

## **Primary Benefits and Co-Benefits of Carmel Open Space**

### **Primary Benefits of Carmel Open Space:**

*Regional Recreation:* There are undesignated hiking trails located on the Carmel Open Space, and the City of Novato is interested in preserving and enhancing this recreational outlet to a residential area with limited outdoor recreation opportunities within walking distance. With the recent expansion of the Petaluma bike path being in such close proximity to the Carmel Open Space, the City of Novato envisions this as an opportunity to increase its network and connectivity to different types of trails to allow for several different recreation opportunities in Novato.

*Natural Landscapes:* The Carmel Open Space provides terrestrial ecosystems. While this piece of property is not categorized as being at risk by the Conservation Lands Network, the City of Novato is interested in Priority Conservation Area designation to protect the area from any further development in its immediate proximity and retain the natural beauty of a park setting in an urban, residential environment.

### **Co-Benefits of Carmel Open Space:**

*Natural Landscapes – Compact Growth:* The Greenbelt Alliance has identified an area immediately adjacent to the Carmel Open Space as Medium Risk. The City's goal in pursuing a Priority Conservation Area designation for this area is to protect land with open space benefits that is experiencing development pressure from its immediate surroundings.