

RIDGEMONT

Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

This PCA expands upon the existing “Ridgemont West” PCA with additional Natural Landscape terrain. Consisting of critical habitat zones and priority sites for watershed health, it seeks to conserve a variety of important regional features.

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 Ridgemont PCA is defined by the Country Club Branch Botanical Priority Protection Area, considered a high priority by the California Native Plant Society due to opportunities, threats, and constraints. Within this protection area is a couple Resource Conservation Areas, land zoned as open space on the City of Oakland zoning maps. Bay Area Protected Areas are also scattered throughout the PCA, park and private land with conservation easements as determined by the Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC). There are also many parcels designated as Open Space by the City’s Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the General Plan (OSCAR parcels). All of which demonstrate how the area benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting unique habitat and botanical areas of high priority, and co-benefits Recreation, Compact Growth and Climate & Resilience.

Ridgemont also protects 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. Nearly all the territory consists of Serpentine Soil, which provides critical habitat for the *Clarkia franciscana*/presidio population (Source: US Geological Survey). In addition, Ridgemont possess many Brittle Leaf Manzanita Habitat locations, a rare natural community with distinctive features according to the Oakland Museum. Thus, the proposed PCA benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting critical habitat. Co-benefits include Climate & Resilience and Compact Growth.

Open Creeks, determined by the City of Oakland, flow through Ridgemont, including the headwaters of Lion Creek. 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. The largest of which is a Priority Acquisition Creek Parcel that the City of Oakland has identified for watershed preservation. At the perimeter of the PCA lies a pair of Priority Creek Restoration Sites, identified in Measure DD as a priority for the City of Oakland. 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 provide co-benefits of Climate & Resilience and Recreation.