

TOLER HEIGHTS / EASTMONT HILLS

Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

The Toler Heights / Eastmont Hills Urban Greening PCA is in the Oakland Hills, just above Macarthur Boulevard. The area is largely single-family residential neighborhood, with the exception of Macarthur Boulevard, which is a mix of commercial and high density residential uses. The entire PCA is designated a food desert and Community of Concern; aside from a large regional park in its center, most of the PCA neighborhoods also experience a park deficit. Urban corridors and open creeks which cross the PCA provide opportunities to green the area. Because of its proximity to creek headwaters and hillside open space, parts of this Urban Greening PCA overlap with Natural Landscapes, applied for separately.

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

The entire Toler Heights / Eastmont Hills PCA is considered a Community of Concern by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, defined as having a high concentration of minority and low-income residents. Every census tract 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. Fortunately, there is a pair of sizeable parks within the PCA, King Estates Open Space and Burckhalter Park, that serve as Parks within a Community of Concern and Parks within Low Income Low Access to Food Census Tracts, mapped by the City of Oakland. At King Estates is the area's only Community Garden within a Community of Concern. Unfortunately, the Toler Heights and Eastmont Hills neighborhoods not adjacent to the King Estates Open Space experience a Park Deficit, according to Oakland's Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the General Plan. This leaves Burckhalter Park along Interstate 580 as the only Park within an Area of Park Deficit. 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.

Toler Heights / Eastmont Hills PCA is crossed by Major Urban Corridors such as 98th Ave which provide urban greening opportunities with street tree enhancements. The PCA is crossed by multiple hill-to-bay Open Creeks, determined by City of Oakland watershed staff, such as Arroyo Viejo. Projects to increase urban tree cover and add vegetation in an area with potential urban heat islands would benefit Community Health, and if pursued along creek corridors would co-benefit Water Supply & Quality.