

# SHEPHERD CANYON

## **Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION**

The Shepherd Canyon PCA is largely defined by the local Shepherd Canyon Park that it envelops. It gets its name from the Shepherd Creek which courses through it, a Priority Stream which results in several key aquatic benefits. The PCA also includes land targeted by several agencies for conservation, meriting this PCA a Natural Landscape designation.

As a Natural Landscape, it benefits **Terrestrial Ecosystems, Water Supply & Water Quality** and **Aquatic Ecosystems**. Co-benefits include Climate & Resilience and Compact Growth.

Shepherd Creek is a tributary of Sausal Creek, a Priority Stream as determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservation Lands Network. There are additional, smaller Open Creeks, determined by the City of Oakland, within the PCA that feed Shepherd Creek. Within 50 ft. of the creeks are Undeveloped Parcels, assessed by the City of Oakland to have less than \$10,000 in improvements that could help preserve creek functions. Through Measure DD, the City of Oakland designated Priority Creek Restoration Sites, one of which is found in the middle of Shepherd Creek in the PCA boundaries. These water features benefit Aquatic Ecosystems by protecting targeted streams, they benefit Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting critical riparian corridors and the diversity of animals using them, and they benefit Water Supply & Water Quality by supporting watershed health and protecting downstream water uses. They co-benefit Climate & Resilience and Recreation.

Much of the park along Shepherd Creek is considered Bay Area Protected Area by the Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC), parkland with conservation easements. Portions of this parkland are zoned open space by the City of Oakland, considered Resource Conservation Areas. The tip of the PCA also includes regional trails which are managed by East Bay Regional Park District. Therefore, the Shepherd Canyon PCA benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting unique habitat and botanical areas of high priority, and co-benefits Compact Growth and Climate & Resilience.