

## Courtland Creek Restoration Project in Courtland Creek Park

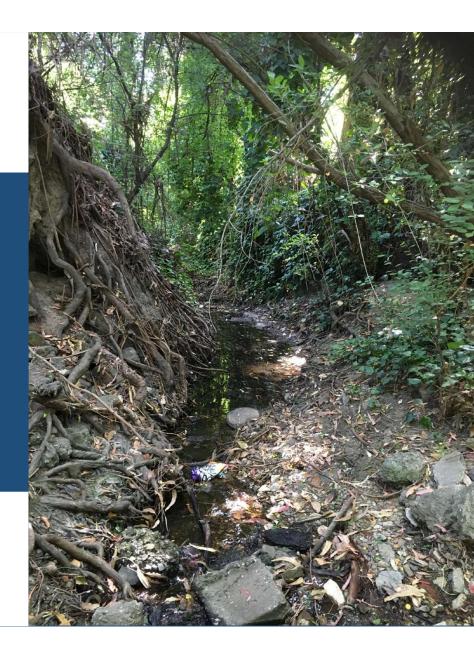
## Community Meeting May 12, 2022











# Welcome

- Thank you for participating!
- Project team introductions
  - City of Oakland Project Manager
  - Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation
  - FlowWest design engineers
  - Circlepoint outreach consultants





# **Meeting Guidelines**

- All perspectives are welcome.
- All will have a chance to participate.
- The focus of today's meeting is the Courtland Creek Restoration Project and how your input has been incorporated into the project design.
- For comments on topics related to other park concerns or issues, we invite you to contact:
  - Mandolin Kadera-Redmond (OPRF)
  - Council Office for District 4 or 5
- Please save questions for designated Q&A periods
  - Feel free to ask questions in the chat at any time during the presentation

# Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Project Overview
- IV. Project Design Update
- V. Design Q&A
- VI. Next Steps
- VII. Final Q&A
- VIII.Help Spread the Word about the Project and the next Public Meeting this Saturday!









# Project Overview

## Park and Project History

- Friends of Courtland Creek Park
- Measure DD
  - Approved by Oakland voters in 2002.
- Adopt a Spot stewards and Friends of Courtland Creek

#### COURTLAND CREEK PARK

Today, a dream comes true. After ten years of long hard work by many people, a five block stretch of land in Central East Oakland is transformed into the Courtland Creek Park.

Over the years, this former site of the Leona Street Car Line, situated one block east of High Street between Brookdale and 45th Avenues, had become an abandioned alley. On two of the five blocks the creek was underground, covered up by driveways; on three blocks, the creek was open to daylight, showing water and trees. Yet, dumping and illegal activity gave the corridor a reputation for being unsafe and unpleasant, an area to avoid, it clearly suffered from years of neglect. Additionally, neighbors of Courtland Creek were concerned as more and more multi-unit apartment buildings cropped up right on the banks of the creek. By 1987, the Brookdale Neightborhood Association contacted the Urban Creeks Scuncell and a dream was born.

A broad coalition of people joined in support of development of a park: the Ciltzens for Oxakand's Open Space, Cilty Councilmember Dick Spees, the City of Oxakand's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Professor Andrew Leiser of the University of California at Davis, Ted Galutgher of Gallagher and Burk, the Friends of Calutation Creek, ROTC students from Fremont High School, and countless other from both far and near. Local and Federal governments contributed financial support through Measure K and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. From idea to realization, the plan involved purchasing sixteen easements of undeveloped land bordering or containing the creek, and developing the land into a linear low-impact park.

In 1989 while acquisition plans were being made, award winning landscape designer Walter Hood convened graduate student classes on the new park site. The students surveyed neighbors, held community meetings and engaged the community in design of the park. Professor Hood recognized that for Courtland Creek Park to serve its purpose, the neighbors had to be involved and have a sense of ownership from the initial stages of the project. The neighborhood children's insatiable desire to play outdoors has remained a constant source of inspiration for Courtland Creek Park. The park includes brightly colored pavement line games and many opportunities for young people to run and jump. A pee wee basketball court and sand box offer play options for others. Ever present safety concerns have been addressed with enhanced lighting, new curbs and gutters, and concrete bollards to prevent vehicles from entering the park. A promenade of granite paving with an alee of flowering plum trees runs the ength of the five block park, recalling memories of the historic trolley line. Luxurious lawn with automatic irrigation replaces barren soil.

Over the years, a small but faithful band of believers regularly met to clean up the creek. In December 1992 a portion of the flowering plum tree alee was planted providing a glimpse of the transformation to come. Park plans were completed in 1995 with construction beginning in June, 1996.

In May 1997 upon the dedication of Courtland Creek Park we realize the fruits of many people's labor. No one person could have accoundlished this alone. There is true magic in the collective effort to make our corner of urban America more livable. In some ways, the work has just begun. With much joy, the community invites you to celebrate this exciting event!

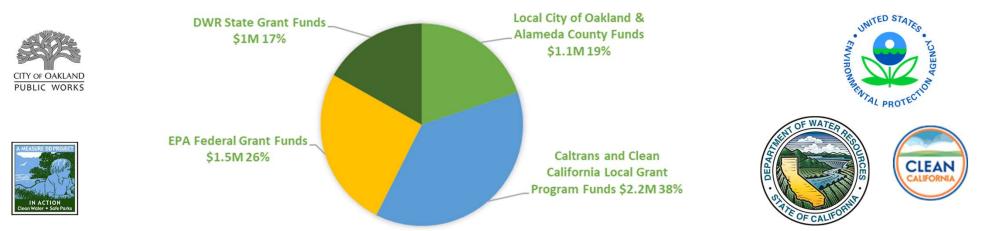
> - Christine Ralls Friends of Courtland Creek





# **Project Funding**

- Measure DD: Oakland Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks Bond
- Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program
- Environmental Protection Agency San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund
- Caltrans Clean California Local Grant Program



# **Project Overview**

The Courtland Creek Restoration Project will:

- Protect, enhance, and restore Courtland Creek in Courtland Creek Park
- Restore approximately 950 feet of open creek channel in the Park
- Provide accessible seating, gathering places, and a creek overlook for increased recreation



# Project Objectives/ Benefits

- Healthier creek for people and wildlife
- Improved water quality and riparian habitat
- Stabilized creek banks
- Improved park and creek appearance, safety, and access
- Enhanced recreation and education opportunities

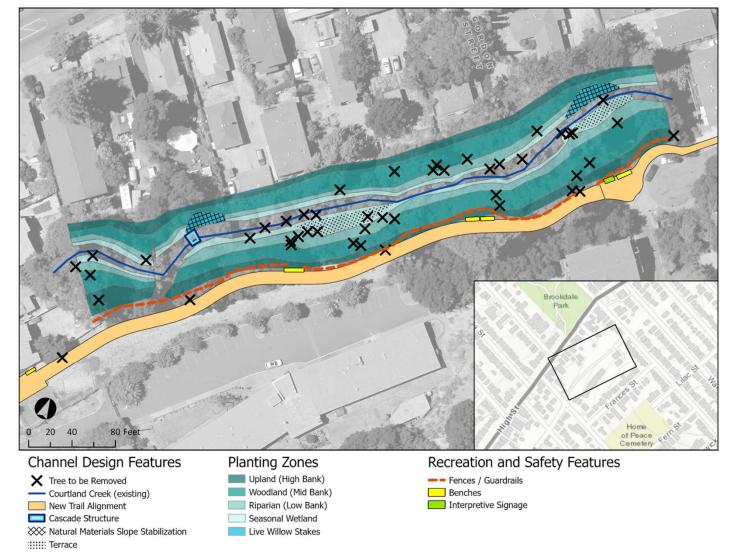




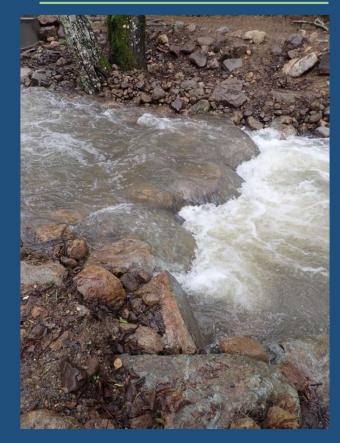
## Key Design Features & Objectives

		Project Objectives				
Design Features	Reach	Improve water quality and riparian habitat	Reduce risk of bank failure	Improve safety and access to the creek for recreation and educational opportunities	Provide neighborhood beautification	
Invasive/non-native species and select tree removal; replanting	All	Х		x	х	
Bank slope stabilization measures	Brookdale	Х	Х	x		
Floodplain terraces	Brookdale, Congress	Х			Х	
Cascade structure	Brookdale	Х	Х		Х	
Trail improvements and realignment	All	Х		X	Х	
Creek Overlook	Congress			X	Х	
Concrete Removal	All	Х			Х	

Brookdale Reach



# Cascade Structure Example





# Brookdale Reach

#### PROJECT AREAS IN COURTLAND CREEK PARK High st. Asth Ave. B Asth Ave. Thompson s

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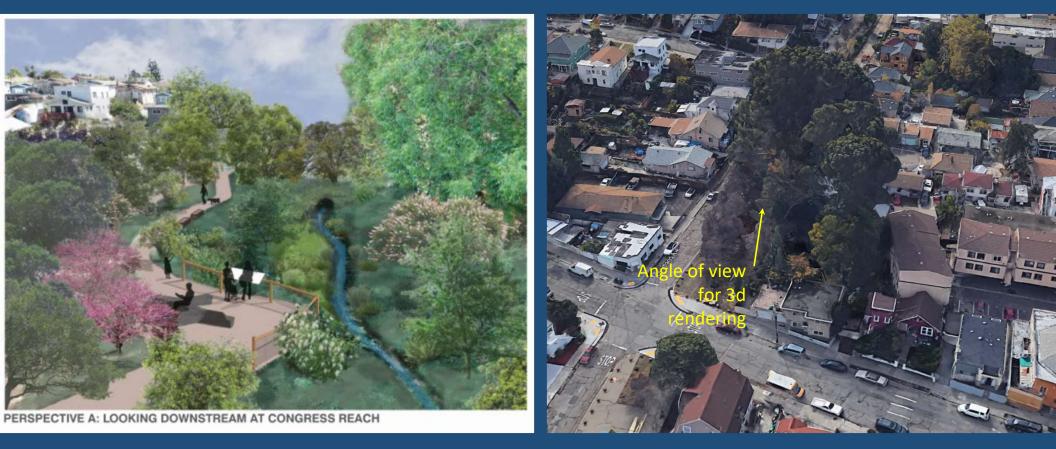
C BROOKDALE REACH

**Congress Reach** 



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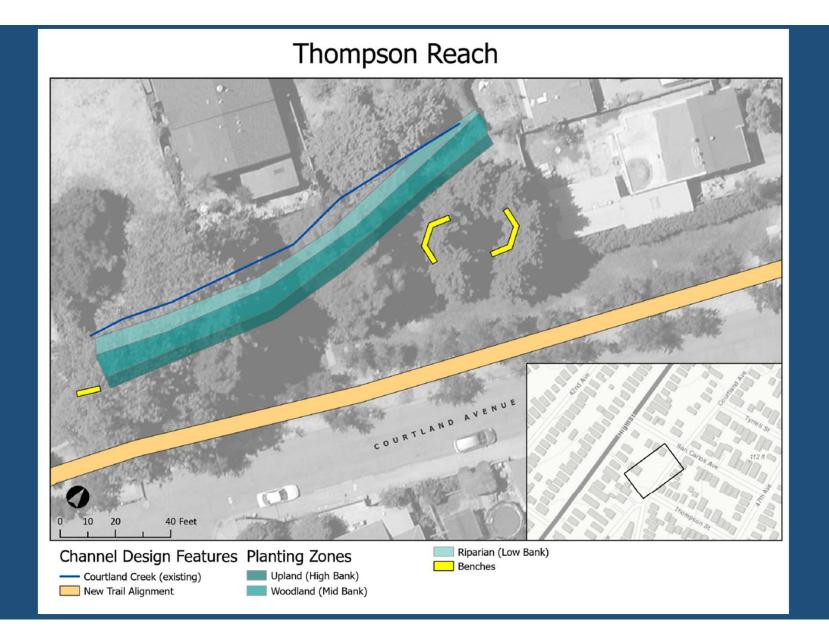
# **Congress Reach Perspective**



# Congress Reach







# Thompson Reach





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### Preliminary Design Comments and Responses (1)

Feature	Summary of Comments	How The Design Incorporates Comments
Congress overlook railing style	<ul> <li>Preference for natural style</li> <li>Ease of cleaning and maintenance</li> </ul>	The current design includes a wooden railing with wire mesh.
Creekside seating style	<ul> <li>Strong preference for natural-style seating</li> <li>Use wood from the removed eucalyptus trees</li> <li>Comfortable seating; incorporate mosaic work</li> <li>Concrete structures in the park have held up well</li> </ul>	Two accessible benches with backs and armrests will be featured in the park (one in the Brookdale reach and one in the Congress reach). Concrete seating at the overlook will incorporate mosaic work. Other benches made from eucalyptus lumber.
Interpretive signage style	<ul> <li>Natural-looking signage, with an emphasis on a material that is easy to clean</li> </ul>	Signs will be made of durable material, such as Image- LOC aluminum or other durable materials. Image-LOC has a good track record for being graffiti-proof and vandal-resistant. The fabricator will apply an anti-graffiti coating to the finished signs to make it easier to remove graffiti.
Trail style	<ul> <li>Excitement about the trail and lighting improvements the Project would create - prevent crime and vandalism.</li> <li>Trail surface - all-weather appropriate and bicycle access</li> </ul>	The trail material will likely be surfaced with Granitecrete, which is ADA compliant. Granitecrete surfacing material is all-weather and suitable for bicycle traffic, yet has a more natural appearance than asphalt. Lighting may be added to existing light poles throughout the park.

### Preliminary Design Comments and Responses (2)

Feature	Summary of Comments	How The Design Incorporates Comments
Railing in Brookdale Reach to discourage dumping	<ul> <li>Community expressed desire for materials that were robust and discourage vandalism.</li> </ul>	Concrete split rail fencing is more durable than wood, easy to maintain, and will make it more difficult to push large objects into Creek.
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	Will this be incorporated?	<ul> <li>Natural surveillance- Trails, overlooks and open spaces are clearly visible from adjacent streets and/or overlooked by housing.</li> <li>Trails have more than one exit/entrance to avoid entrapment. Seating areas are close to pathways. Pathways prioritize a border of low-lying vegetation</li> <li>Territorial reinforcement –Clearly defined and upgraded trails and improved amenities. Fencing delineates which areas are and are not to be occupied and minimizes opportunities for dumping.</li> <li>Maintenance and management- This was considered throughout the design stage. Material and finish selection focus on durability and vandal resistance to minimize maintenance. Plant material and location is selected for its size at maturity to avoid blocking of sight lines. City is prepared to take on long term maintenance.</li> </ul>



# What is most important to you about the creek restoration?

a. Health of the creek

- b. Improved Park appearance
- c. Improved recreation and education
- d. Improved community involvement

# What are you most interested in being a part of during the Courtland Creek restoration project?

- a. Helping to plant creekside plants and trees
- b. Helping with creek clean ups
- c. Helping to review content for educational signs

# Once the restoration project is completed, what will you likely use the park for most?

- a. Walk in the park
- b. Relax by the creek
- c. Lead student groups in the park

# What activities would you like to be able to do in Courtland Creek Park in the future?

- a. Fun runs
- b. Restorative gardening
- c. Neighborhood meet-ups
- d. Other please write in chat

#### Example closure of creek/park area sign

### **CLOSURE OF CREEK AREA** JUNE-NOVEMBER, 2003

#### FOR

#### PERALTA CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

This project will enhance habitat and vegetation, stabilize creek banks to prevent erosion, and improve water quality and safety in the creek area.

#### This project includes:

Removal of failing concrete structures in the creek

Removal of a section of culvert

Removal of non-native trees and vegetation Regrading and revegetation of creek banks with native plants New footbridge and new footpath to creek

The entire creek area will be closed for construction from June through November 2003, No access to the park will be everable from 37th or 38th Avenues. Access to the park will remain available from tradibility between

#### Sponsated by:

City of Oakland, Public Works Agency County of Altmede, Public Works Agency Department of Water Resources Urban Creeks Council For more information in English: (510) 238-6600 Unity Council For more information in Spanishe (510) 535-6919



#### PROYECTO DE RESTAURACION DEL ARROYO PERALTA

En este proyecto deceamos cumentar la vejetación y la vida silvestre, estabilizar la orille del arroyo y prevenir erosion, mejorer le celidae del agua y la seguridad en el area del arroyo

#### El proyecto incuye:

Remover estructuras de concreta cefectruasas en el arraya Remover una perte de la estructura del camino donde fluye el egua del erroyo Remover arboles y vejetacion no notivas

Hacer las orillas del arroyo menos empinadas y replantarlas con plantas rativas Un nuevo puente para pectones y una nueva vereda al arrovo

unce e unca autoya estare certeca par la caudir sciau consulta da Juvie y termineuce en Naviembre 2003. Na habita esteva al parque par las Avenides 37 y 38. El servica al purque par Evath - tival Continuera sienda a mismo.

#### Patroc reduces Ciudas de Oaklanc, Agencia de Tracajados Publicos

Condete de Names : Agent de Intergrous Futileos Deja cranata de secura Ade Agua Urban Greeks Counci Ur N Council

Para informacion en Ingel: (510) 238-6600 Para informacion en Español: (510) 535-6919







### Eucalyptus/ Non-native Removal



### **Concrete Demolition**



## Earthmoving/Grading



## Trails/Finish Work



## Planting



# Next Steps

#### **Project Timeline**



# Help Activate Courtland Creek Park!

- ★ Join the Friends of Courtland Creek to help address illegal dumping in the park and other park concerns or issues.
  - Contact Mandolin Kadera-Redmond (OPRF) at <u>friendsofcourtlandcreek@gmail.com</u>
  - Attend the Friends meeting on May 19th, 2022 on Zoom
  - Participate in Park cleanups and community events
  - Park beautification: painting and planting days
  - Help to provide opportunities for nature-focused recreation and education
- For park infrastructure improvements:
  - Contact Council District 4 Office at district4@oaklandca.gov
  - Contact Council District 5 Office at district5@oaklandca.gov



# Additional Questions or Comments?

- ★ Complete survey available at: <u>bit.ly/courtlandcreek</u>
- ★ Email additional input to watersheds@oaklandca.gov by May 31 2022
- ★ Attend the in-person Public Meeting

Saturday, May 14th 10:30 am to 12:00 pm Brookdale Park playfield 2535 High St, Oakland



# For Additional Information

Meeting summary will be posted to Project website along with Project updates

For more information: Call: (510) 238-6191 Email: watersheds@oaklandca.gov Visit: <u>bit.ly/courtlandcreek</u>





**Figure 1.** Example of a concrete split rail fence, like the one proposed for the Brookdale Reach