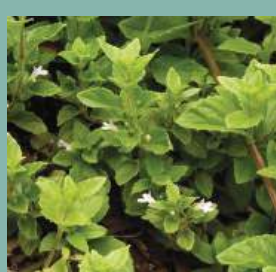
Quercus agrifolia



Sequoia sempervirens



Quartz Stone Boulders in Planted Areas + Bioswales



Clinopodium douglasii



Asclepias californica



Eriogonum luteolum var. *caninum*



Arctostaphylos pallida (endemic)



Wood Decking for Plaza Dining + Seating



Monardella villosa



Salvia spathacea



Papaver heterophyllum



Amsinckia grandiflora

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

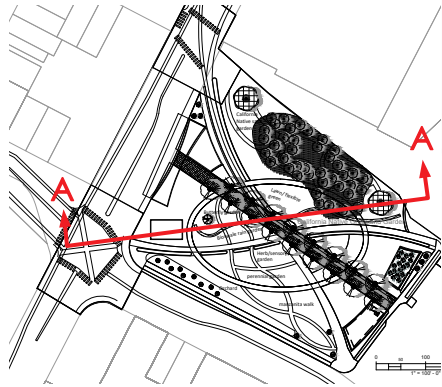
Planting Plan



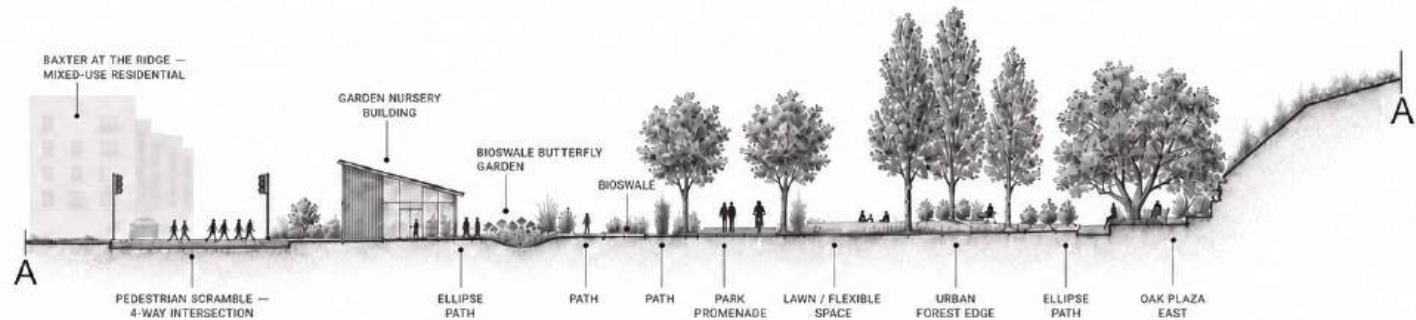
SYMBOL	CODE	BOTANICAL / COMMON NAME
TREES		
	CIT OW	CITRUS RETICULATA 'OWARI' / OWARI SATSUMA MANDARIN ORANGE
	CIT ME2	CITRUS X LIMON 'MEYER' / MEYER LEMON
	CIT TRO	CITRUS X SINENSIS 'TROYITA' / TROYITA ORANGE
	HET DAV	HETEROMELES ARBUTIFOLIA 'DAVIS GOLD' / DAVIS GOLD TOYON
	MAL A18	MALUS X DOMESTICA 'ANNA' / ANNA APPLE
	MAL G23	MALUS X DOMESTICA 'DORSETT GOLDEN' / DORSETT GOLDEN APPLE
	FLA ML1	PLATANUS RACEMOSA 'ROBERTS' / ROBERTS CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE
	PRU BLE	PRUNUS ARMENIACA 'BLENNHEIM' / BLENNHEIM APRICOT
	PRU RCR	PRUNUS AVIUM 'ROYAL CRIMSON' / ROYAL CRIMSON SWEET CHERRY
	QUERC AGR	QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA / COAST LIVE OAK
	UMB CAL	UMBELULARIA CALIFORNICA / BAY LAUREL
CONIFEROUS TREES		
	SEQ LOS	SEQUOIA SEMPERVIRENS 'LOS ALTOS' / LOS ALTOS COAST REDWOOD
SHRUBS		
	ARC CRS	ARCTOSTAPHYLOS CRUSTACEA / BRITTLE LEAF MANZANITA
	ARC DEN	ARCTOSTAPHYLOS DENSIFLORA / VINE HILL MANZANITA
	ARC PAL	ARCTOSTAPHYLOS PALLIDA / ALAMEDA MANZANITA
	ERI WAR	ERIOGONUM FASCICULATUM 'WARRINER LYTLE' / WARRINER LYTLE CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT
	HET ARB	HETEROMELES ARBUTIFOLIA / TOYON
	MIM AUR	MIMULUS AURANTIACUS / STICKY MONKEYFLOWER
	SAL API	SALVIA APIANA / WHITE SAGE
	SAL WIN	SALVIA CLEVELANDI 'WINNIFRED GILMAN' / WINNIFRED GILMAN CLEVELAND SAGE
	SAL PUR	SALVIA LEUCOPHYLLA / PURPLE SAGE
SHRUB AREAS		
	ROS OFF	ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS / ROSEMARY
GROUND COVERS		
	AGR PAL	AGROSTIS PALLENS / THINGRASS
	ARC ECP	ARCTOSTAPHYLOS X 'EMERALD CARPET' / EMERALD CARPET MANZANITA
	ASC FAG	ASCLEPIAS FASCICULARIS / NARROWLEAF MILKWEED
	CAR PRA	CAREX PRAEGRACILIS / CALIFORNIA FIELD SEDGE
	CAR TUM	CAREX TUMULICOLA / FOOTHILL SEDGE
	CHA NBL	CHAMAEMELUM NOBILE / ENGLISH CHAMOMILE
	CLI DO2	CLINOPODIUM DOUGLASSII / YERBA BUENA
	COL HET	COLUMBIA HETEROPHYLLA / CHINESE HOUSES
	ERI GRA	ERIOGONUM GRANDE RUBESCENS / RED BUCKWHEAT
	ESC CAL	ESCHSCHOLZIA CALIFORNICA / CALIFORNIA POPPY
	FRA WOO	FRAGARIA VESCA / WOODLAND STRAWBERRY
	GLA LI2	GLANDULARIA ULACINA 'DE LA MINA' / DE LA MINA CEDROS ISLAND VERBENA
	IRI IRI	IRIS DOUGLASSIANA / DOUGLAS IRIS
	JUN PAT	JUNCUS PATENS / CALIFORNIA GRAY RUSH
	MON MFP	MONARDELLA VILLOSA FRANCISCANA / SAN FRANCISCO COYOTE MINT
	ORI SWE	ORIGANUM MAJORANA / SWEET MARJORAM
	PHA CAL	PHACELIA CALIFORNICA / CALIFORNIA PHACELIA
	POL SAR	POLYPODIUM CALIFORNICUM 'SARAH LYMAN' / CALIFORNIA POLYPODY
	SAL SPA	SALVIA SPATHACEA / HUMMINGBIRD SAGE
	SAL DAR	SALVIA X 'DARA'S CHOICE' / DARA'S CHOICE SAGE
	THY MAS	THYMUS MASTICHINA / SPANISH MARJORAM
TALL GROUND COVERS		
	ASC CAL	ASCLEPIAS CALIFORNICA / CALIFORNIA MILKWEED

CONCEPT

Site Overview: Section Elevation + Perspectives



KEY MAP



SECTION A-A

0 100 200 300 400 FEET
SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"



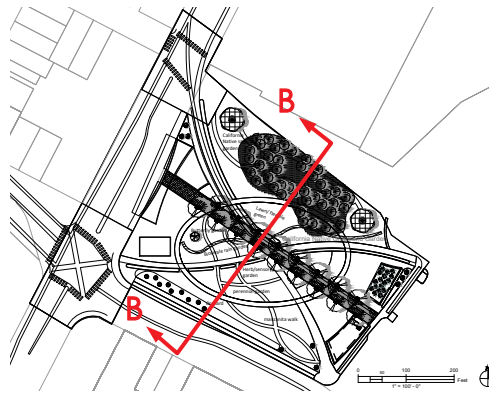
Urban Forest Play Area



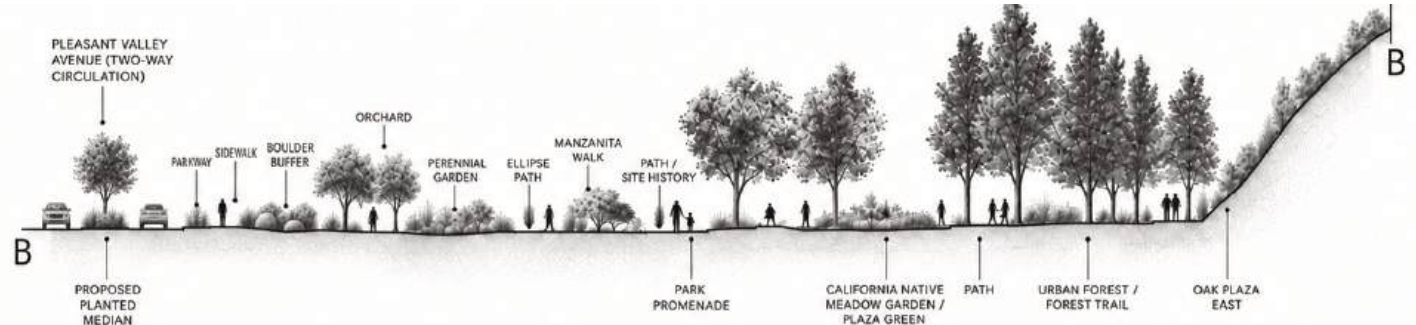
Orchard + Manzanita Walk + Perennial Garden

CONCEPT

Site Overview: Section Elevation + Perspectives



KEY MAP



SECTION B-B

0 100 200 300 400 FEET
SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"



Park Promenade



Bioswale + Butterfly Garden

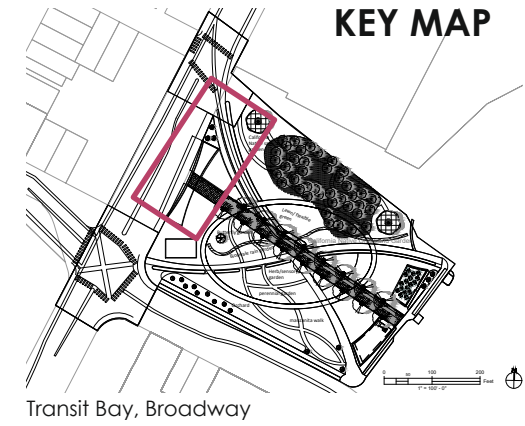
ENLARGEMENT

Transit Bay + Transit Plaza + Promenade



Program Elements

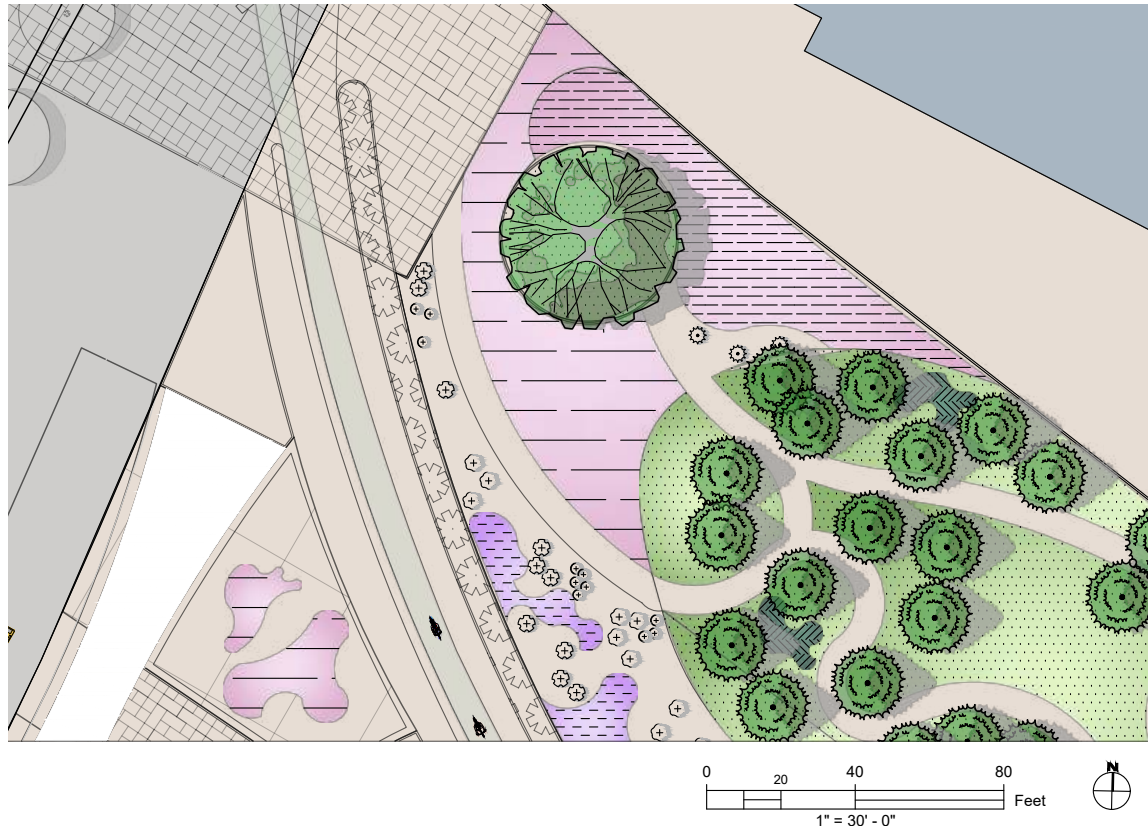
- One of 3 main access points
- Garden Nursery building and shop
- Covered bus and ride-share drop off area
- Flexible plaza space with vendor space
- Site history, park and garden walk meeting area



Transit Plaza

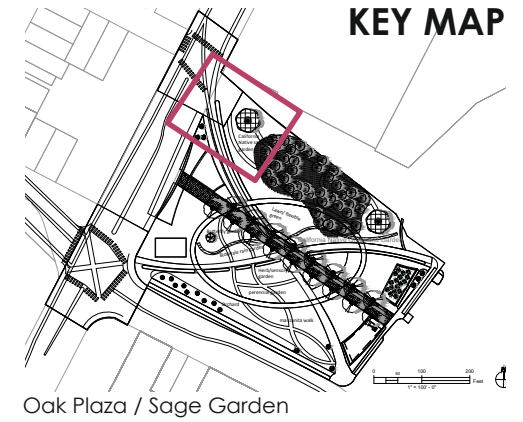
ENLARGEMENT

Oak Plaza + Native Sage Garden



Program Elements

- Traffic Calming / Signal Protected Bicycle Lane into park
- Bicycle lockers for commuters / transit users
- Native Sage garden and bench seating



Oak Plaza + Native Sage Garden

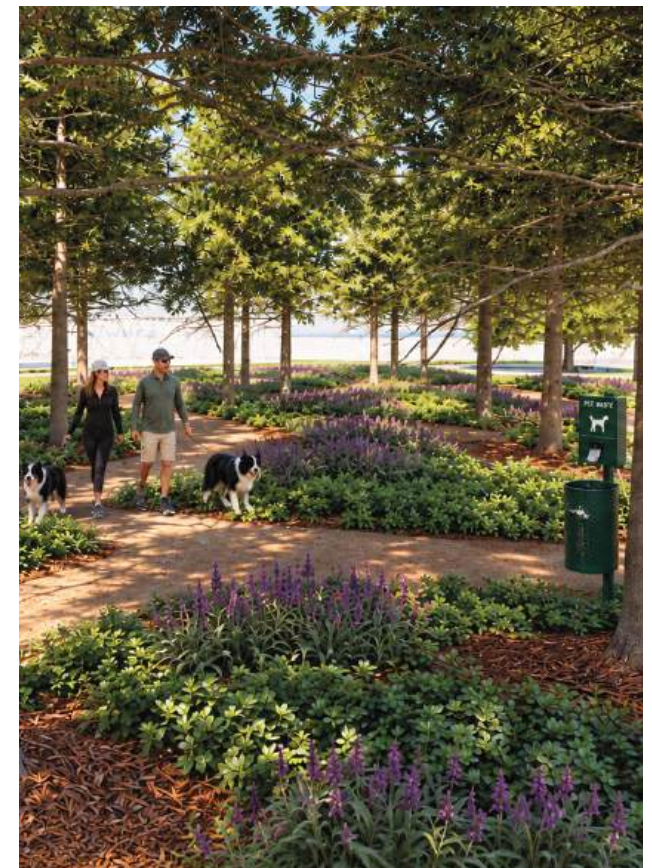
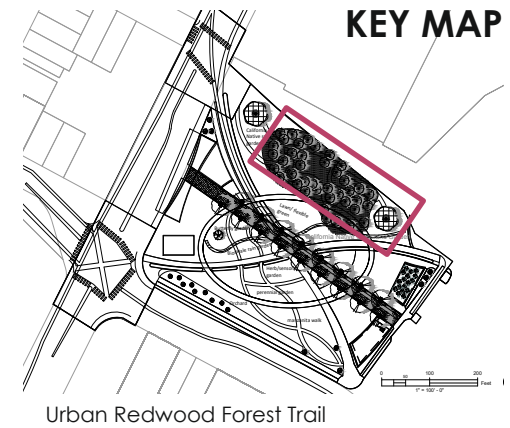
ENLARGEMENT

Redwood Grove + Micro Trail



Program Elements

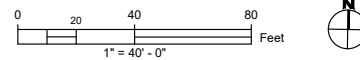
- Urban forest micro trail
- Naturalistic children's play area
- Naturalistic bench seating
- On-leash dog walking with dog waste stations along trail



Redwood Grove + Micro Trail

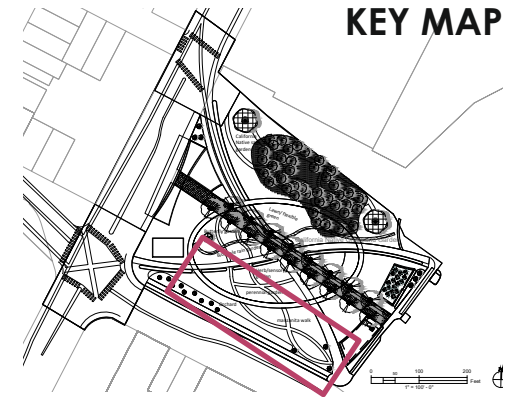
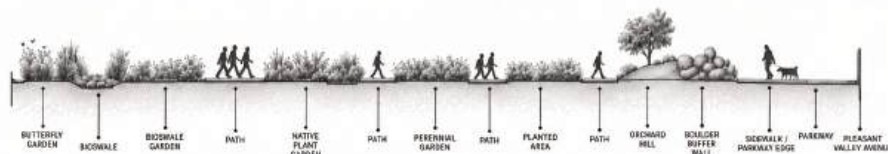
ENLARGEMENT

Park Promenade + Bioswale + Botanical Stroll



Program Elements

- Park Promenade linking all site program areas
- Separate bicycle and walking paths
- Park Green (northwest section) Botanic Stroll to (south section), Entry Plaza can be used as a meeting area for botanic stroll, park and garden volunteer led walks



Botanical Stroll / Orchard



Botanical Stroll / Herb Garden

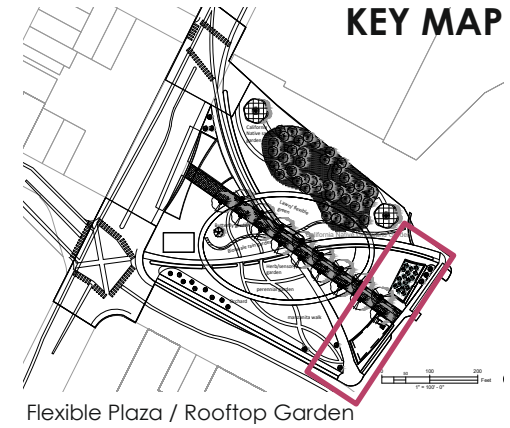
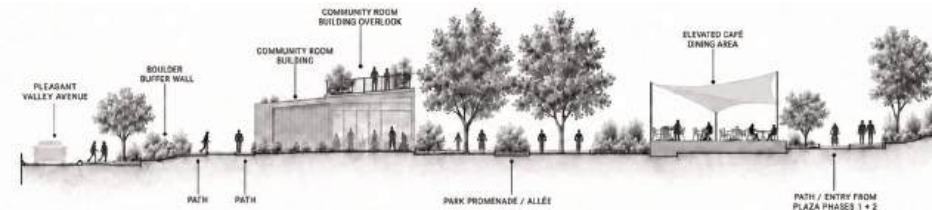
Cafe Seating + Flexible Plaza

ENLARGEMENT



Program Elements

- Cafe styled outdoor dining area
- Flexible Plaza Space with Shade Trees and bench seating
- Community Room / Terrace Garden with views into park and gardens



Pathway From Phase 1 + Flexible Plaza



Rooftop Garden / Park Plaza Overlook

Rockridge Park Promenade

ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN



CONCLUSION

Effects of Proposed Site Improvements

Transforming this six-acre greyfield into a public park offers an opportunity to reclaim an underutilized site as an connected, resilient and multi-generational community landscape.

Replacing extensive pavement with approximately 60% planting, 10% lawn 20% permeable pavement and 30% or greater Tree Canopy fundamentally changes the environmental performance of the site. Increased vegetation, shade, evapotranspiration and permeable surfaces can reduce heat gain, improve stormwater infiltration and create a cooler and more comfortable environment within a highly urbanized area.

Just as importantly, the park shifts the site away from an automobile-dominated condition toward a walkable, bikeable and transit-connected public space. Level, accessible pathways and connections to the surrounding neighborhoods encourage walking and cycling while supporting people of differing ages and abilities.

The design preserves opportunities to interpret the site's quarry and development history while transforming its next chapter. Rather than relying on intensive programming, the park prioritizes everyday access to nature while providing flexible spaces for gatherings, exercise, live music, play and nature walks.

Ultimately this Inter-generational Hub demonstrates how this site be more than just another urban strip plaza. It can be transformed into green infrastructure, a neighborhood connector and a shared community landscape -- bringing generations together while improving the environmental and social resilience of The City of Oakland.





Flexible
Plaza

Botanical
Stroll +
Orchard

Park
Promenade

Flexible
Lawn

Urban
Forest

Oak
Plaza

Nursery
Building

Transit
Plaza

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