

# Coyote Hills Regional Park

## Restoration and Public Access Project

Location  
Fremont, CA  
Construction  
2020 (Tentative)

The Coyote Hills Restoration and Public Access Project will add over 300 acres of public parkland to Coyote Hills Regional Park. The Project balances habitat restoration, public access, and urban agriculture along with the site's historic land use and rich cultural significance while integrating Climate Smart practices. The Plan reflects an extensive 20-month stakeholder and public outreach and input process.

This Climate Smart Park includes adaptive design and educational elements that demonstrate how a park can be managed to be resilient and adapt to the effects of climate change and sea level rise challenges while tapping into nature-based solutions that contribute to the quality of life in the region.



### Climate Vision

The District's commitment to policies that protect and preserve the East Bay's green infrastructure is reflected in the Plan, including:

- Climate in All Policies:** Mitigate and adapt to a changing climate, reduce Greenhouse gas emissions and develop nature-based protection from the impacts of climate change.
- Climate Friendly:** Waste recycling, water conservation and habitat restoration to increase carbon storage and enhancement of nature-based services.
- Climate Readiness:** Restore, enhance and sustain green infrastructure to slow erosion, provide flood protection, improve wildlife diversity in public parklands and open space.
- Lead Climate Smart Practices:** Plan, protect and manage parklands using nature-based solutions to restore and sustain green infrastructure.
- Advance Science:** Utilize adaptive management techniques to adjust stewardship methods and priorities to preserve natural, cultural and scenic values of the parks.

### Project Actions

**Restore** willow marsh, oak savanna, seasonal wetlands and agricultural habitat

- Plant native trees, shrubs and grasses** to restore the site's historic ecology.
- Manage grasslands** to reduce fire fuels and improve wildlife habitat.
- Increase habitat diversity** through native species planting.
- Improve wildlife foraging habitat.** Farm using **Climate Smart** practices.

**Provide public access and visitor-serving facilities**

- Construct new and improved **accessible trails** network.
- Provide **picnic facilities**, restroom and drinking water.
- Upgrade park entry**, circulation, parking and utilities.
- Create opportunities for **wildlife viewing**.
- Provide **educational displays and interpretive programs** including nature, cultural and historic heritage.

### Green Infrastructure

#### Access to Nature and Environmental Education.

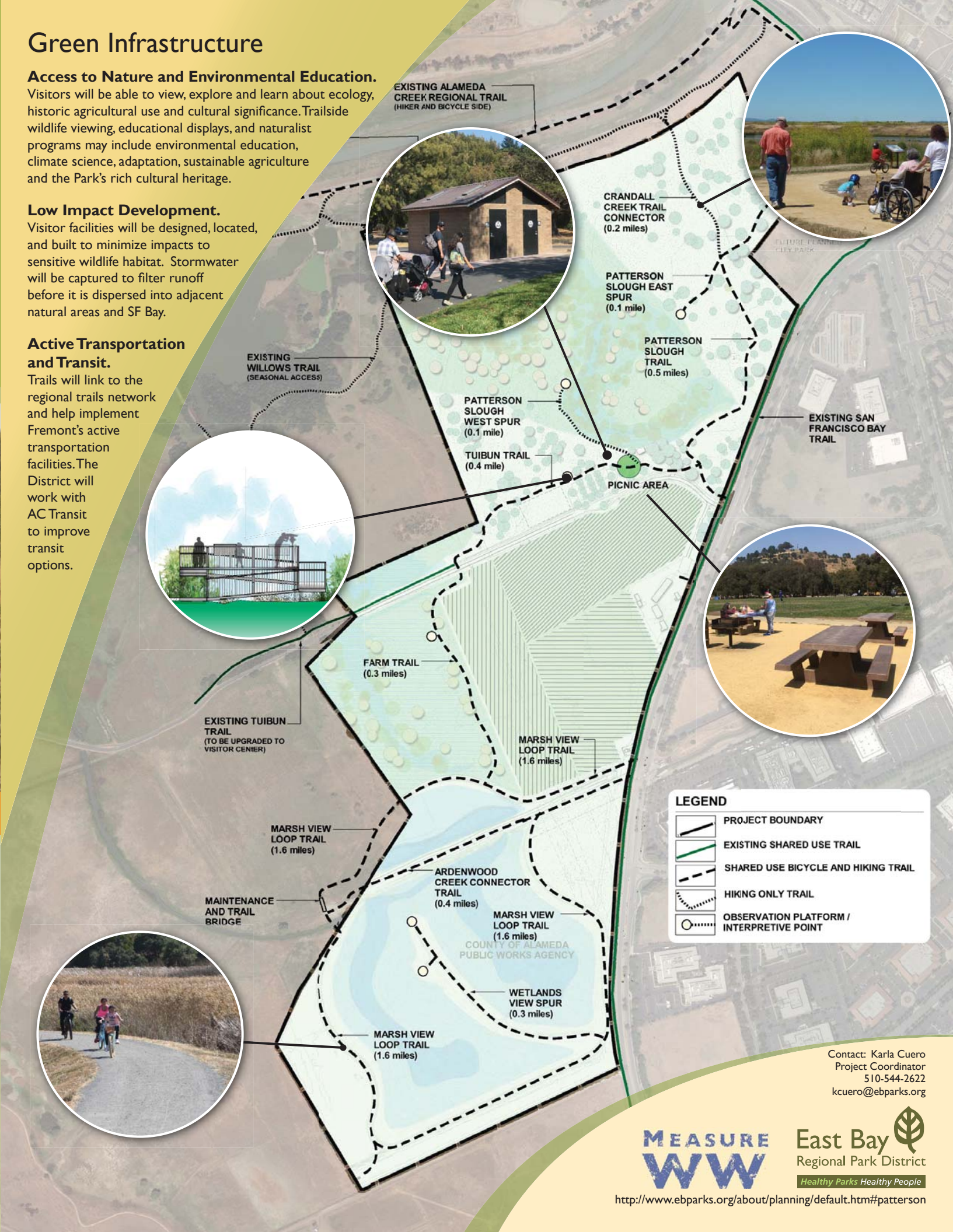
Visitors will be able to view, explore and learn about ecology, historic agricultural use and cultural significance. Trailside wildlife viewing, educational displays, and naturalist programs may include environmental education, climate science, adaptation, sustainable agriculture and the Park's rich cultural heritage.

#### Low Impact Development.

Visitor facilities will be designed, located, and built to minimize impacts to sensitive wildlife habitat. Stormwater will be captured to filter runoff before it is dispersed into adjacent natural areas and SF Bay.

#### Active Transportation and Transit.

Trails will link to the regional trails network and help implement Fremont's active transportation facilities. The District will work with AC Transit to improve transit options.



**LEGEND**

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- EXISTING SHARED USE TRAIL
- SHARED USE BICYCLE AND HIKING TRAIL
- HIKING ONLY TRAIL
- OBSERVATION PLATFORM / INTERPRETIVE POINT

Contact: Karla Cuero  
Project Coordinator  
510-544-2622  
kcuero@ebparks.org





# 1 Resource Conservation

**Organic Farming and Urban agriculture** will utilize carbon farming techniques such as light tilling and composting.

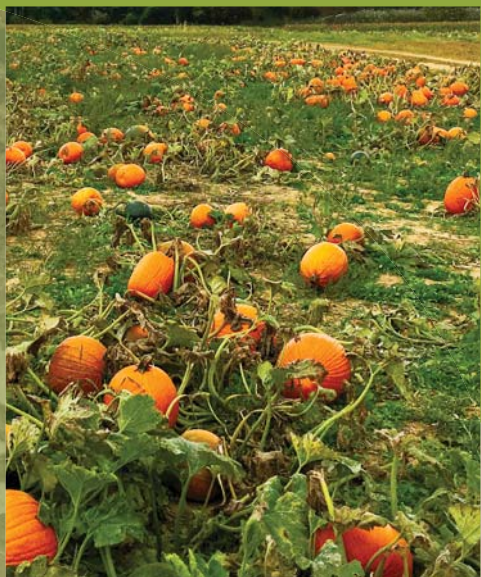
**Climate Benefit:** Increase trapping of atmospheric carbon compost and light soil tilling. Minimize use of industrial chemicals.

**Grazing** will be used for fire suppression, weed control and native plant establishment.

**Climate Benefit:** Reduce reliance on carbon producing machines for vegetation management, greater grass/plant vigor increasing carbon uptake, reduce the need for energy intensive feed crops for cattle.

**Climate Resiliency** will involve innovative technologies to track groundwater changes and create adaptive strategies for Park management. Plant selection will include species with a range of tolerance to a changing climate.

**Climate Benefit:** Offset the effects of mortality of desirable habitat due to salt water intrusion to ground water and ensure habitat complexity over time.



# 2 Oak Savanna and Grassland Restoration

Oak savanna and grassland habitat occurs in the northern portion of the expanded park. Dominated by coast live oak and valley oak, understory grasses and forbs, this habitat supports small mammal species such as California meadow vole and provides foraging opportunities for protected species such as Northern harrier and white-tailed kite. Actions include restoration to pre-agricultural land cover, vegetation management to reduce invasive species and planting native species to increase habitat diversity.

**Climate Benefit:** Increase absorption of green house gases; increase biodiversity and sustained habitat complexity over time.



White-tailed Kite (Photo: Ingrid Taylor)

# 3 Riparian Forest Restoration

Patterson Slough is a Riparian Forest characterized by perennial surface water. This habitat contains a canopy of arroyo willow, sycamore and coast live oak, with a mix of understory vegetation such as California blackberry, coyote brush and California rose. This area hosts migratory birds such as Nuttall's woodpecker and Cooper's hawk. Actions will include expanding the riparian canopy and restoring wet meadows adjacent to Patterson Slough to pre-agricultural land cover.

**Climate Benefit:** Increase absorption of greenhouse gases and habitat for migratory birds.



Tricolored Blackbirds (Photo: Jerry Ting)

# 4 Seasonal Wetland Restoration and Flood Risk Management

Seasonal wetlands have seasonally ponded or saturated soil conditions, and are dry in the summer and fall. Present in areas throughout the Park, they provide feeding and nesting habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl. Actions include wetland expansion and enhancement, vegetation management to reduce invasive species, planting of native grasses and forbs, and mowing to increase foraging habitat.

**Climate Benefit:** Increase flood storage capacity during severe rainfall events; increased absorption of greenhouse gases and sustained habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl.



Common tules (Photo: Tony Frates)

# Climate Smart Park