

JOAQUIN MILLER

Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

At the core of the Joaquin Miller PCA lies Joaquin Miller Park, hugging the eastern border of Oakland in the hills adjacent to Redwood Regional Park. This massive city park above Route 13 contains a number of important features benefiting terrestrial ecosystems, and it also contains the headwaters of Priority Stream Palo Seco Creek. An arm of the PCA also contributes to water quality and aquatic ecosystems by enveloping important sites for creek restoration and watershed health. It is therefore proposed as a Natural Landscape PCA. (Portions of the park are separately applied for as Regional Recreation.)

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

The Joaquin Miller PCA includes numerous Open Creeks, mapped by the City of Oakland, which form the headwaters of some of the city's most important Hill-to-Bay creeks. Notably coursing through the PCA, Palo Seco Creek is a tributary of Sausal Creek, a Priority Stream as determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservation Lands Network. Near some of these creeks lie Undeveloped Parcels, assessed by the City of Oakland to have less than \$10,000 in improvements and which would provide an opportunity to preserve creek functions. There are several Priority Acquisition Creek Parcels that the City of Oakland has identified for watershed preservation. Through Measure DD, the City of Oakland designated Priority Creek Restoration Sites, two of which are found in the PCA territory. 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.

Joaquin Miller Park is considered a Bay Area Protected Area by the Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC), parkland with conservation easements. The majority of this is zoned open space by the City of Oakland, considered a Resource Conservation Area. Also found within the PCA are several significant parcels designated as Open Space by the City's Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the General Plan (OSCAR parcels). Therefore, the Joaquin Miller PCA benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting unique habitat and botanical areas of high priority, and co-benefits Compact Growth and Climate & Resilience.

The Joaquin Miller PCA also benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting Essential and Fragmented Habitat, determined by BAOSC's Conservation Land Network, and through its inclusion of Bay Area Critical Linkage land, as demonstrated by mapping from Science and Collaboration for Connected Wildlands. Outside of the Pallid Manzanita Habitat PCA, Joaquin Miller includes the only other Pallid Manzanita stands in Oakland, an endangered species monitored by Friends of Sausal Creek. Swaths of

Serpentine Soil, which provides critical habitat for the *Clarkia franciscana*/presidio population, also cross the PCA (Source: US Geological Survey).