



North Richmond Watershed Connections: a Model for Integrating Multi-Benefit, Nature-based Solutions through Public–Nonprofit Partnerships

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NORTH RICHMOND WATERSHED CONNECTIONS

Project location and Partners:

- Contra Costa County PWD Watershed Program + Transportation Engineering Division
- The Watershed Project
- Urban Tilth



North Richmond and Vicinity

Need for the Project

- North Richmond(NR) faces many environmental, economic, and social challenges and is one of most DAC in the SF Bay Area.
- Built on historic wetland, plagued by poor infrastructure, frequently inundated by floods until 1980s.
- Many streets lack sidewalks—Fred Jackson Way, a main street, lined with trash-strewn drainage ditches.
- Stormwater flows untreated into San Pablo and Wildcat creeks.
- Proximity to West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill and high trash disposal fees encourages illegal dumping.
- Few street trees as result of haphazard 1940s era residential development patterns, red-lining.



Visioning and Grant Writing

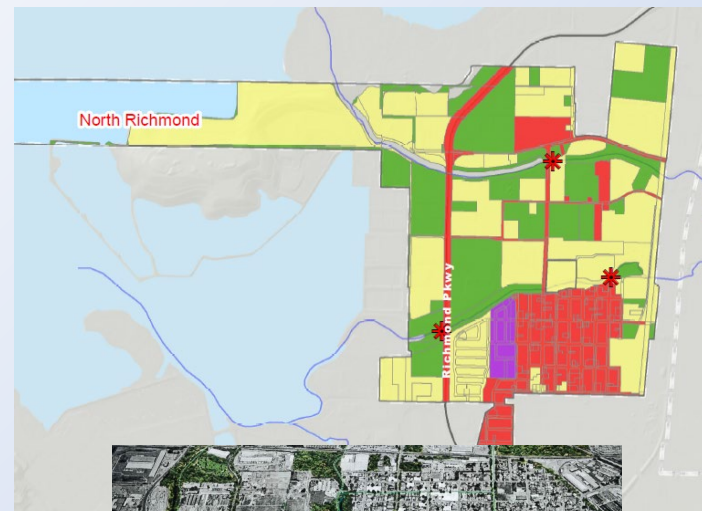
Community engagement strategy - John Steere

Participatory Planning and Outreach Foundations for the Project

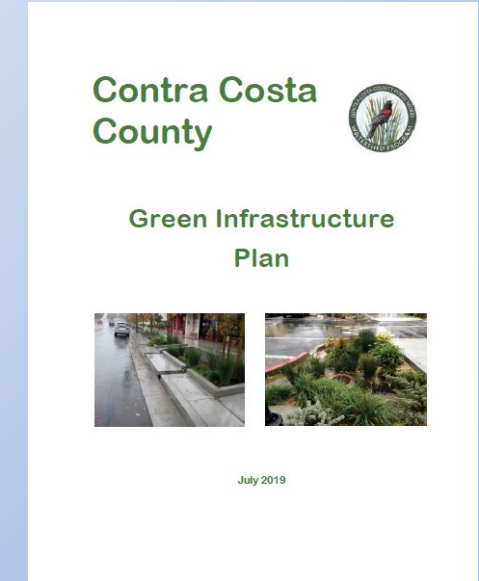
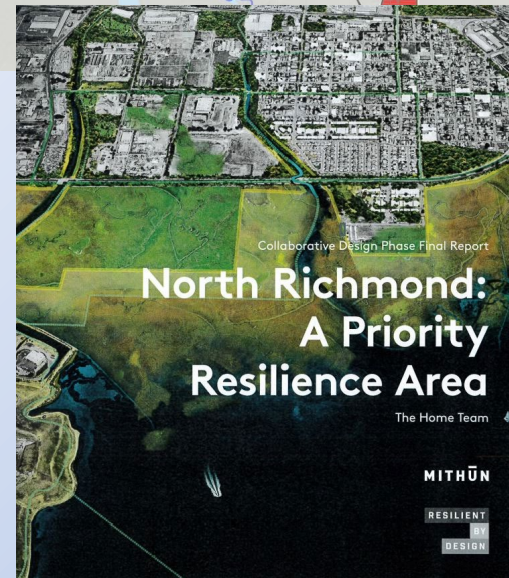
Built on public engagement and linking it with other planning initiatives:

- *Contra Costa Co. (CCC) Trash Plan (2014)*
- *Resilient by Design (2018)*
- *North Richmond Shoreline Visioning Plan (2017)*
- *CCC Climate Action Plan (2020)*
- *CCC Green Infrastructure Plan (2019) - technical advisory group included many County departments/divisions and NGO's*

Project Components identified in the NR Urban **Greening and Resiliency Plan Framework** identified by 36 community, NGO, and agency stakeholders (2016)



NR was trash challenged community)



North Richmond (NR) Community Visioning and Planning: Climate Resiliency



Related projects focused on the North Richmond Shoreline :

- North Richmond Shoreline Visioning
- Resilient by Design

And looked look upstream:

- NR Water Needs Assessment (TWP)
- General Plan Revision/CAP
- Urban Greening Master Plan



North Richmond Watershed Connections

Project Benefits

Knits together multi-benefit green infrastructure, urban greening and place-making features in a disadvantaged community

Benefits include:

- Improved water quality/health of San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks
- Expanded urban forest
- Reduced heat islands
- Enhanced pride of place/sense of place
- Increased community awareness and access to local natural resources with 1.75-mile long “Walkable Watersheds” urban trail



Community Framework for Project

Built on existing community-based cleaning and greening initiatives *in North Richmond (NR)*

- 1) Three community gardens and two native habitat gardens
- 2) The NR “Green Team” afterschool watershed curriculum and Creek cleanups
- 3) TWP’s “Explore your Watershed” pollution prevention curriculum at Verde School
- 4) The “NR community-based outreach and cleaning program” TWP’s “Adopt-a-



North Richmond Watershed Connections: a partnership project of the Contra Costa County Watershed Program and Transportation Engineering, the Watershed Project, and Urban Tilth

NORTH RICHMOND WATERSHED CONNECTIONS (NRWC)

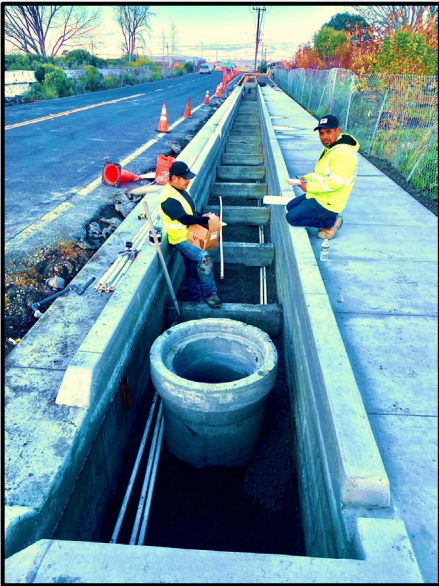


Project Implementation, Activation and O&M Partnerships

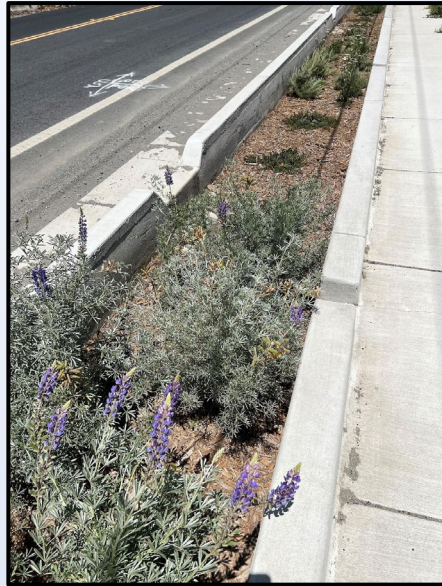
Municipal/Notforprofit organization-CBO

Juliana Gonzalez

North Richmond Watershed Connections Complete Streets and Frontage Bioswale



Under Construction
(December 2022)



Completed
(April 2023)

***1. Fred Jackson Way Rain
Gardens (Urban Tilth)***



Before



Completed
(April 2024)

***2. First Mile/Last Mile trees
"green street" (CCC PWD)***

NORTH RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD URBAN GREENING PLAN



Prepared by
The Watershed Project
in Partnership with the Contra Costa County Watershed Program for the
North Richmond Watershed Connections Project
funded by the Coastal Conservancy

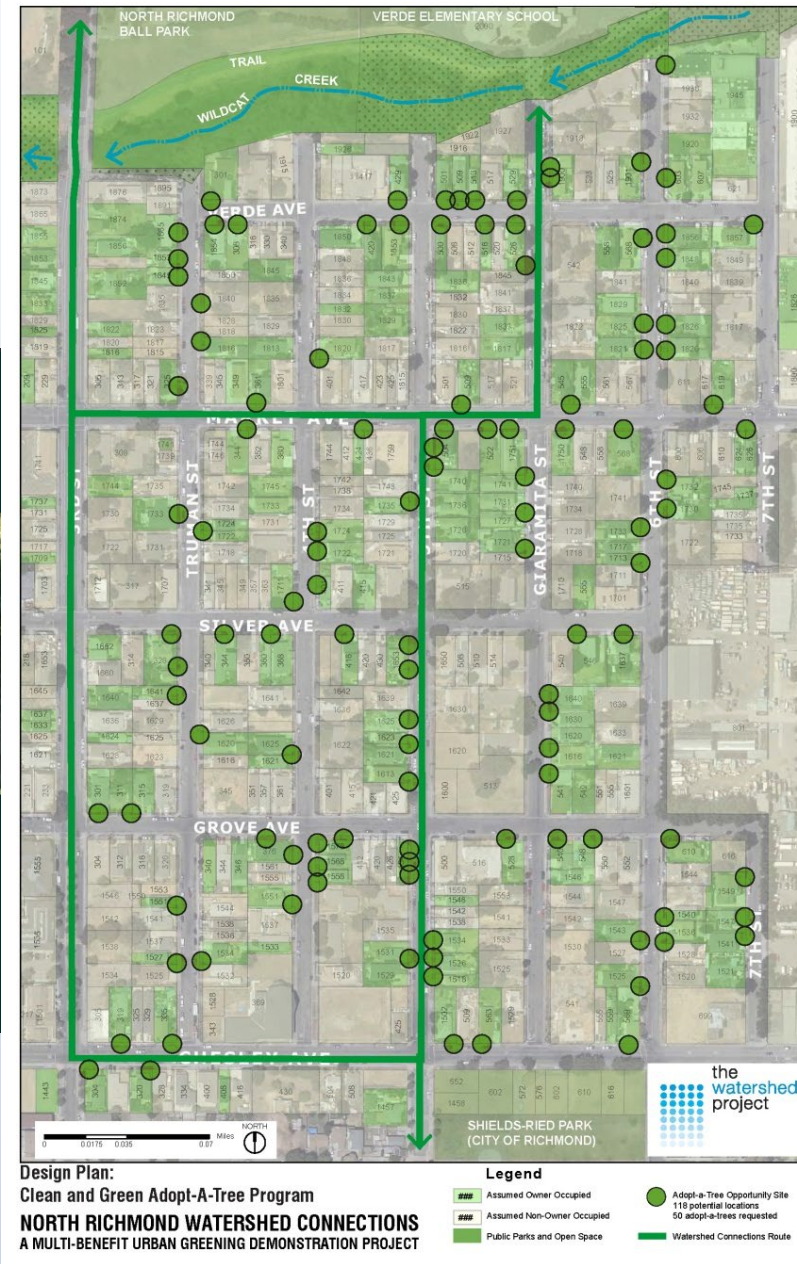
August 23, 2023



SECTION 4 CURRENT CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN FOREST



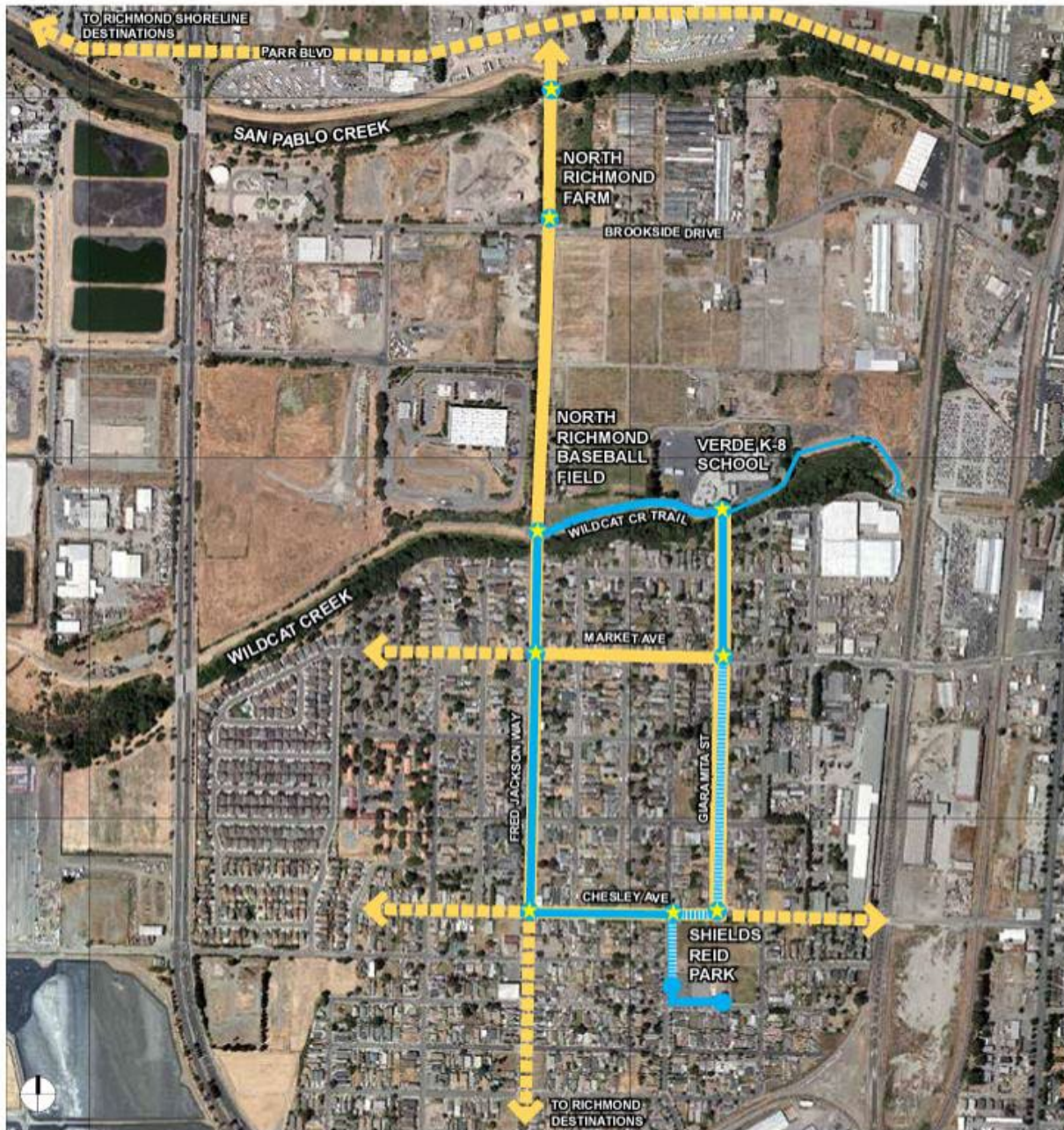
SECTION 5 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



3. North Richmond Urban Greening Plan and Adopt a Tree Plantings



Adopt a Tree planting & training for Workforce Development



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The North Richmond Watershed Connections (NRWC) project helps link residents with green spaces and community resources for greater health and wellness.



URBAN GREENING

The Adopt-A-Tree Program aims to protect and expand the urban forest for multiple benefits using the 3-30-300 rule as a guide:

- 3 trees in sight of each residence
- 30% tree canopy cover goal
- Green spaces within 300 meters or a ten minute walk (about 1/2 mile)



WATERSHED AWARENESS

Signage indicates the watershed residents are in and wayfinding to community destinations. 🌟



PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS

The Project includes a loop trail and wayfinding on the sidewalk for pedestrians. Interpretive features highlight cultural stories, natural history, and a vision for the future in North Richmond.

- Safe Routes to School
- Urban Nature Loop trail



BICYCLE CONNECTIONS

The Project integrates local bicycle routes:

- Existing bike routes
- Planned bike routes



4. North Richmond Watershed Connections Bicycle Pedestrian signage and the Urban Nature Loop



Walkable Watersheds Route



PROPOSED INSTALLATION

Replace existing "Wildcat Creek" sign with the proposed Watershed Connections Sign adjacent to the creek crossing.



SIGN GRAPHIC



Walkable Watersheds Route

Multiple blocks on the Safe Routes to Schools

10 Illustrated stickers of plants and animals
of Wildcat Creek Watershed

With their Chochenyo names when available.



Watersheds- Urban Nature Loop

Tribal Connections

- Video Interviews with our Tribal Partners from the
- Confederated Villages of Lisjan.



Native Oaks and Their Ecosystem

Start Tour

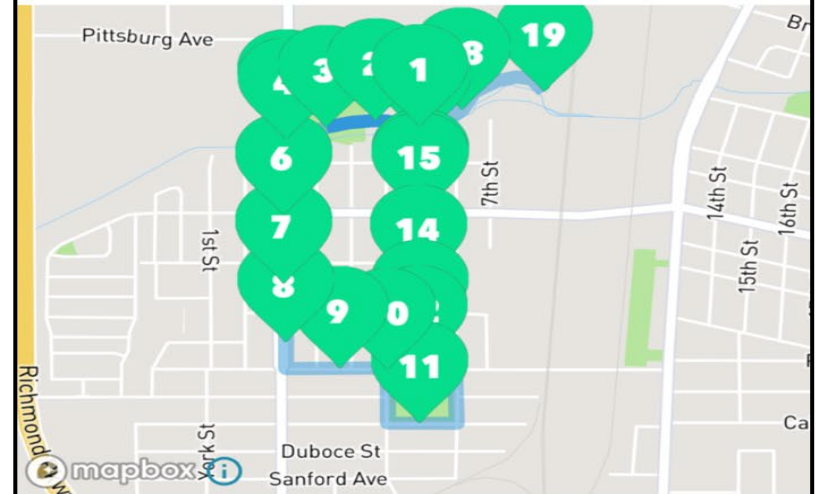
▶ Play Video



In the vacant lot across from you is a small stand of Coastal Live Oaks (scientific name: *Quercus agrifolia*) as well as a large Willow tree (scientific name: *Salix glauca* L.). These

← North Richmond Urban Natur... Start Tour

Free Roam Overview



Places You'll See

(Tap place to see more information)



1. Verde Elementary School M...

Welcome to the very first point on this map!
You are standing in front of the Verde K-8 Sch...



2. Wildcat Creek

Did you know that you are part of a watershed?
A watershed is an area of land where all the w...



3. Plants and Animals of Wildc...

WWILD

Wildcat Watershed Innovation Leadership & Development (WWILD)

23 Community Members paid to learn and work together to improve the Watershed

- 1 year of monthly workshops
- 1 year of stewardship and leadership action projects
- Creek and neighborhood cleanups and litter prevention
- Citizen science data collection
- Tree care and gardening
- Public education about watershed awareness and restoration





Reflections and questions ...