

ELMHURST

Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

The Elmhurst Urban Greening PCA is generally a residential neighborhood that is bisected by Bancroft Avenue. Durant Square, a large mixed use development at a former factory is at the eastern end of this PCA. The area is a community of concern and a food desert, yet there are significant parks to protect within the PCA, including two community gardens. In addition, a creek flows through Elmhurst and provides an opportunity for further restoration within existing parkland.

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

The entire International Blvd. TOD PCA is considered a Community of Concern by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, defined as having a high concentration of minority and low-income residents. There are several Parks within a Community of Concern that must be conserved, large and small. The smaller Parks fall in the portion of the PCA that experiences a Park Deficit. In addition, the entire neighborhood 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. Thus, all of the parks are Parks within Low Income Low Access to Food Census Tracts, mapped by the City of Oakland. The two larger parks also host Community Gardens in 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.

Major Urban Corridors in the area, including Bancroft and 98th Avenues, provide urban greening opportunities within the PCA with street tree enhancements. A major hill to bay Open Creek, determined by City of Oakland watershed staff, crosses the PCA. Along it is a Priority Creek Restoration Site, identified by the City of Oakland to be high priority for restoration under Measure DD. Because of the environmental health burdens of the area, increasing urban tree cover in an area with potential urban heat islands would benefit Community Health. 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.