

# STONEHURST / SOBRANTE PARK

## Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

The Stonehurst/Sobrante Park PCA is at the southwest corner of Oakland. This is generally an economically challenged area of the City that contains residential, commercial, and industrial neighborhoods. Train tracks and a freeway bisect the area, and its eastern and southern edges are defined by San Leandro Creek and the airport, respectively. The entirety of the PCA falls within a Community of Concern, much of which is also an Environmentally Disadvantaged Community. Fortunately, because of its waterfront, the PCA includes regional recreation opportunities, applied for separately as Regional Recreation PCAs, and chances for increased greenery.

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

The entire Stonehurst / Sobrante Park PCA is considered a Community of Concern by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, defined as having a high concentration of minority and low-income residents. Fortunately, the PCA does contain many neighborhood Parks within a Community of Concern. There is a single Community Garden within a Community of Concern as well. Half of the PCA territory experiences a Park Deficit, according to Oakland's Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the General Plan. There are important Parks within Areas of Park Deficit that are important to conserve. Much of the PCA is 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. Several Parks within Low Income Low Access to Food Census Tracts are found in the western portion of the PCA which are crucial to conserve. 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 entire PCA territory has been defined by the California EPA as an Environmentally Disadvantaged Community, found to be in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the EnviroScreen due to their disproportionate share of pollution. Interstate 880 bisects the PCA, meaning portions of the area falls within a 1,000 ft. Freeway Buffer. Along the freeway are High Particulate Levels, above Bay Area Air Quality Management District thresholds as laid out in Plan Bay Area for 2040. Many of the parcels are Old Industrial Land, used for industrial purposes prior to 1968 that may contain PCBs and mercury, and flagged by the Alameda County Clean Water Program for potential stormwater contamination. In the PCA are many Residential Areas within 300 ft. of an Industrial Zone, mapped by the City of Oakland.

As an area on the water, Stonehurst / Sobrante Park has environmental challenges but also opportunities for greening. Major Urban Corridors intersect the area that connect regional parks to the Estuary, and which allow for enhanced street tree plantings. This includes San Leandro Street, part of

the East Bay Greenway, which would provide Recreation benefits. Open Creeks flow through the PCA boundaries on their way to the bay, determined by City of Oakland watershed staff. One of these is the San Leandro Creek, one of two Priority Streams in the City of Oakland, called out by the Conservation Lands Network to receive substantial protection for long-term fish conservation. Along San Leandro Creek is a Priority Creek Restoration Site, identified by the City of Oakland to be high priority for restoration under Measure DD. Unfortunately, coastal portions of the PCA are threatened by five feet of Sea Level Rise, as modeled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. By including this area in a PCA, the City of Oakland has an opportunity to address hazard risk due to flooding / sea level rise, thereby benefiting Climate & Resilience. This would also capture a stretch of the San Francisco Bay Trail and other regional recreation infrastructure, thereby benefiting Recreation. Projects to conserve and enhance creeks and add further vegetation benefit Community Health by greening areas expected to experience urban heat island effect while co-benefiting Water Supply & Quality and Wildlife Habitat.