

DUNSMUIR

Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

The southeast corner of Oakland consists of a number of key elements that qualify it as a Priority Conservation Area; in fact, part of the proposed Dunsmuir PCA consists of an existing PCA—“South Hills.” Containing the Dunsmuir Open Space, parts of Lake Chabot that lie within Oakland, and the headwaters of the critical San Leandro Creek, this is proposed as a Natural Landscape PCA.

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

A large part of the Dunsmuir PCA is designated as a Botanical Priority Protection Area by the California Native Plants Society. Such areas have been identified as high priority due to opportunities, threats, and constraints to the botanical zone. Partly overlapping this is a Resource Conservation Area, land zoned as open space on the City of Oakland zoning maps. Within both areas lie parcels designated as Open Space by the City’s Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the General Plan (OSCAR parcels). Different corners of Dunsmuir are considered Bay Area Protected Areas by the Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC), private land and parks with conservation easements. Within that is East Bay Regional Park Land, territory managed by the East Bay Regional Park District. All of which demonstrate how Dunsmuir benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting unique habitat and botanical areas of high priority, and co-benefits Recreation, Compact Growth and Climate & Resilience.

Dunsmuir 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. It consists of patches of Serpentine Soil, which provides critical habitat for the *Clarkia franciscana*/presidio population (Source: US Geological Survey). Co-benefits include Climate & Resilience and Compact Growth.

Open Creeks, determined by the City of Oakland’s Public Works Agency, flow through the Dunsmuir territory; perhaps most importantly, the Priority Stream San Leandro Creek has its headwaters here (the entire creek is a separate PCA). 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. In the center of the PCA are many Priority Acquisition Creek Parcels that the City of Oakland has identified for watershed preservation. All 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.

Because of its inclusion of Lake Chabot, Dunsmuir also contains Wetlands, as determined by the San Francisco Estuary Institute. Wetlands benefit Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting these habitats and the diversity of species that make use of them. They benefit Aquatic Ecosystems by protecting those wetlands identified in the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals. They provide co-benefits of Recreation, Climate & Resilience and Compact Growth.