

NORTH OAKLAND

Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

Between the border of Berkeley and the MacArthur Transit Village area sits the proposed North Oakland Priority Conservation Area. This Urban Greening PCA would conserve limited but crucial green space in a Community of Concern with limited food access. Preserving the existing community gardens and pursuing urban forestry initiatives along key corridors could provide climate and health benefits.

The North Oakland PCA qualifies as Urban Greening because of its benefits to **Community Health and Climate & Resilience**.

Nearly all of the North Oakland PCA territory is considered a Community of Concern by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, defined as having a high concentration of minority and low-income residents. Most of the census tracts of this area are defined by the USDA as Low Income-Low Access to Food, because at least 70% of the residents must travel more than 0.5 miles to reach a healthy food source such as a grocery store. However, there is a significant Park within Low Income-Low Access to Food census tracts in the area that should be conserved. Particularly because that park hosts a Community Garden within a Community of Concern, in addition to the smaller Dover Street Park Community Garden a few blocks away. By protecting and increasing existing green space with carbon storage potential, this PCA benefits Climate and Resilience. It benefits Community Health by increasing park and food access in a Community of Concern.

At the perimeter of the PCA boundary by Route 24 is evidence of High Particulate Levels, detected above Bay Area Air Quality Management District thresholds as laid out in Plan Bay Area for 2040. Scattered throughout the PCA, particularly along Lowell St., are parcels that were used for industrial purposes prior to 1968 that may contain PCBs and mercury, flagged by the Alameda County Clean Water Program for potential stormwater contamination as Old Industrial Land. However, Major Urban Corridors such as Adeline St. and Stanford Ave. crisscross this PCA, connecting regional parks and providing street tree planting opportunities. Thus, this PCA presents an opportunity to benefit Community Health by increasing tree cover.