

01 Agricultural landscape uses in the upper watershed

03 Accessible trails at the mouth of Pinole Creek

02 Existing flood control channel through town

04 Public outreach for the vision planning process



## PINOLE CREEK GREENWAY

### PINOLE, CALIFORNIA

#### Watershed Vision Plan

Draining a 15 square mile area of Western Contra Costa County, Pinole Creek traverses public open space, ranch and agricultural lands, schools and parks, residential areas, and the City of Pinole's historic downtown, before reaching San Pablo Bay.

Restoration Design Group brought the community to the table through a two-year planning process and developed a Vision Plan for the watershed. The Pinole Creek Watershed stakeholders found common ground through RDG's open public process that recognized the diversity of community and agency interests. Final Vision Plan objectives included heightening awareness of the creek, developing environmental outreach in local schools, improving multi-use trails, restoring an existing flood control channel, and improving water quality.

The success of the Vision Plan has led agencies to embrace further planning work for lower Pinole Creek. The Plan has given rise to the Pinole Creek Greenway Master Plan and Demonstration Project that looks to restore the lower reaches of Pinole Creek from a traditional flood control channel to an ecologically diverse creek and public access greenway.

#### Greenway Master Plan

The Pinole Creek Greenway Master Plan prescribes a coherent multi-objective restoration effort for two miles of Pinole Creek. This creek was channelized by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1965. The diverse characteristics of this section of Pinole Creek affords the Restoration Design Group an opportunity to restore ecological integrity to the creek as it transforms through oak woodland, the historic downtown, suburban neighborhoods and tidal estuary.

Of primary concern to many stakeholders and community members was improving flood protection from the existing 13 year protection. The Greenway Master Plan increases flood protection throughout the project; all while improving salmonid habitat, public access and hydraulic connection to the tidal wetlands.

In addition, RDG lead the grant application process for the California River Parkways Grant Program in an effort to fund the first phase of this project; commonly referred to as the Pinole Creek Demonstration Project. The \$2.65 million awarded to this project was the largest California River Parkway Grant Program award in 2006.