

ALLENDALE / UPPER FRUITVALE

Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

The Allendale/Upper Fruitvale Urban Greening PCA is located in the center of Oakland around Interstate 580 and High Street. It is generally a mixed density residential neighborhood containing some small scale commercial businesses. The entire PCA is a MTC Community of Concern that is challenged with food access and sufficient park space. However, there are a number of important parks worth conserving in the area, some of which contain community gardens, and possibilities for green space enhancement along open creeks.

The PCA qualifies as Urban Greening because of its benefits to **Community Health** and **Climate & Resilience**. It would co-benefit Water Supply & Quality and Wildlife Habitat.

The entire Allendale / Upper Fruitvale PCA is considered a Community of Concern by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, defined as having a high concentration of minority and low-income residents. The whole area experiences a Park Deficit, according to Oakland's Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the General Plan, and has been 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. Still, there are a handful of parks in the area including Brookdale and Allendale, which qualify as Parks within a Community of Concern, Parks within Areas of Park Deficit and Parks within Low Income Low Access to Food Census Tracts. Brookdale and Allendale parks also host a pair of Community Gardens within a Community of Concern. By conserving 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.

The Allendale and Upper Fruitvale neighborhoods have a number of urban greening assets as well. A pair of Major Urban Corridors, High Street and 9th Avenue, cross the PCA and connect regional parks to the Estuary. Open Creeks, above-ground portions of creeks mapped by Oakland watershed staff, flow through the PCA on their way to the Bay. Along one of these creeks is a Priority Creek Restoration Site, identified by the City of Oakland to be high priority for restoration under Measure DD. Projects to conserve and enhance these water features and add further vegetation benefit Community Health by greening areas expected to experience urban heat island effect. Improving natural creek channels also can reduce the hazard risk of flooding, benefiting Climate & Resilience, and co-benefit Water Supply & Quality and Wildlife Habitat.