

CODORNICES CREEK MASTER PLAN

BERKELEY / ALBANY, CALIFORNIA

This aerial image captures the preliminary grading of the restored creek channel prior to completing the bridge, plaza, and revegetation. The creek, once confined to a straight concrete box channel, now meanders across 120-feet of new floodplain.



Codornices Creek is one of the East Bay's most significant biological water resources. It makes its way from the Berkeley Hills to San Francisco Bay through residential, industrial, and park property. Its lower reaches flow through open channels and culverts, under streets, rail lines, and a freeway, yet still maintain a population of anadromous fish. For the last ten years the lower reaches of Codornices Creek have been the subject of intensive restoration planning efforts, which finally culminated in the Codornices Creek Master Plan.

RDG played a unique role in the conception, development, and implementation of this large-scale urban habitat restoration. Our staff envisioned the potential greenway opportunities when the creek was hidden in a concrete culvert covered by blackberries, facilitated a complex planning and design process that included seemingly insurmountable conflicting public and private interests and assisted in the procurement

of over \$4 million dollars in grant funds for watershed analysis, planning, construction, and monitoring. Today Codornices Creek is a model of grassroots community effort successfully working to enhance urban infrastructure by creating significant open space for habitat and recreation. Codornices Creek exemplifies RDG's commitment to creating a legacy of ecologically rich parks and open spaces throughout the urban landscape.

The master plan addresses the lower reach of Codornices Creek (approximately three-quarters of a mile) extending from San Pablo Avenue to the San Francisco Bay. Implementation of the creek restoration and site amenities from the Union Pacific Railroad to 5th Street (Phase 1) was completed in 2004. The replacement of the 5th Street culvert with a pedestrian bridge and additional channel restoration to 6th Street (Phase 2) was completed in 2007. Construction on the next phase is scheduled to begin in 2009.