
APPENDIX

Meeting Agendas and Notes from Community Outreach Workshops and Focus Groups

The following pages represent the Agendas and meeting notes from each of the community outreach workshops and focus groups held in conjunction with this Master Plan. The meeting notes reflect a record of the comments made by community members attending these public gatherings, and are not the viewpoints of the city or its design consultants.

AGENDA:

OHLONE GREENWAY TRAIL ALIGNMENT & DESIGN

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

*Purpose of Meeting:
Identify a preferred trail configuration which will be the backbone
for other corridor enhancements for the Ohlone Greenway*

1. WELCOME

(Linda Gates, Gates + Associates)

- Participant Introductions
- Meeting Objectives and Format
- Future Meeting Schedule

2. HISTORY OF PROJECT

(Melanie Mintz & Greg Lyman, City of El Cerrito)

Review exhibits, agenda, prior meetings

- Tanaka Plan (Overview)
- BART relationship (Opportunities and Issues)
- Survey Results

3. OVERALL PROJECT OVERVIEW

(David Gates & Samantha Haimovitch, Gates + Associates)

- Opportunities and Issues
- Design Criteria - alignment, street crossings, width, use nodes, materials

4. DISCUSSION OF ALIGNMENT FOR REACHES

(Community - David and Steering Committee to share consideration on a reach by reach basis and take input from participants)

- Site Specific Considerations

5. SUMMARY

(Linda Gates, Gates + Associates)

- Preferred Alignment
- Other Considerations

Ohlone Greenway – Meeting Notes
Trail Alignment Workshop
Nov. 14, 2007, @ the Senior Center

Circulation Paths

Width

Edges

Truncated domes

Don't micro-manage traffic flow

Too weighted to bikes?

Show that path is multi-user; pedestrians & bikes

Educate users about sharing the road

Don't call it "bike path"

Road crossings –

Need adequate signage

Bulb-outs (real or painted)

Speed tables

Street signs / lighting

Textured trail approaching road

Stop or yield signs (low volume streets)?

Opinion is leaning away from "kinks"

Preference: Single, wide multi-use trail counter-balanced by Green Space



AGENDA: OHLONE GREENWAY LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY

DECEMBER 5, 2007

*Purpose of Meeting:
Create the vision for the landscape environment of the Ohlone Greenway*

1. WELCOME

- Participant Introductions
- Meeting Objectives and Format
- Future Meetings

2. HISTORY OF PROJECT

- City Goals for the Greenway
- Park & Rec Commission - Tanaka Plan
- BART Seismic Retrofit Creates Opportunities

3. OVERALL PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Goals for Landscape
- Landscape Impact of BART project
- Trail Alignment
- Planting framework - criteria and constraints

4. DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL AREAS

- Site Specific Considerations
- Ecosystem areas
- Cultural landscape areas

5. SUMMARY

Ohlone Greenway Meeting – Landscape and Ecology
El Cerrito Community Center
12-05-07

- Trail users – prefer sunny side
- Tree roots are causing trail damage
- Daylighted creeks:
 - - Maximize opportunities
 - - Incorporate succession planting
 - - Enhance where possible
- Frog Habitat – Preservation is necessary
- Assess microclimates and specific conditions for plant suitability – we know a lot from our experience with what has already been planted along the Greenway
- Record problem areas
- Some tree surveys are being conducted near the Plaza
- Knowledge of health of existing trees will inform tree choices
- Trees along the perimeter “frame” the greenway
- Balance trail width / green
- Maintain green qualities
- Some separation should occur in selected places
- De-emphasize non-green aspects
- Valerian slope at senior center is a special area
- Is it possible to have a less-maintained meandering pedestrian path? (Eg. Hiking trail – even dirt)
- Trail parameters should be stated (minimum / maximum widths & setbacks)
- Walking through nature: Important! Allow access to planted areas
- Path width can endanger frog habitat
- Remove riprap from the three daylighted creeks – two branches of Cerrito, Fluvius Innominatus (Friends of 5 Creeks)
- Removing riprap at the daylighted creeks is a higher priority than preserving wooden bridges, although we like the wooden bridges (Friends of 5 Creeks)
- Landscape to minimize herbicide use (emergency use only)
- Replace soil where possible – existing soils are likely to be toxic or otherwise bad
- Plan for drought – drought tolerant plants will be a necessity
- Consider soil testing
- Maintenance agreement with BART should give City control
- Each block has its own personality
- Honor uniqueness of each place along the Greenway
- Work with BART re: frog habitat during construction – mitigation
- Include loop or spur trails to greenery

SUPPORTING MATERIALS - MEETINGS





AGENDA: OHLONE GREENWAY RECREATION ELEMENTS

JANUARY 23, 2008

*Purpose of Meeting:
Identify desired recreation amenities for the Ohlone Greenway*

1. WELCOME

- Participant Introductions
- Meeting Objectives and Format
- Future Meeting Schedule

2. HISTORY OF PROJECT

- Overview
- BART relationship (Opportunities and Issues)

3. REVIEW OF GOALS

- Create a unique El Cerrito experience
- Increase use of the Greenway
- Support a healthy community
- Create a comfortable place for a diversity of users
- Integrate sustainability concepts

4. DISCUSSION OF DESIRED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- Identify potential uses and amenities (program elements)
- Prioritize identified uses
- Define key characteristics of priority uses
- Character preferences

5. SUMMARY

MEETING NOTES

- Art opportunities – YES!
- Restroom of high quality (not portapotties)
- Making sure god walkers have a comfortable trail to use
- Portola / EC High use amphitheatre for music programs?
- Crossing safety at intersections (Moseser Lane – Flashing Crosswalk)
- Bulb outs, signage, etc.
- Historic elements * resources incorporated into master plan of Greenway
 - Kiosks
 - Historic Sites
- Ecological succession
- Amphitheatre at North End? (behind the Red Onion)
- Dinosaur garden not well sited (windy, dry) – could be revised in different way
- Community service clubs are an asset (par course – Rotary Club)
- Use native plants
- Remove invasive / non-natives (2)
- Entry portals to Greenway access to Greenway improved
- More places to sit (1)
- Memorial / Donations of benches

Restrooms:

- Maintainable
- Attractive (Rosie the Riveter)
- Functional
- Accessible

Interpretive:

- Keep the frog habitat; less signed – “frog zone”

Amphitheatre/Council Ring:

- Outdoor classroom/town square/amphitheatre – gathering space
- Near City Hall/Library/Moeser Lane
- Security/Camera system
- Planting as an amenity – maintenance is crucial

Dog Park / Dog Walk

- Fenced
- Seating
- Views in

Community Garden:

- Sunny
- Raised beds



AGENDA

Ohlone Greenway Improvements - Crime Prevention & Safety

El Cerrito City Hall

February 13, 2008, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

1. Introductions

2. City Goals

- Build the “ultimate” multi-use trail and backbone infrastructure as part of the BART retrofit project
- Improve safety and security of Greenway

3. Safety and Crime Prevention Elements

CPTED: Natural Surveillance (visibility, actively used, well lit), Natural Access Control (clearly visible trails, clearance around trails), Territorial Reinforcement (clearly defined paths, signage, posted rules e.g. no alcohol), Maintenance (no overgrown areas, regular trash receptacles, vandal resistant materials, anti-graffiti measures)

- Visibility along trail
 - Multi-use trail should be entirely visible from streets
 - Remove visual obstructions along trail
 - Keep landscaping low, or pruned high
 - Eliminate potential hiding places
 - Maintain path distance away from BART columns
- Increase “eyes on the Greenway”
 - Increase usage – make path feel safer, add amenities to attract user groups
 - Create activity nodes
 - Provide for connections to future redevelopment – ensure that future development does not turn its back on the Greenway
- Improved lighting
 - Single path can be well lit
 - Avoid glare and dark spots
- Call boxes, signage, security cameras at selected locations
- Maintenance
 - Durable, low maintenance materials and planting
 - Adequate trash receptacles

4. Input from the Committee

OHLONE GREENWAY CRIME PREVENTION & PERSONAL SAFETY MEETING NOTES February 13, 2008

- Introduction
- Encourage business connections
- Call boxes important to people
- Kiosk/community gathering areas / “Yahoo user group” – type places
- Community bulletin boards for specific neighborhoods
- Wi-Fi
- Meeting places
- CERT locations
- Graffiti abatement
- Public art seldom gets tagged
- New mural at big green wall (@ Eureka)
- Trash pick-up perception; U-clean it stations
- Signage with dispatch & maintenance phone numbers
- Business-oriented incentives for greenway stewardship
- Reduce bike/car conflicts
- Street names on paving
- Create access at mid-blocks where possible
- Lighting at intersections
- In-pavement flashers at high use crosswalks
- Maintenance!
- Opportunities for “ownership”
- Lighting!
- Signage
- Block Identity
- Model Areas - show possibilities – series of demonstration projects

SUPPORTING MATERIALS - MEETINGS





AGENDA

Ohlone Greenway Improvements - Seniors

El Cerrito City Hall

February 20, 2008, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

1. Introductions**2. City Goals**

- Build the “ultimate” multi-use trail and backbone infrastructure as part of the BART retrofit project
- Create a unique “El Cerrito” experience
- Increase use of the Greenway
- Support a healthy community
- Create a comfortable place for a diversity of users
- Integrate sustainable concepts

3. Specific Elements of the Plan

- Visibility & safety
- Benches
- Access
- Pausing places

4. Input from the Group

- What would you like to see on the Greenway?

Senior Workshop Notes

2-20-08, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

El Cerrito Council Chambers – 7007 Moeser Lane

- Good locations for secondary paths?
- From BART to El Cerrito Royale
- Dogs make a feeling of increased safety
- Lighting (multi-level)
- Vandal-proof call boxes, cameras, surveillance
- Events
- Maintenance
- Picnic areas with barbeque pits
- Not isolated from other user groups
- Bocce/horseshoes/croquet
- Security is a major issue preventing people from using the Greenway
- El Cerrito Royale and Del Norte BART – Safety issues/muggings. High risk areas
- New senior center in same location
- Botts dots creating a greater separation between bikes and pedestrians
- Signage with destinations pointed out
- Multigenerational destinations
- Encourage men to use Greenway
- Church groups and service groups for users
- Decomposed granite is comfortable surface
- Safety
- Conflict between pedestrian and bikes
- Maintenance
- Water fountains, benches, tables, trash cans
- Restroom – graffiti proof and easily maintained
- Broad-leaves trees leave slippery walking surface
- Columns as art opportunities



Disabled Users Focus Group – Ohlone Greenway
3/28/08

The following issues were identified as being potentially problematic to disabled users:

- Area between Lincoln and Stockton Avenues—
 ADA accessibility to West side is a problem, as is the access to Eureka and Liberty on the East side

 The pedestrian trail to the Senior Center is not up to current accessibility standards
- Existing Greenway trail in General—
 Better edges -- existing trail paving is crumbling at edges and is a potential hazard to users with impaired mobility/wheelchair users

 Tree roots are heaving the trail in some places

 Tai Chi plaza north of Stockton Ave. should be replaced with another plaza

 No existing amenities should be permanently removed
- Intersections—
 Signage
 Flashing Crosswalks
 Bulb-outs
 New Striping

 Make sure transition/interface between curb and gutter has a lip.
- Process during Construction Phase—
 Make sure detours are early enough

 Make sure there is an accessible alternative route during construction

SUPPORTING MATERIALS - MEETINGS



Fluvius Innominatus -- excerpt from Restoration Design Group Analysis and Recommendations

See Bibliography Sec. G pg. 83 for reference to full report

Restoration Design Concept

The Restoration Design Concept illustrates an appropriate restoration plan for Fluvius Innominatus along the Ohlone Greenway given the right-of-way constraints. The plan view depicts the proposed creek channel with the recommended channel sinuosity and riparian corridor. The Ohlone Greenway trail layout shows the primary trail to the west of the BART columns with a minor trail along the top of bank adjacent to the creek. The downstream culvert incorporates a creek overlook and maintenance access point to provide City maintenance crew access to remove debris from the culvert debris rack. The existing upstream debris rack is removed to improve sediment transport and natural creek function.

The illustrative cross section shows the proposed creek channel, wider floodplain, and more diverse riparian vegetation. The shade provided by the riparian vegetation is a critical component for proper sediment transport within the Project Site. In addition, the restoration design concept removes sediment from within the channel resulting in a lower channel elevation throughout most of the restored reach. The existing grade is shown as a dashed line in the cross section. The 45-foot riparian corridor is offset 13-feet from the face of the BART columns.

Next Steps

The Restoration Design Concept was developed as an illustrative plan to assist in garnering support and funding for the project. With funding, further hydraulic modeling should be conducted prior to the development of construction documents and permitting. The relative simple nature of this project will allow this work to be conducted in a short period of time and should not jeopardize the integration of this project with the BART seismic retrofit and Ohlone Greenway improvements.

Site Images

January 25th 2008 Storm Event



Culvert entrance at the bottom of site



Looking Upstream at Cross Section 1



Looking Downstream at Cross Section 3



Buried Trash Rack

Cross Section Locations



Cross Section 1 (looking downstream)



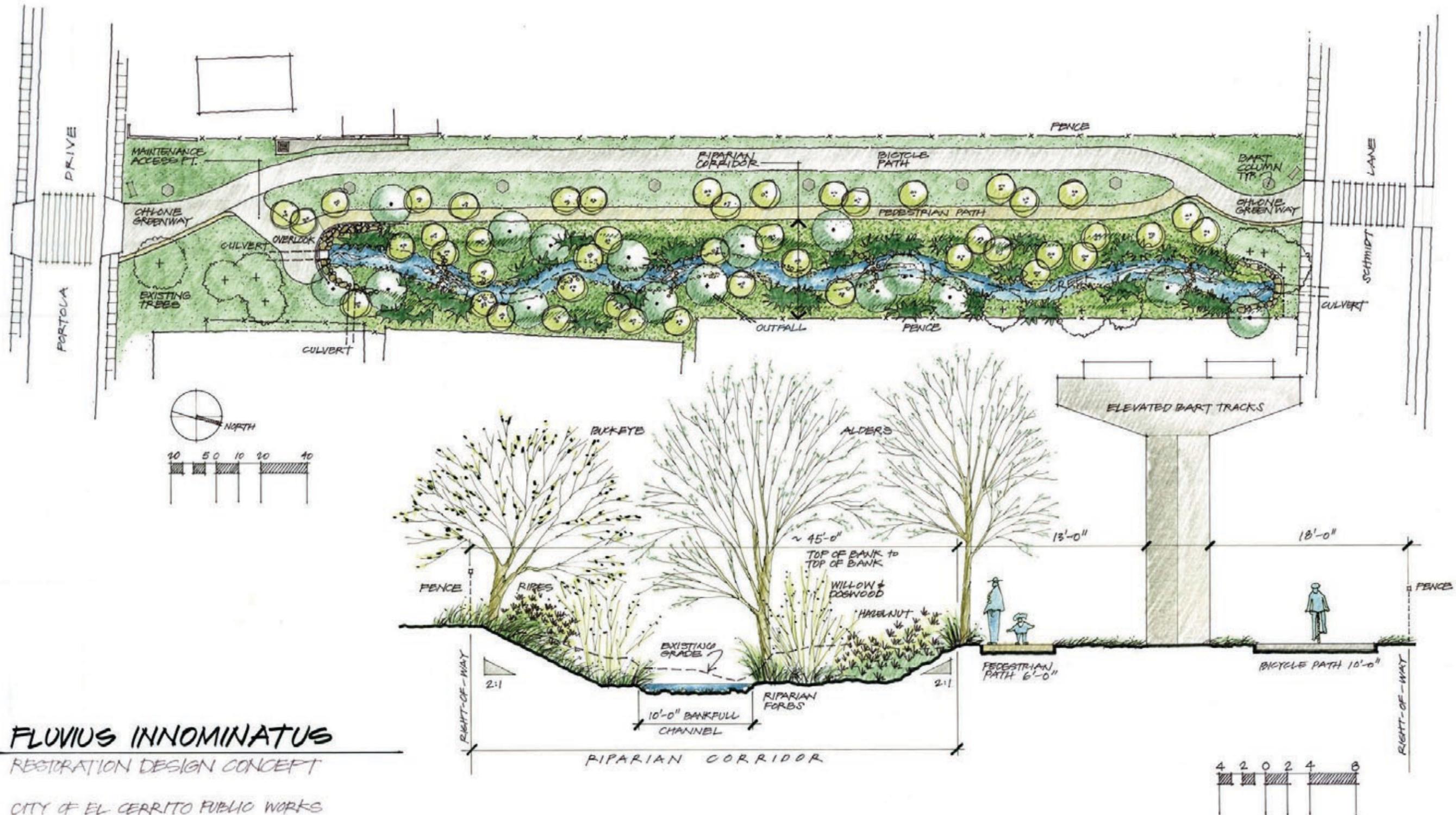
Cross Section 2 (looking upstream)



Cross Section 3 (looking downstream)



Cross Section 4 (looking upstream)



FLUVIUS INNOMINATUS
RESTORATION DESIGN CONCEPT

CITY OF EL CERRITO PUBLIC WORKS
RESTORATION DESIGN GROUP, LLC
14 MARCH 2008

SUPPORTING MATERIALS - ENVIRONMENTAL



El Cerrito General Plan

The following is a selection of policies and goals related to the Ohlone Greenway.

Note: Numbers in parentheses () refer to General Plan page numbers.

•Key Principles (1-1)

7. The preservation and enhancement of natural features—trees, creeks, natural open space areas—and historical features will be a high priority for the City.
8. The City should have distinct destination areas, including commercial areas, a civic center, and community meeting places.
10. Access should be improved by balancing automobile use with improved transit, bicycle, and pedestrian opportunities

•Strategic Framework: Primary Action Strategy #6: Green Infrastructure Initiative (2-13)

“The major amenities enjoyed by El Cerrito residents are the parks and open spaces provided in the City. These parks and open spaces need to be preserved and enhanced to maintain this major community resource that contributes so significantly to the City’s quality of life. The Green Infrastructure Initiative is intended to develop a range of improvement measures including the **Ohlone Greenway**, parks and recreation improvements and programs, creeks restoration project, open space preservation, and new and revitalized cultural facilities.

The **Ohlone Greenway** provides a safe and contiguous path for commuters to reach BART stations and for residents to use as a walking, running, and bicycling trail. The Green Infrastructure Initiative will assess the condition of the **Greenway** and provide guidelines, development standards, and improvement projects to enhance the facility to serve its users better. These standards shall include lighting a needed for safety and security along the **Greenway** and creating a “green street” concept that encourages adjoining uses to create access points to active areas, yards, building entries, outdoor patios, and gardens, opening into the **Greenway**. Windows should overview the **Greenway** to increase visual surveillance (“eyes on the street”) of the “green street” improving safety.

•Land Use Goal LU5: A land use pattern and types of development that support alternatives for the movement of people, goods, and ideas. (4-25, 4-26)

Policy LU5.6: *Development Along the Ohlone Greenway*. New or substantially altered development abutting the **Ohlone Greenway** will be evaluated with respect to how the development enhances the aesthetics and ambiance of this important linear recreational and transportation facility, and how the development contributes to the security of users of the **Greenway**. The City will expect frontage along the **Greenway** to be treated as if it were public street frontage, with commensurate attention to design quality.

•Community Design Elements: Gateways and Entry Features (4-31)

... “Along the **Ohlone Greenway**, bicyclists and pedestrians have pleasant views of adjoining parks and open spaces, and are generally served by adequate signage for cross-streets and entry into the City. There are several areas where the views from the road into the greenway, with its variety of landscape features (such as restored creek corridor) create an inviting image. These areas merit protection and further enhancement. The **Ohlone Greenway** lighting program, recently completed, has been very effective, and additional lighting along the **Greenway** should be completed in the future. Signage may need improvement to make drivers and pedestrians more aware of the **Greenway** .”

•Community Design Goal CD3: A city with attractive landscaping of public and private properties, open space and public gathering places. (4-44)

Policy 3.5: *Creek Preservation*. Where possible, preserve and restore natural drainage ways as parts of the storm drainage system, coordinating with recreational and trail use.

Policy 3.9: *Ohlone Greenway*. Enhance the usability and aesthetic appeal of the **Ohlone Greenway** by integrating it into the fabric of the City. Design building with entries, yards, patios and windows to open onto and face the **Ohlone Greenway**. Avoid blank walls, backs of buildings, and large parking lots adjacent to the **Greenway**.

Policy 3.10: *Greenway Spur Trails*. Develop **Greenway** spur trails for creekside access and access to the Bay for recreational use and environmental protection.

•Transportation and Circulation: Implementation

“Work closely with the City of Richmond to provide a clear connection between the **Ohlone Greenway** and the planned Richmond Greenway”. (5-26)

“Pavement Management Plan...The Pavement Management Plan should also address signage and pavement on the **Ohlone Greenway**.” (5-28)

•Goal T1: A transportation system that allows safe and efficient travel by a variety of modes and promotes the use of alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle. (5-20)

Policy T1.3: *Bicycle Circulation*. Create a complete, interconnected bicycle circulation system. Provide a bicycle system that serves commuter as well as recreational travel. Improve bicycle routes and access to and between major destinations.

Policy T1.4: *Pedestrian Circulation*. Provide a safe, convenient, continuous and interconnected pedestrian circulation system throughout the City.

•Public Facilities and Services Goal PR3: Public access to open space areas while protecting important habitats.

Policy PR1.7: *Coordination on Use of School Facilities*. Continue to coordinate with adjacent cities and other agencies in providing adequate recreational facilities, including connections to the **Ohlone Greenway**, for all El Cerrito residents. (6-14)

Policy PR3.3: *Creek Restoration*. Integrate recreational amenities with creek restoration efforts in a way that protects riparian values, including natural habitats. (6-17)

Policy PS4.2: *Creek Restoration*. Seek funding opportunities from State and federal agencies and from non-profit foundations for urban creek restoration efforts. (6-30)

•Resources and Hazards: Implementation

11. d “Integrate the Baxter Creek corridor with the **Ohlone Greenway** and establish a connection with the proposed Central Richmond Greenway.” (7.26)

SUPPORTING MATERIALS - GENERAL PLAN



Reference Documentation Bibliography

•City of El Cerrito General Plan-

City of El Cerrito 1999 General Plan (adopted August 1999) & 2003 Housing Element (adopted January 2003)

www.el-cerrito.org/planning/General_Plan.html

•Restoration Design Group Creek Memo regarding Fluvius Innominatus-

Fluvius Innominatus Restoration Channel Design Memorandum, published March 2008 by Restoration Design Group available through the City of El Cerrito Public Works Department

•The “Tanaka Plan”-

City of El Cerrito Ohlone Greenway Conceptual Master Plan Report, published May 2005 by Tanaka Design Group
360 Langton Street, Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94103
available through the City of El Cerrito Public Works Department

•City of El Cerrito Urban Forest Management Plan-

prepared by Vallier Design Associates, Inc.
210 Washington Avenue, Suite G
Point Richmond, California 94801
and by MacNair & Associates
P. O. Box 1150
Glen Ellen, California 95442

www.el-cerrito.org/public_works/urbanforest.html

•City of El Cerrito Circulation Plan for Bicyclists and Pedestrians-

adopted by the El Cerrito City Council June 18, 2007
prepared by City Staff
and by Alta Planning + Design
2560 9th St. Suite 212 Berkeley, CA 94710

www.el-cerrito.org/public_works/CirculationPlan.html

•Guidelines for Establishment and Maintenance of Successful Off-leash Dog Exercise Areas-

produced by the Program in Veterinary Behavioral Medicine
Center for Animals in Society
School of Veterinary Medicine
1 Shields Avenue
Davis, California 95616

www.vmeth.ucdavis.edu/home/beh/Dog_Park/Dog_Park_Management_Guidelines.pdf

•Visual Impact Assessment Technical Study: Seismic Retrofit of BART Aerial Structures and Stations along the Concord, Richmond, Daly City and Fremont Lines

published June 2007

•San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan (under development) -

www.el-cerrito.org/planning/Avenue.html

•Metropolitan Transportation Commission Planning Department Smart Growth / Transportation for Livable Communities-

Transit Oriented Developments in the San Francisco Bay Area
published November 2006

www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/smart_growth/tod/TOD_Book.pdf

www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/smart_growth/tod/profiles/8-SanPabloAve.pdf

SUPPORTING MATERIALS - BIBLIOGRAPHY

