

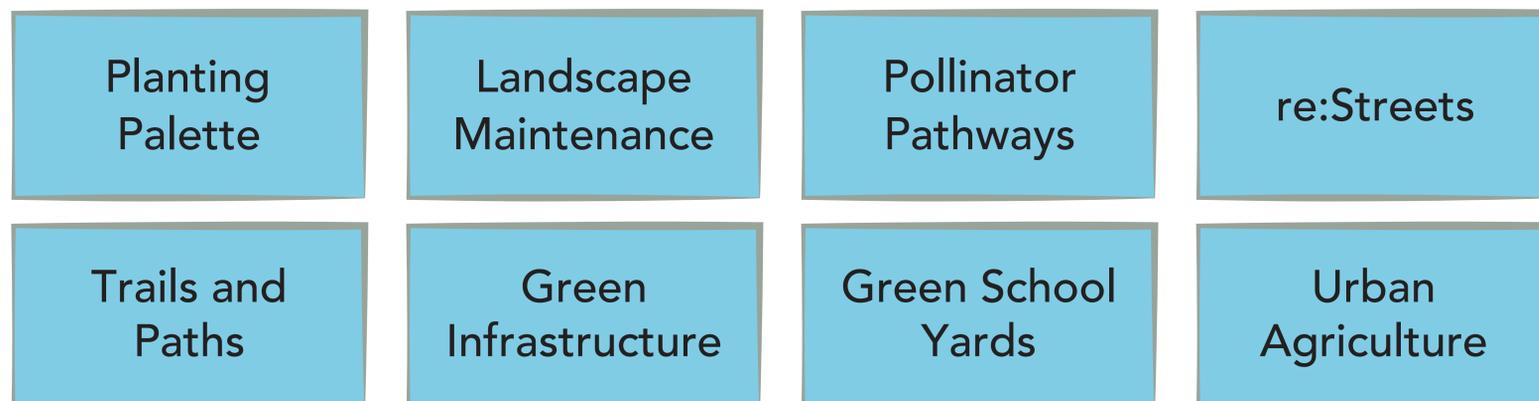
Overarching Goals



Primary Strategies



Supporting Policies*



Key City Policies Related to Urban Greening

General Plan (1999)

- Minimize environmental impacts
- Protect and restore habitat and rare and endangered species
- Maintain high runoff water quality
- Improve the Ohlone Greenway
- Preserve open space
- Develop strategies for long-term maintenance

Strategic Plan (2013)

- Deepen a sense of place and community identity
- Foster environmental sustainability citywide

Climate Action Plan (2013)

- Invest in infrastructure that invites people to walk, bike and take transit
- Increase and enhance urban green open space to protect biodiversity, conserve natural resources & water, foster walking and bicycling, and improve health & quality of life

Circulation Plan (2007)

- Create a network of bicycle and ADA accessible pedestrian routes that connect to local and regional destinations
- Promote bicycling and walking as alternative modes of transportation
- Foster a sustainable community

Planned and Underway Projects



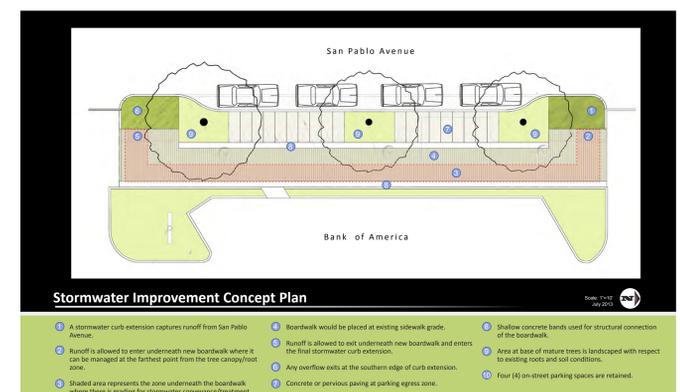
5. Richmond - Ohlone Greenway Gap Closure Project



6. San Pablo Ave Green Stormwater Spine - Moeser Ln



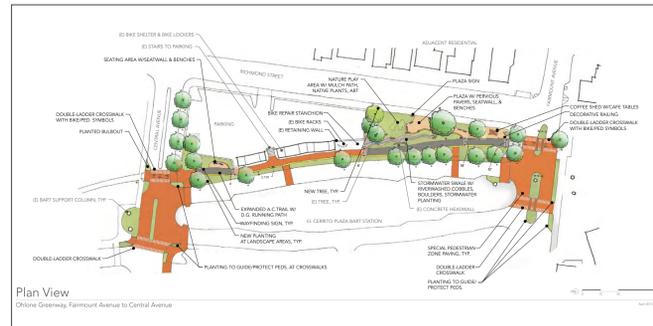
7. San Pablo Ave Green Stormwater Spine - Stockton Ave



1. El Cerrito Plaza BART Station Modernization Study



3. OBAG: Ohlone Greenway Improvements - Plaza BART



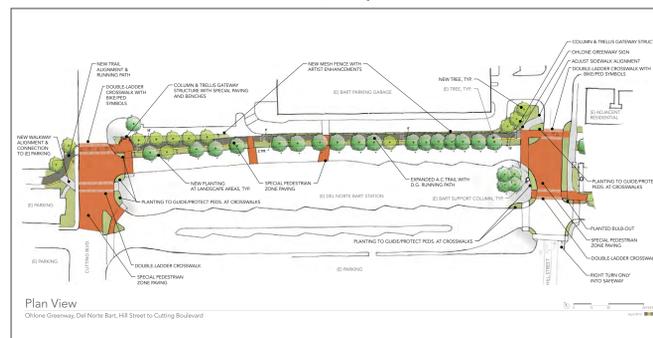
8. Huber Park Improvements



2. El Cerrito Del Norte BART Station Modernization Study



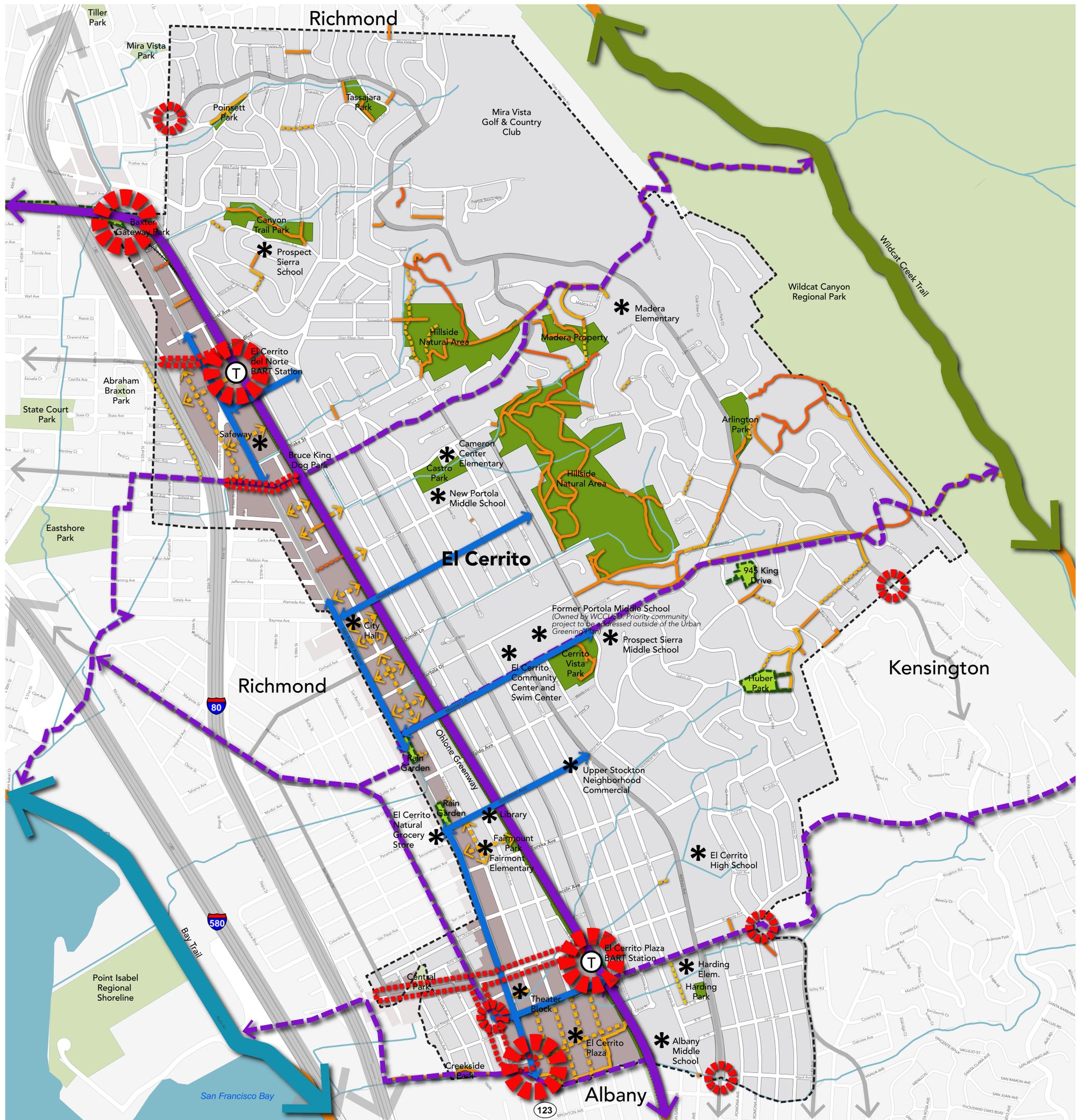
4. OBAG: Ohlone Greenway Improvements - Del Norte BART



9. New Park at 945 King Drive

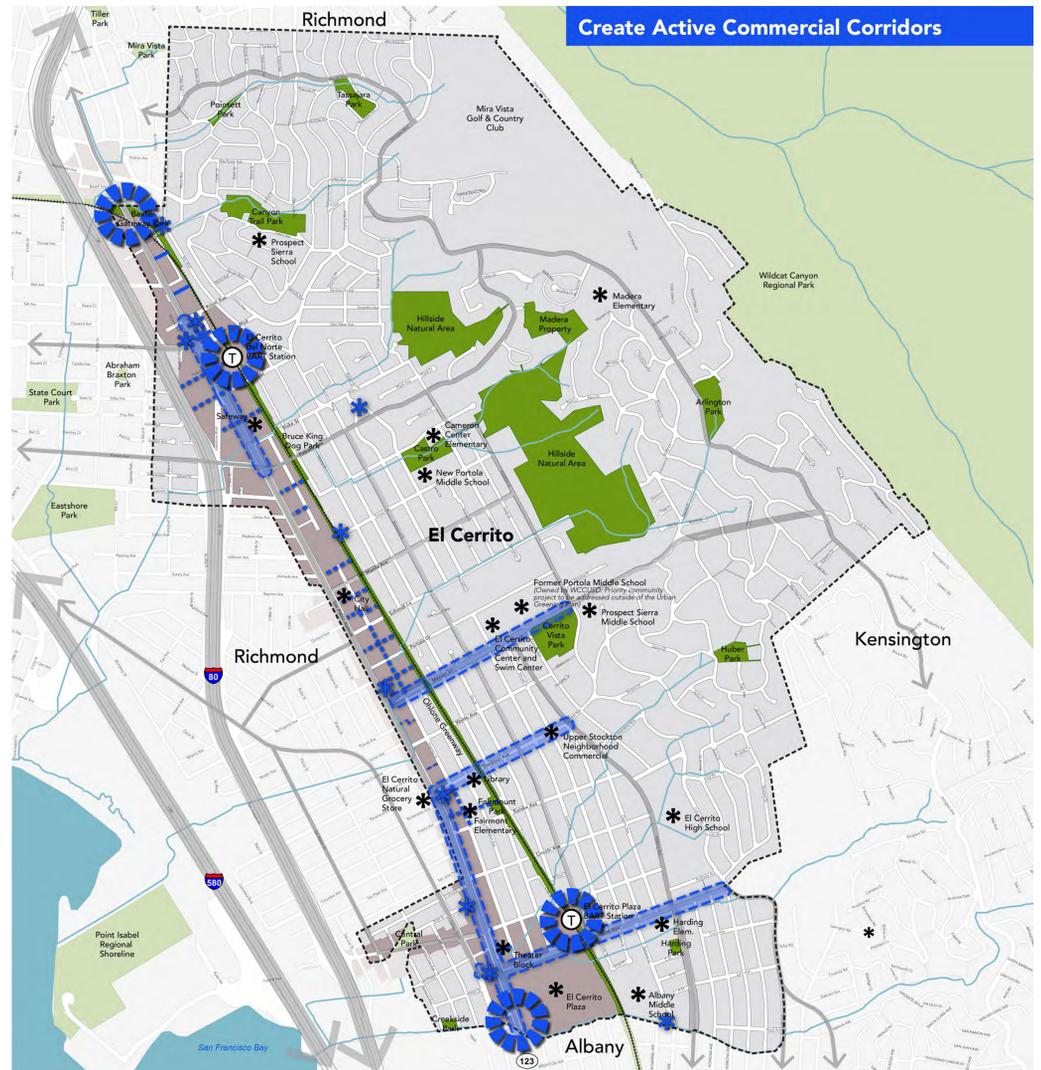
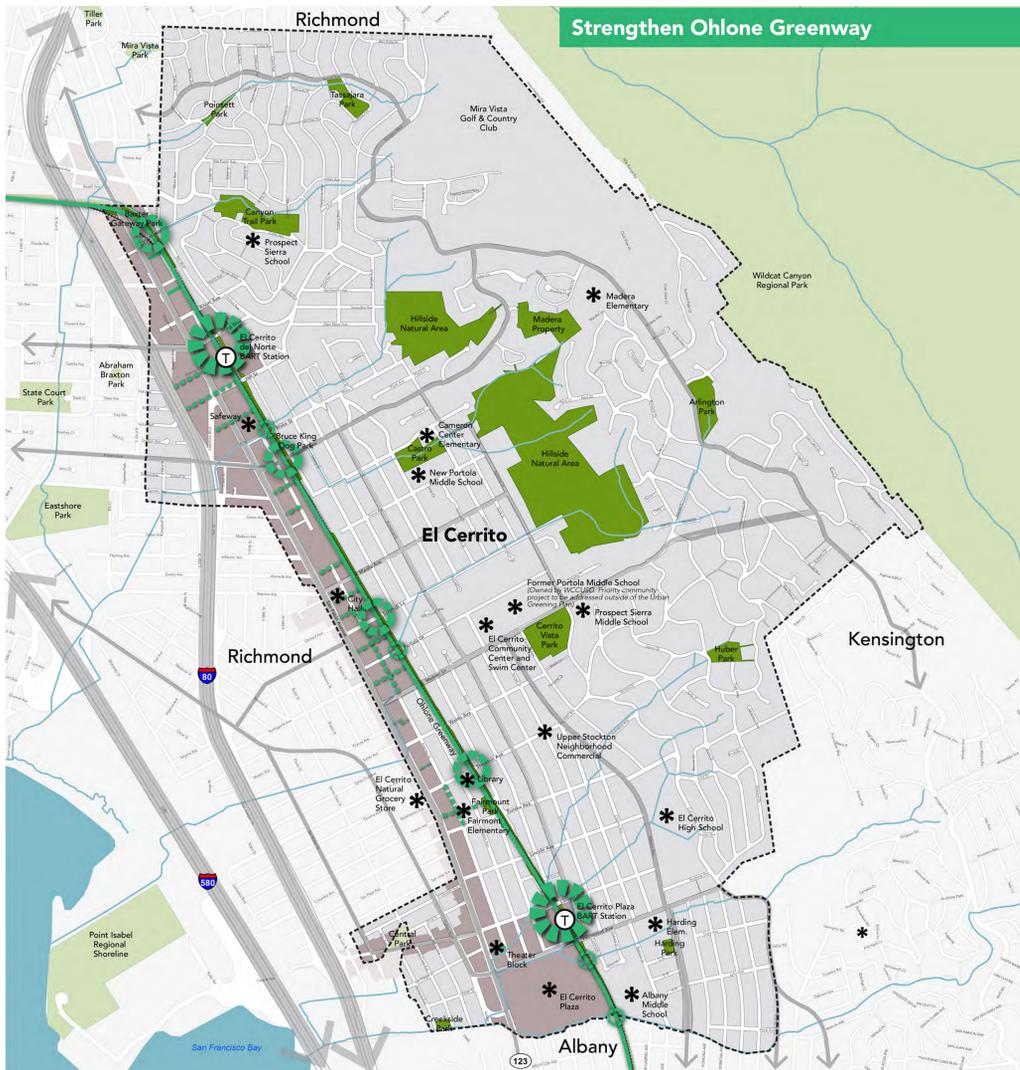
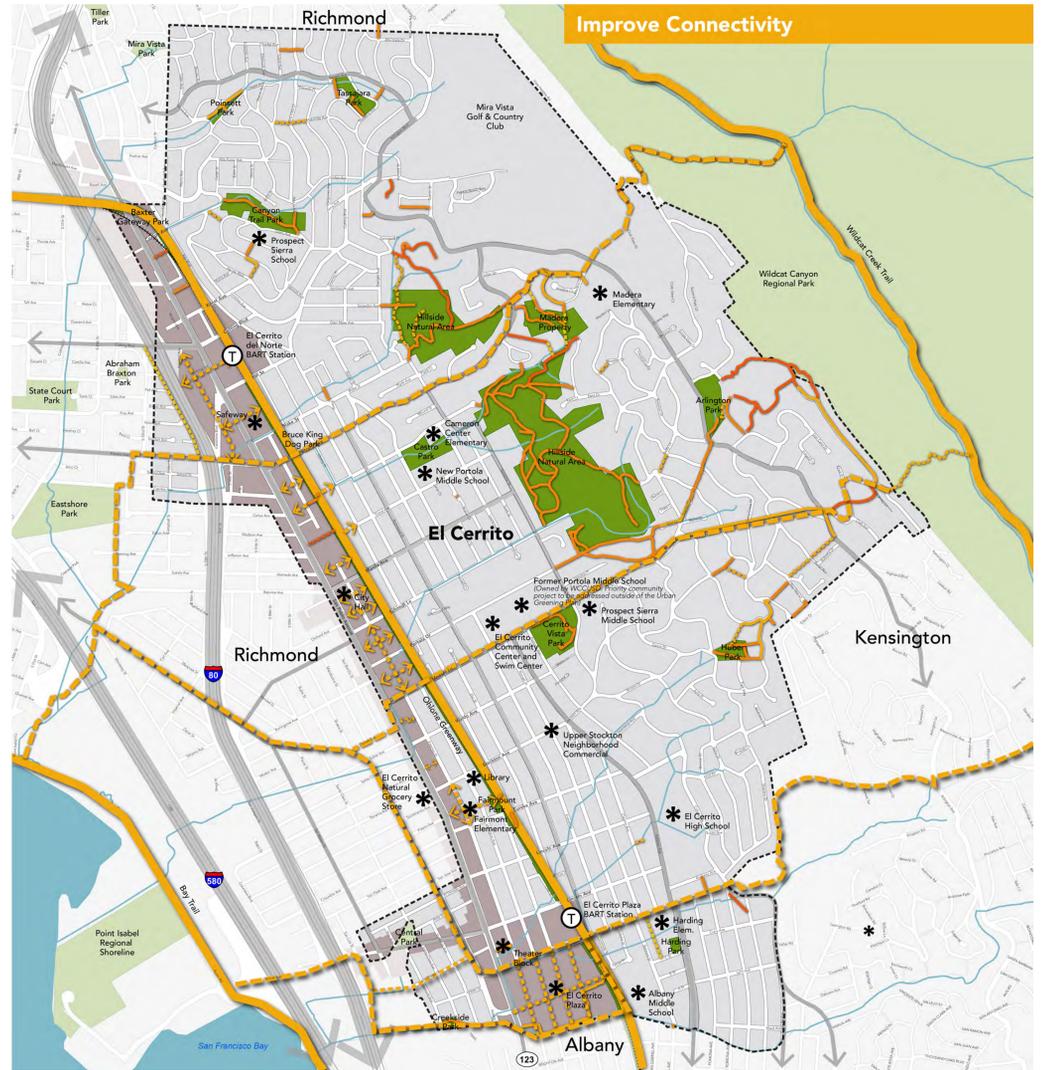
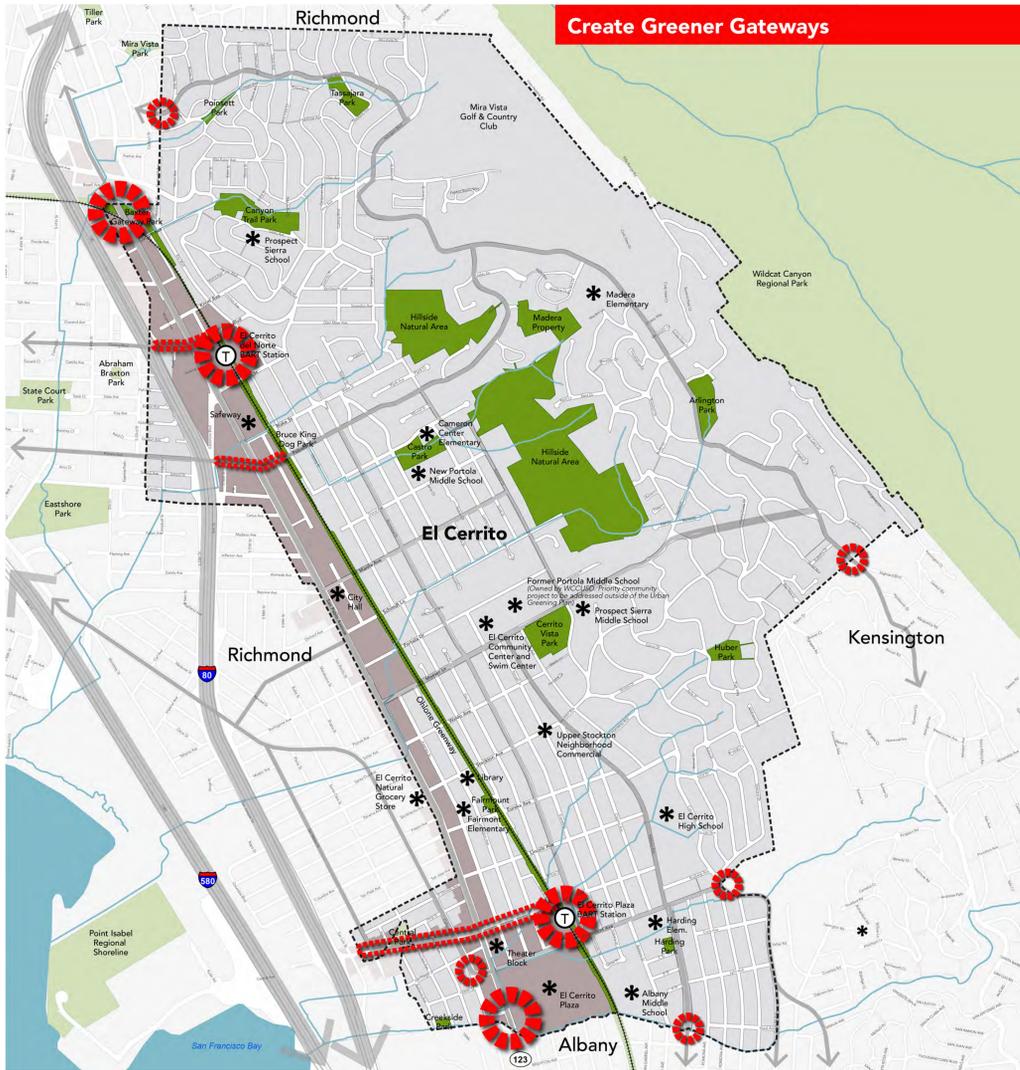


Vision



- City Limit
- Major Gateway
- Secondary Gateway
- Gateway Corridor
- Bay Trail
- Wildcat Canyon Trail
- Ohlone Greenway
- Blue/Green Connection
- Mid-block Connection
- City Sidewalk Trail Links
- Existing Public Trails
- Existing Private Trails
- Impassible Private Trails
- Impassible Public Trails
- Other Potential Trails
- Strolling Street
- Planned/Proposed Greening Project
- San Pablo Avenue Specific Plan Area
- El Cerrito Park
- Park Outside El Cerrito
- Water
- Creek
- Destinations
- BART Line and Station
- Arterial Roads

Note: Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner's interest and consent



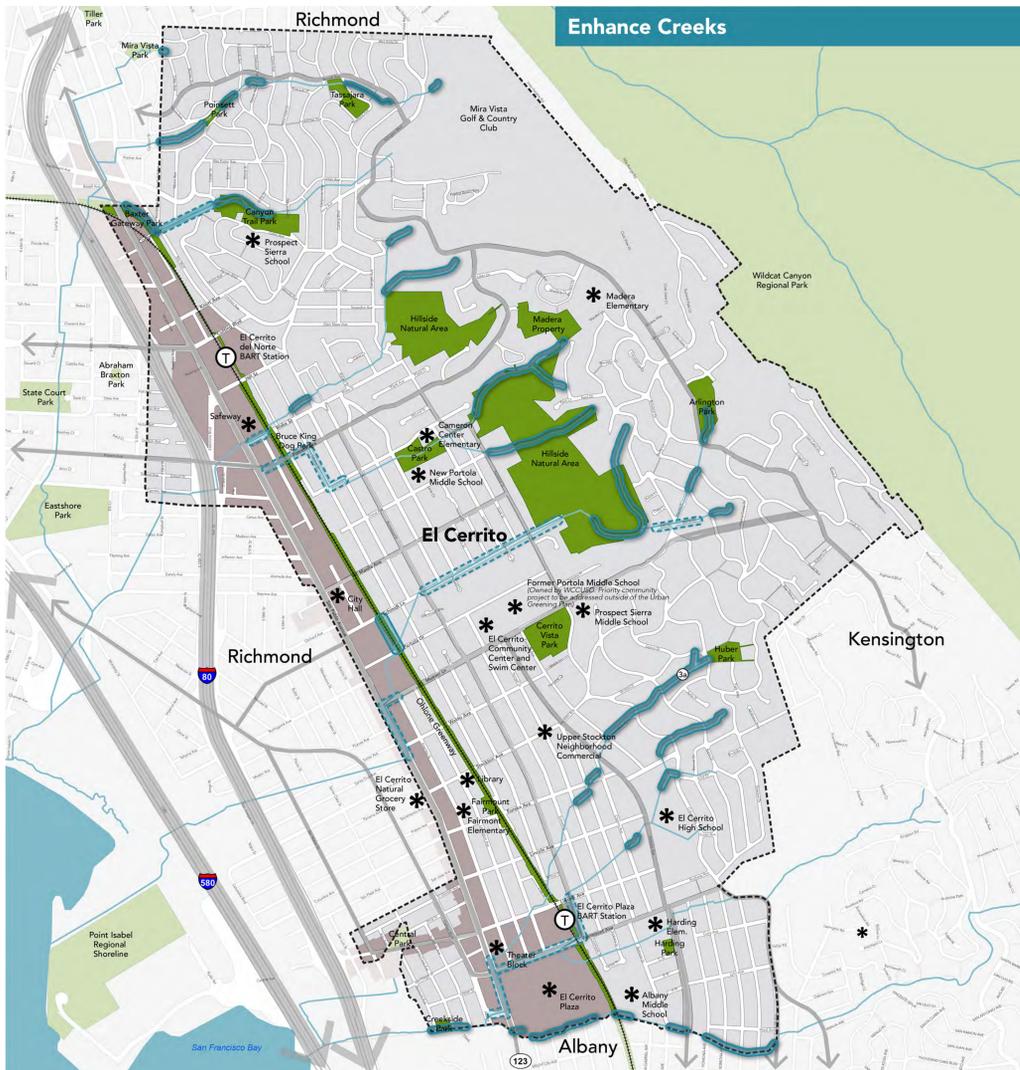
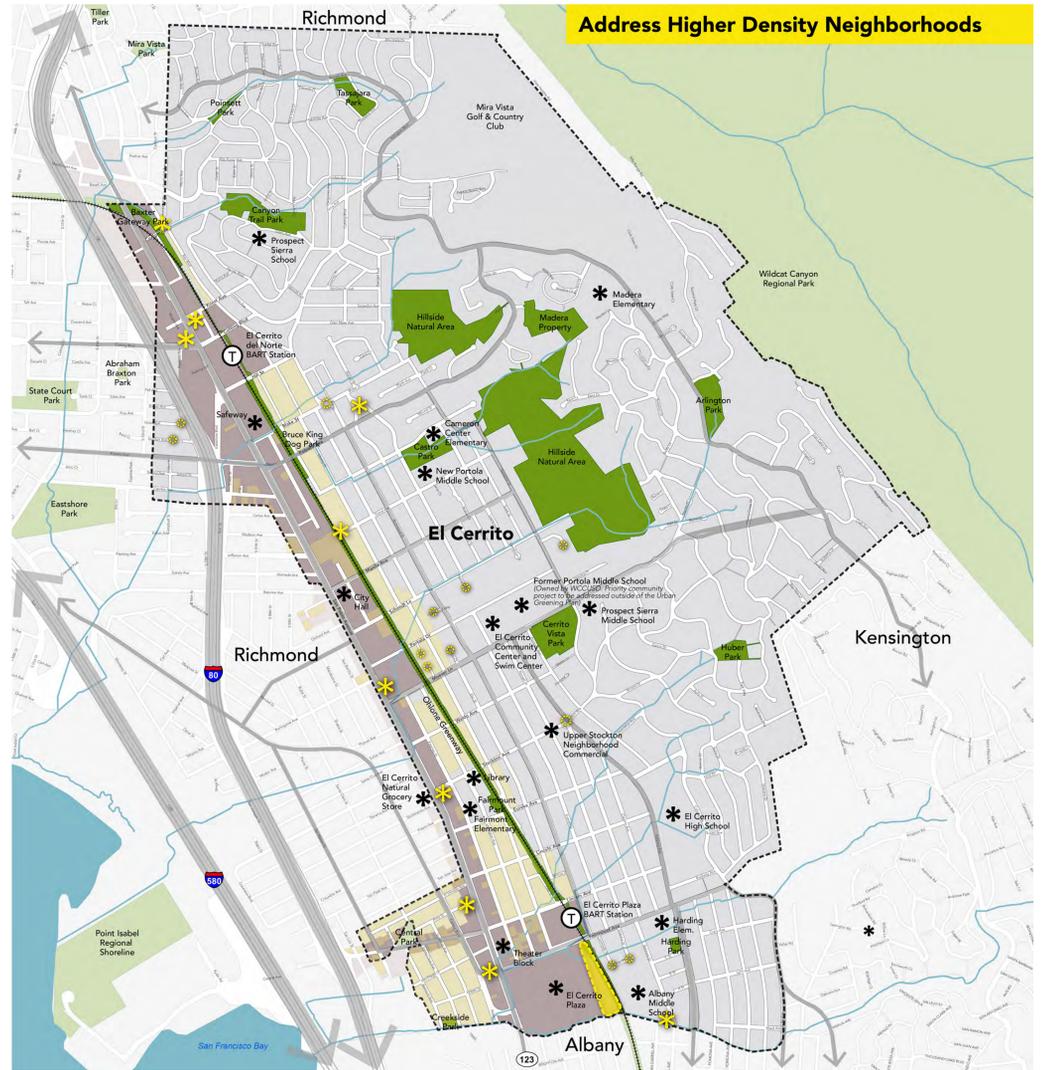
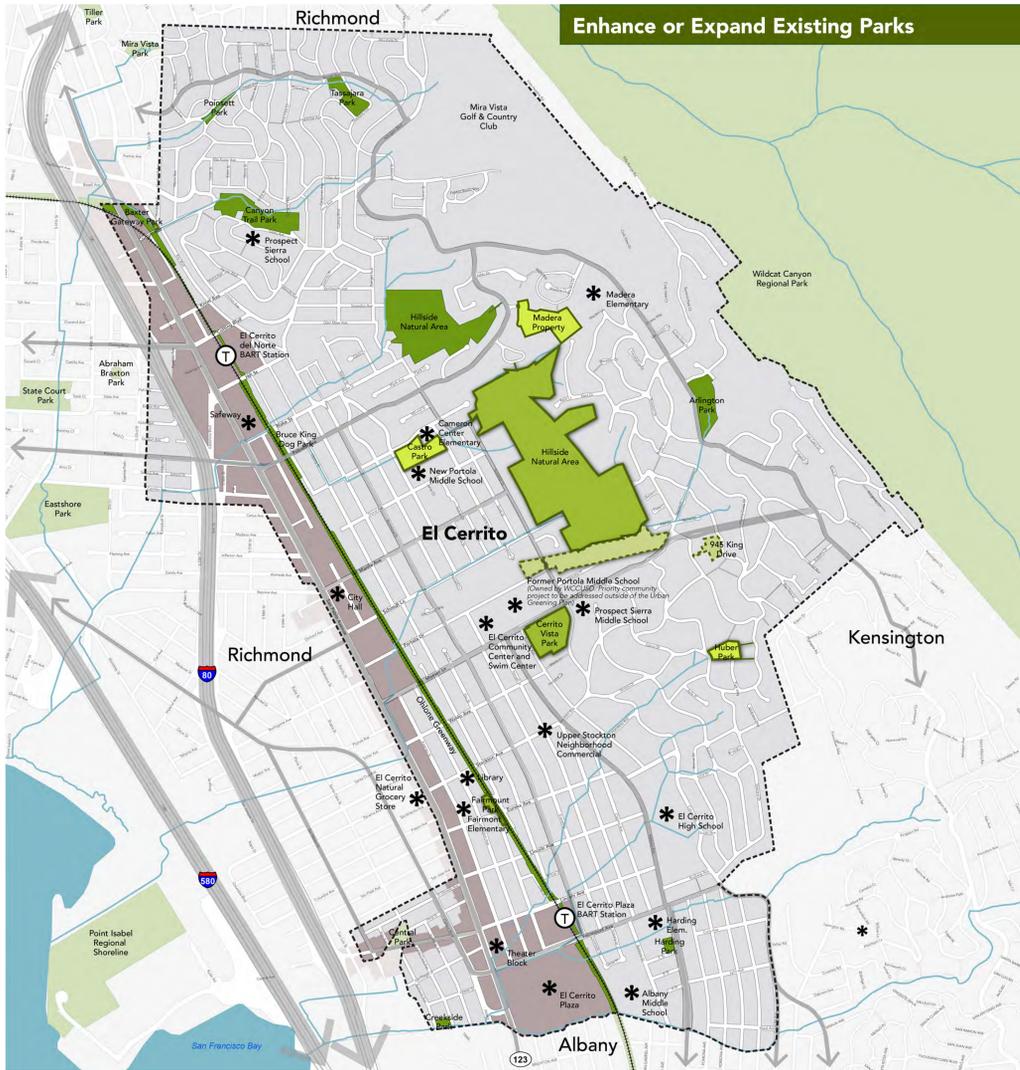
- Create Greener Gateways**
- Major Gateway
 - Secondary Gateway
 - Gateway Corridor

- Improve Connectivity**
- Blue/Green Connection
 - Mid-block Connection
 - City Sidewalk Trail Links
 - Existing Public Trails
 - Existing Private Trails
 - Impassible Private Trails
 - Impassible Public Trails
 - Other Potential Trails

- Strengthen Ohlone Greenway**
- BART Station Node
 - Activity Node
 - Creek Crossing
 - Ohlone Greenway
 - Midblock Connection

- Create Active Commercial Corridors**
- Strolling Street
 - Midblock Connection
 - Pocket Park
 - Gateway

Note: Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner's interest and consent



Enhance or Expand Existing Parks

- Enhance Existing Park
- Potential Park Expansion
- Existing Park w/ Planned Enhancements

Address Higher Density Neighborhoods

- Potential Neighborhood Park
- Intersection/Cul-de-sac
- Potential Pocket Park

Enhance Creeks

- Open Creek
- Creeks Under Street ROW

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The following analysis focuses on urban greening sites throughout the City of El Cerrito. The sites represent a broad spectrum of potential urban greening interventions and were selected based on meeting several or all of the following criteria:

- Addresses Multiple Urban Greening Strategies
- Includes Green Infrastructure Opportunities
- Catalyzes Economic Development
- Enhances Placemaking
- Includes Implementable and Funding Eligible Projects
- Fulfills City Planning Goals and Policy Priorities
- Builds on Community Stewardship

El Cerrito Urban Greening Focus Areas

Citywide

1. Blue to Green Connections

Existing Parks

2. Ohlone Greenway - Portola to Schmidt
3. Ohlone Greenway - Gladys to Blake
4. Fairmont Park
5. Central Park
6. Creekside Park
7. Hillside Natural Area

Underutilized Land

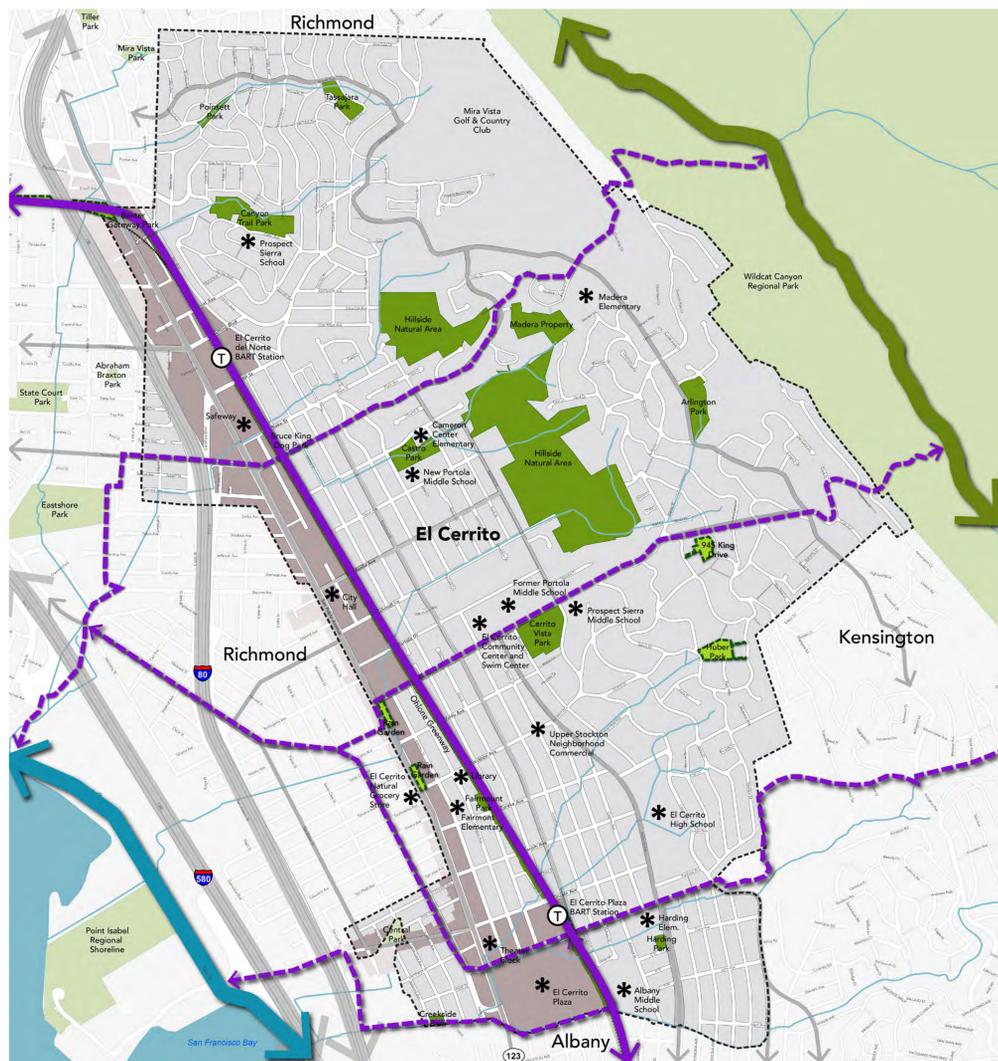
8. El Cerrito Plaza
9. Conlon Avenue/ Key Boulevard
10. Cutting Boulevard/ San Pablo Avenue
11. Avila Street/ San Pablo Avenue

Street ROW

12. Ashbury Avenue



1. Blue to Green Connections



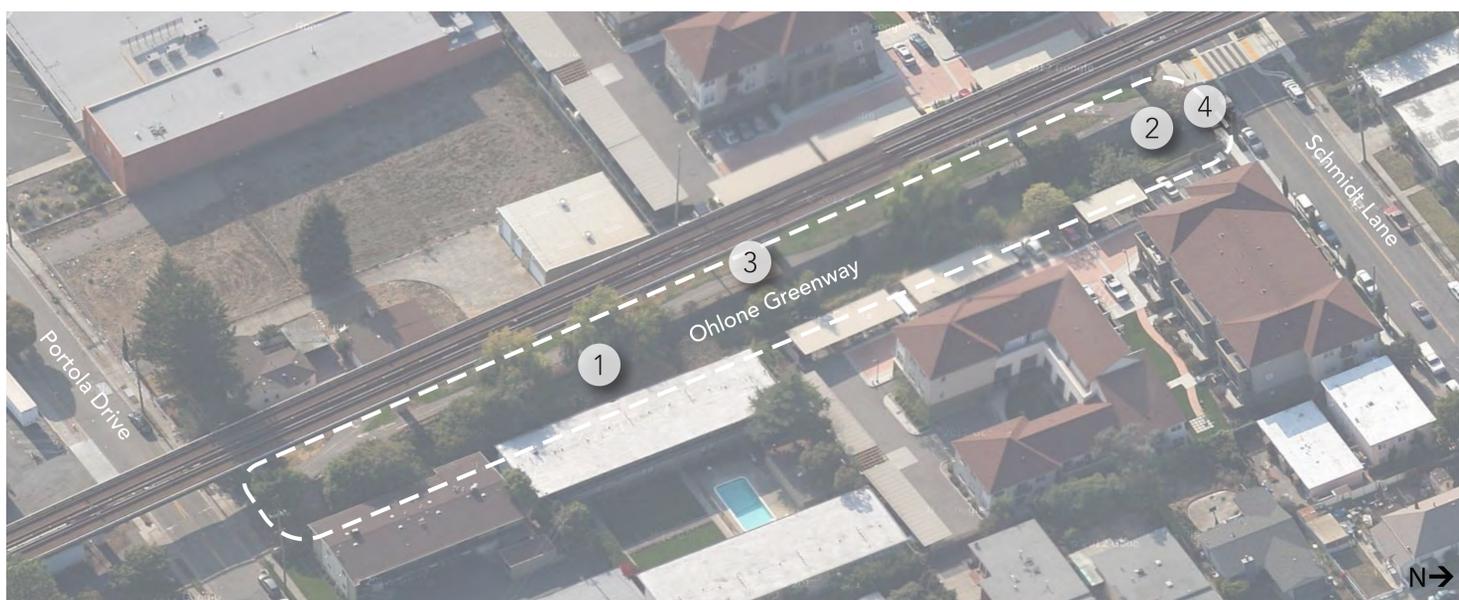
Urban Greening Opportunities

- 1. Connectivity:** Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between the area's major natural assets--the Bay Trail and Wildcat Canyon Trail. Close any trail gaps and develop trail into Tilden Park (in cooperation with EBRPD)
- 2. Wayfinding and Signage:** Provide wayfinding and education signage along the blue/green connections.
- 3. Street Trees:** Implement a consistent palette of street trees along blue/green connections to create identifiable routes.



2. Ohlone Greenway - Portola to Schmidt

Ownership: Public - City of El Cerrito



Urban Greening Opportunities

- 1. Creek Daylighting:** Repurpose creek to improve habitat and water quality benefits. Include a forebay to retain and Make creek a visible amenity in this area. (see *Fluvius Innominatus Restoration Channel Design Memorandum*)
- 2. Activity Node:** Create social gathering and play opportunities near repurposed creek. (see *Ohlone Greenway Master Plan*)
- 3. Connectivity:** Integrate mid-block access and improve connectivity along Schmidt Lane between the Hillside Natural Area and San Pablo Avenue.

Annual Runoff Treated (gal/yr): 3,740
Pollutants Removed (lb/yr):
 TSS: 2.010
 TP: 0.003
 Nitrate + Nitrite: 0.008
 Lead: 0.002
 Zinc: 0.002



3. Ohlone Greenway - Gladys to Blake

Ownership: Public - City of El Cerrito



Urban Greening Opportunities

1. **Green Gateway:** Create a gateway experience along Potrero Avenue.
2. **Biofiltration Gardens:** Repurpose small portions of the grassed greenway for water quality management. Focus on areas adjacent to existing inlets to minimize area of disturbance and costs.
3. **Connection to Greenway:** Create a mid-block connection to the Greenway from San Pablo Avenue.
4. **Activity Node:** Create social gathering and play opportunities near Potrero Avenue to create an activity node and enhance the existing Bruce King Dog Park.
5. **Creek Crossing:** Highlight the creek that runs under Potrero Avenue through landscape, paving, and/or signage.

Annual Runoff Treated (gal/yr): 194,161
Pollutants Removed (lb/yr):
 TSS: 5.07
 TKN: 0.05
 Nitrate + Nitrite: 0.01
 Zinc: 0.01



4. Fairmont Park and Adjacent Ohlone Greenway Segment

Ownership: Public - WCCUSD and City of El Cerrito



Urban Greening Opportunities

1. **Urban Agriculture:** Build on Earth Day pilot project to create permanent community gardens and orchards.
2. **Urban Wilderness Classroom:** Connect to Fairmont Elementary School and bring nature closer to students.
3. **Improved Play Structures and Gathering Spaces:** Enhance the existing park and attract multi-generational use.
4. **Connection to Greenway:** Create a defined entry from Liberty Street to the Greenway and park. (see *Ohlone Greenway Master Plan*)
5. **Connection to Park:** Create a mid-block connection between the park and San Pablo Avenue.
6. **Pacific Chorus Frog Habitat:** Protect habitat and connect to wilderness classroom activities. (see *Ohlone Greenway Master Plan*)
7. **Oak Grove:** Create an oak grove adjacent to the schoolyard.



5. Central Park and Adjacent Parcel at Central and Belmont

Ownership: Private* and Public - City of Richmond** and City of El Cerrito

* Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner's interest and consent
 ** Will require joint partnership with the City of Richmond



* Private property highlighted in purple.

Annual Runoff Treated (Gal/yr): 27,429
Pollutants Removed (lb/yr):
 TSS: 5.72 Nitrate + Nitrite: 0.02
 TP: 0.02 Lead: 0.01
 TKN: 0.04 Zinc: 0.01

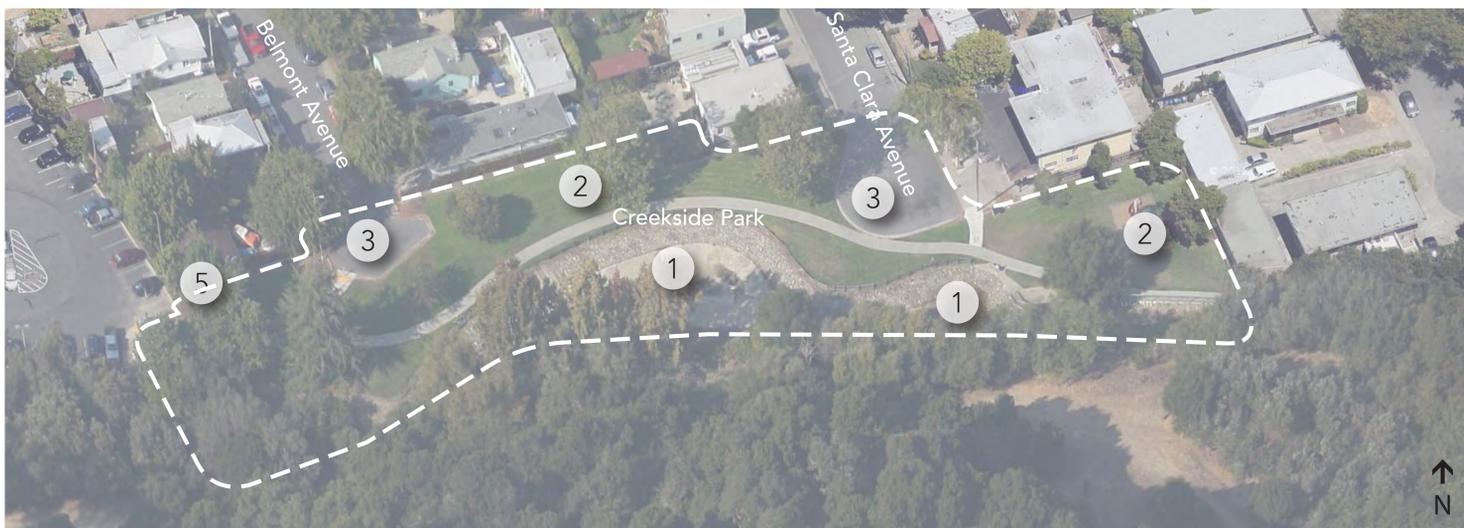
Urban Greening Opportunities

- 1. Creek Naturalization:** Naturalize existing concrete channel to provide riparian edge and extend notion of creek to Central Park. Realign creek to provide appropriate space on both sides for channel naturalization.
- 2. Improved Play Structures and Gathering Spaces:** Enhance the existing park furniture and gathering spaces to create a neighborhood destination.
- 3. Multi-functional Park Space:** Consider programming park as multi-use space, with flexible recreation uses at different times to allow the park to serve more neighborhood residents (for example times when baseball diamond is not in peak use).
- 4. Green Gateway:** Create a gateway experience and improve connectivity along Central Avenue.
- 5. Connectivity:** Create a pedestrian and bicycle pathway connecting Central Park and Creekside Park



6. Creekside Park

Ownership: Public - City of El Cerrito



Urban Greening Opportunities

- 1. Wetland:** Re-purpose existing shallow concrete pools to be functioning wetlands or other flow based treatment measure. Keep overall form of the existing feature to recognize its history. Lower bottom of feature to be consistent with adjacent creek bed and plant with water tolerant species of reeds/rushes. Confirm design will be consistent with C.3 requirements to allow for potential future LID credits. Study opportunities to provide climate change resilience through flooding relief.
- 2. Enhanced Gathering Spaces:** Provide additional seating and furniture for social gathering near the play structure and repurposed wetlands.
- 3. Temporary Park Expansion:** Expand park into cul-de-sacs for temporary events and play to increase park visibility and connection to surrounding neighborhoods.
- 4. Connectivity and Wayfinding:** Improve wayfinding to park and build upon existing sidewalk recycled glass treatments with additional urban design and landscape improvements to lead visitors from surrounding neighborhoods and San Pablo Avenue to the park.
- 5. Connectivity:** Create a pedestrian and bicycle pathway connecting Central Park and Creekside Park.

Annual Runoff Treated (gal/yr): 8,443,925
Pollutants Removed (lb/yr):
 TSS: 2,624.51 Nitrate + Nitrite: 26.21
 TP: 7.13 Lead: 3.24
 Copper: 0.69 Zinc: 5.88



7. Hillside Natural Area and Madera Property

Ownership: Private* and Public - City of El Cerrito

*Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner's interest and consent



*Private property highlighted in purple.

Urban Greening Opportunities

1. **Connectivity:** Improve trail connections between natural areas, and close any gaps.
2. **Park Expansion:** Continue to expand natural area to create connected park system into areas such as the Madera property and PG&E right-of-way.
3. **Green Infrastructure:** Integrate green infrastructure to lower park energy usage and use low-maintenance plantings, furnishings and materials.
4. **Creeks:** Enhance and highlight riparian corridors that run through the natural area.
5. **Green Gateways/Staging Areas:** Create an gateway experience at key park entryways.
6. **Trails:** Consider formalizing desire lines into a pedestrian trail system through the PG&E right-of-way to enhance connections to Hillside Natural Area.
7. **Green Infrastructure:** Repurpose portions of the right-of-way for water quality management.



8. El Cerrito Plaza

Ownership: Private* and Public - City of El Cerrito

*Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner's interest and consent



*Private property highlighted in purple.

Urban Greening Opportunities

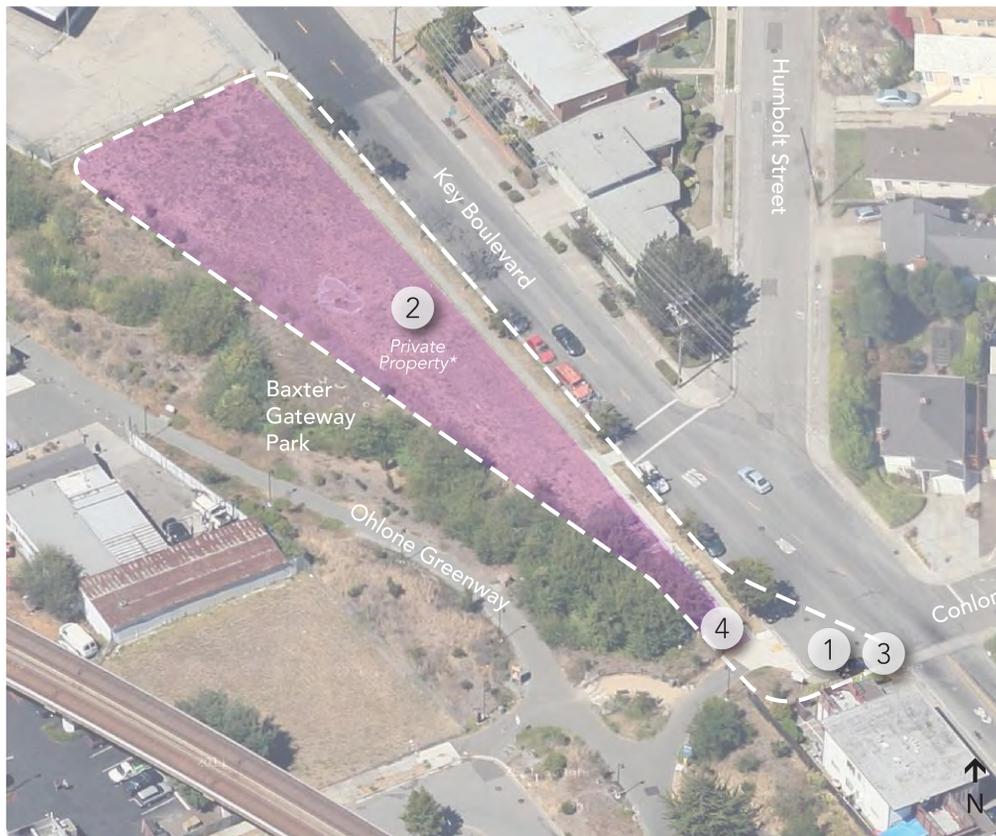
1. **Creekside Trail:** Improve connectivity of creekside trail east and west of San Pablo Avenue through a mid-block crossing.
2. **Neighborhood Park:** Consider incorporating a neighborhood park to serve this higher density neighborhood in underutilized spaces adjacent to the greenway.
3. **Biofiltration Gardens:** Repurpose small portions of the street right-of-way for water quality management. Focus on areas adjacent to existing inlets to minimize area of disturbance and costs.
4. **Green Gateway:** Create an identifiable gateway experience at the southern entry to the City along San Pablo Avenue.
5. **Commercial Corridors:** Activate the corridors along San Pablo Avenue and Fairmount Avenue.
6. **Enhance Creeks:** Establish or enhance riparian corridors along edges where creeks exist building on previous work and proposed creek daylighting with Creekside Apartments development.
7. **Connectivity:** Improve Connections to the Ohlone Greenway from Albany Middle School an Creekside Apartments (planned).



9. Conlon Avenue/Key Boulevard ROW and Vacant Lot

Ownership: Private* and Public - City of El Cerrito

*Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner's interest and consent



*Private property highlighted in purple.

Urban Greening Opportunities

- 1. Pocket Park:** Repurpose the excess street right-of-way to create a pocket park with furnishings and space for social gathering and as a gateway to the Ohlone Greenway.
- 2. Neighborhood Park:** Consider converting vacant lot to a neighborhood park with social gathering spaces, play spaces and other recreation opportunities.
- 3. Pollinator Pathway:** Establish a pollinator pathway up Conlon Ave. Between the Ohlone Greenway and Canyon Trail Park.
- 4. Creeks:** Highlight the creek that runs under Conlon Avenue through landscape, paving, and/or signage.

Additional notes: Greening opportunities could be considered in aggregate or as separate projects pending site and funding availability. Traffic calming measures at Conlon and Key should be considered along with urban greening improvements.

- Improve Connectivity
- Strengthen Ohlone Greenway
- Address Higher Density Neighborhoods
- Enhance Creeks

10. Cutting/San Pablo Avenue Vacant Lot

Ownership: Private** and Public - City of El Cerrito

*Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner's interest and consent



*Private property highlighted in purple.

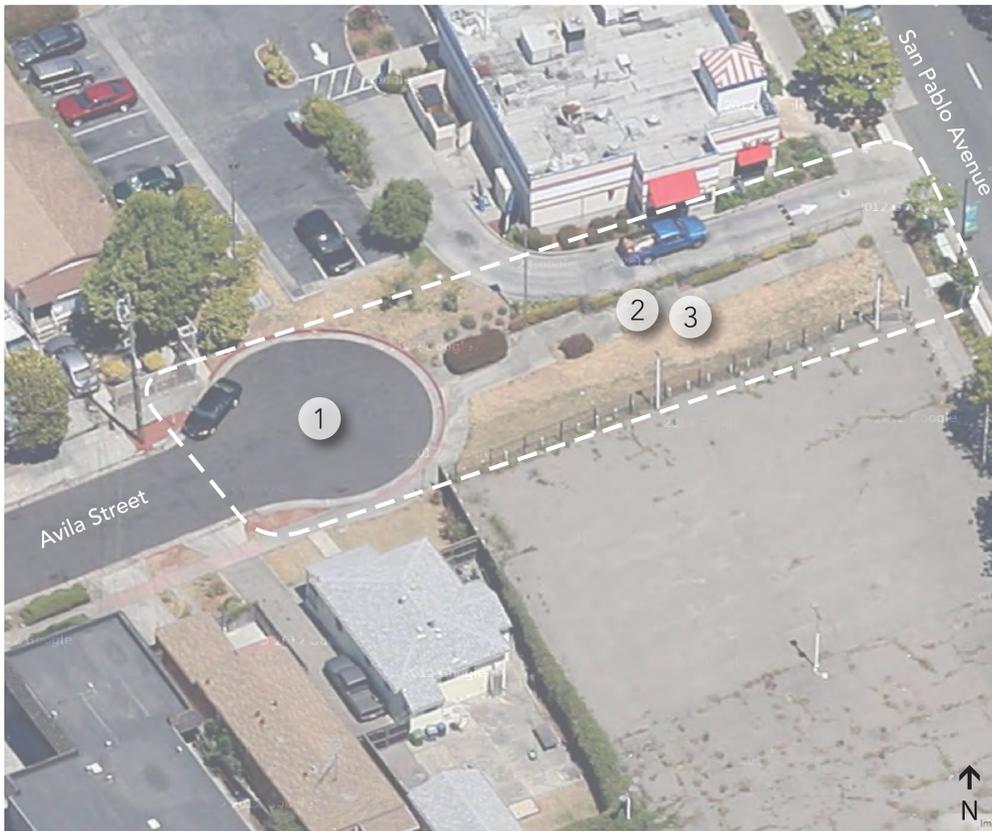
Urban Greening Opportunities

- 1. Pocket Park:** Create increased activity and open space along San Pablo Avenue and near the BART station to encourage social gathering and economic development.
- 2. Temporary Pop-up Park:** Encourage short-term activities such as community events, food vendors, and seasonal commercial to activate the vacant lot until a permanent pocket park can be planned and constructed.
- 3. Green Infrastructure:** Repurpose small portions of the street right-of-way on San Pablo Avenue for water quality management. Focus on areas adjacent to existing inlets to minimize area of disturbance and costs.
- 4. Green Gateway:** Create a gateway experience along Cutting Boulevard towards the El Cerrito del Norte BART Station. Consider planting large trees to enhance the gateway.

- Create Greener Gateways
- Address Higher Density Neighborhoods

11. Avila Street/San Pablo Avenue Cul-de-sac

Ownership: Public - City of El Cerrito



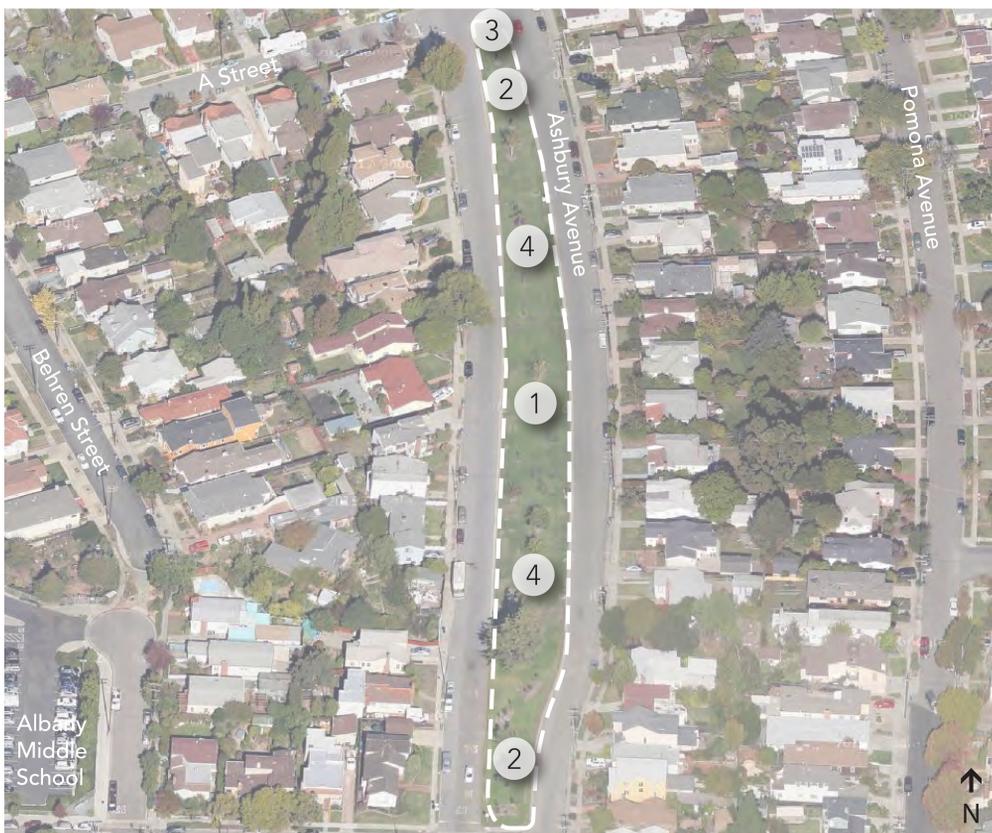
Urban Greening Opportunities

- 1. Pocket Park:** Repurpose the the cul-de-sac to create a pocket park with furnishings and space for social gathering.
- 2. Connectivity:** Create a mid-block pedestrian and bicycle connection to san pablo avenue.
- 3. Activity Node:** Plant shade trees and install seating and tables to encourage active use along San Pablo Avenue.

- Improve Connectivity
- Create Active Commercial Corridors
- Address Higher Density Neighborhoods

12. Ashbury Avenue - Brighton to Lynn

Ownership: Public - City of El Cerrito



Urban Greening Opportunities

- 1. Edible Orchard:** Create an edible orchard within the existing large median to attract public use of the street right-of-way and provide an urban agriculture opportunity. *(Will require a strong community organization to steward the orchard).*
- 2. Biofiltration Gardens:** Repurpose a small portion of the grassed median for water quality management. Focus areas adjacent to existing inlets to minimize area of disturbance and costs.
- 3. Pollinator Pathway:** Establish a pollinator pathway along Ashbury Avenue.
- 4. Social Gathering:** Create areas for seating and social gathering. Also encourage use of median and street right-of-way for community events.

Annual Runoff Treated (gal/yr): 117,774
Pollutants Removed (lb/yr):
 TSS: 77.30 Nitrate + Nitrite: 0.11
 TP: 0.07 Lead: 0.05
 TKN: 0.68 Copper: 0.02
 Zinc: 0.10