Overarching Goals

- Environmental Sustainability
- Environmental Stewardship
- Community Identity
- Active Living/Transportation
- Economic Development

Primary Strategies

- Improve Connectivity
- Green Gateways
- Strengthen Ohlone Greenway
- Create Active Commercial Corridors
- Enhance Creeks
- Enhance/Expand Parks
- Address Higher Density Areas
- Foster Partnerships

Supporting Policies*

- Planting Palette
- Landscape Maintenance
- Pollinator Pathways
- re:Streets
- Trails and Paths
- Green Infrastructure
- Green School Yards
- Urban Agriculture

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

* Preliminary List of Supporting Policies
Planned and Underway Projects

1. El Cerrito Plaza BART Station Modernization Study
   - Increase activity along Ohlone Greenway
   - Bike storage, repair, Bike Share program opportunity
   - Increased lighting, seating & recreation area
   - Bike storage, repair, Bike Share program
   - Opportunity for community activities - such as farmer’s market, food trucks, holiday bazaars, etc.
   - Vertical elements serve as beacons & provide visual wayfinding clues

2. El Cerrito Del Norte BART Station Modernization Study
   - Increase activity along Ohlone Greenway
   - Bike storage, repair, Bike Share program opportunity
   - Increased lighting, seating & recreation area
   - Bike storage, repair, Bike Share program
   - Opportunity for community activities - such as farmer’s market, food trucks, holiday bazaars, etc.
   - Vertical elements serve as beacons & provide visual wayfinding clues

3. OBAG: Ohlone Greenway Improvements - Plaza BART

4. OBAG: Ohlone Greenway Improvements - Del Norte BART

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

8. Huber Park Improvements

9. New Park at 945 King Drive
Note: Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner's interest and consent.
Enhance Creeks
Improve Connectivity
Address Higher Density Neighborhoods
Implement Green Schoolyards

Strategies

- Creeks Under Street ROW
- Potential Polinator Pathway
- Intersection/Cul-de-sac
- Freeway Buffer
- Existing Park
- Midblock Connection
- Potential Neighborhood Park
- Existing Park w/ Planned Enhancements
- Enhance Existing Park
- Gateway
- Midblock Connection
- Strolling Street
- Creek Crossing
- Activity Node
- Other Potential Trails

Improve Connectivity

- Create Active Commercial Corridors
- Strengthen Ohlone Greenway

Note: Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner’s consent and consent.
Strategies

Enhance Creeks

- Enhance Existing Park
- Potential Park Expansion
- Existing Park or Planned Enhancements

Create Greener Gateways

- Address Higher Density Neighborhoods
- Create Active Commercial Corridors
- Integrate Green Infrastructure
- Foster Urban Agriculture
- Implement Green Schoolyards

Improve Connectivity

- Strengthen Ohlone Greenway

Note: Any opportunities on a private parcel will be dependent on property owner’s interest and consent.
Focus Areas

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
Focus Areas

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 Inominatus 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

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

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.
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

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

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

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.
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 Conolon and Key should be considered along with urban greening improvements.

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

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.
11. Avila Street/San Pablo Avenue Cul-de-sac  
Ownership: Public - City of El Cerrito  

Urban Greening Opportunities  
1. Pocket Park: Repurpose 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.

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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  
TP: 0.07  
TKN: 0.68  
Zinc: 0.10  
Lead: 0.05  
Nitrate: 0.11  
Copper: 0.02

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