

## Primary Benefits and Co-Benefits of O'Hair Park

### Primary Benefits of O'Hair Park:

*Regional Recreation:* Due to its impressive size and ability to accommodate several different types of activities, O'Hair Park provides an excellent location for community recreation opportunities. The Reuben Kaehler Memorial Trail is one of the most popular hiking trails in Novato, it encompasses a two mile loop which is frequently used for hiking and off road mountain biking. While Marin County's Stafford Lake Bike Path is currently in its final phases of construction, the City of Novato is incredibly interested in developing an access trail which would allow bike riders easy access to the 17 acre bike park designed for riders of all ages and skill levels. This trail expansion would increase Novato's access to regional trails and provide an outstanding opportunity for community members to experience active recreation in Marin County's beautiful outdoors. O'Hair Park is also very well utilized by local horse enthusiasts. The Morning Star equestrian facility is located steps away from the park's entrance, and horseback riding is a very prevalent activity within the park's boundaries. Similarly, the City of Novato's Dogbone Meadow Dog Park is located within O'Hair Park, which results in countless dog walkers enjoying the scenery, paths and access to Novato Creek.

*Urban Greening:* Due to its size and access to public hiking trails, O'Hair Park provides excellent opportunities for community health and recreation. O'Hair Park also provides important natural resources that enhance the region's environmental resiliency. The impressive amount of plants and trees in this park unquestionably serve as an effective mechanism for carbon storage, as they absorb carbon dioxide that can harm people and the environment. The most common types of vegetation found in O'Hair Park are Warm Grasslands, Montane Hardwoods and California Bay Forest. According to the Conservation Lands Network, O'Hair Park is primarily comprised of area that is Essential to the Conservation Goals.

*Natural Landscapes:* O'Hair Park has an extensive terrestrial ecosystem due not only to its vast size, but also the variety of trees and plants contained within that area. Some of the most common trees found in O'Hair Park include Oak, Bay, and Eucalyptus. O'Hair is also home to large amounts of scotch broom and several varieties of native grasses. As mentioned above, O'Hair Park's Conservation Lands Network Category is Essential to the Conservation Goals.

### Co-Benefits of O'Hair Park:

*Wildlife Habitat:* Novato Creek runs through the entire length of O'Hair Park and parallels much of the Reuben Kaehler Memorial Trail, providing an exemplary environment for many different species of animals that inhabit both land and water. From deer and turkeys to ducks and frogs, the 99 acres that make up O'Hair Park is home to thousands of animals.