

A stylized landscape illustration featuring a winding river in shades of light blue and white, set against a dark green background. The river flows from the left towards the right, curving slightly. The top of the image shows dark green, rounded shapes representing hills or mountains.

Celebrate & Conserve



**FRIENDS OF THE
PETALUMA RIVER**

Mission and Goals

To celebrate the Petaluma Watershed through education and stewardship; because every great River needs a true Friend.

Goals:

- 1. To nurture long term, sustainable stewardship in the Petaluma Watershed*
- 2. To protect the Petaluma River and its wetlands from harm*
- 3. To foster a River Heritage Center as a community resource on the Petaluma Watershed*
- 4. To promote access to the Petaluma River and Marsh for all to experience the beauty of this place for themselves*



Steamer Landing Park



- *An open space park in the heart of downtown Petaluma*
- *A place for River connection*
- *A hub for programming*
- *A place for gathering and celebration*

Friends' Programs & Activities

- Nature Connection programs for youth- Green Heron Nature Camp; Friends' Flickers; Nature Immersion Camps; Watershed Classroom
- River Cleanups, environmental stewardship and education
- Free River Access – Boating at the Barn
- Celebration of the Petaluma River through community, joy, food, music, and sense of place



Petaluma River Greenway

- Protecting our floodplain
- Building climate resilience
- Preserving biodiversity





Petaluma River Parkway Parcel Map



Multi-use Trails

- Existing
- - - Proposed

Parcels in the Project Area

Acquisition Strategy

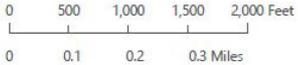
- Essential Acquisition (11 parcels, 136 acres)
- Essential Use Agreement or Lot Split (3 parcels)
- Important, Not Essential (3 parcels, 21 acres)

Other Parcels

- Sonoma Water (5 parcels, 8 acres)
- Developed (18 parcels, 33 acres)
- Planned Development (1 parcel, 4 acres)

City Limits

Parcels are labeled with index numbers that correspond to records in the accompanying spreadsheet.



PETALUMA RIVER GREENWAY CONCEPT MAP



The River's Legacy

The upper reach of the Petaluma River from Larch Creek Trail to Corona Road is **one of the last remaining unprotected open space within the City of Petaluma.** This open space is connected to several public recreation facilities and commercial centers, is important to the City's resilience to climate change, and is an area of outstanding beauty and biological richness. A greenway here would make Petaluma even more of a destination city for outdoor activities accessible to all, and leave a legacy for generations to enjoy.

FRIENDS OF THE PETALUMA RIVER

- Trailhead - Petaluma River Trail
- Potential Park Site
- Accessible Multi-Use Bridge
- Existing Wetland Mitigation Site
- Existing Petaluma River Trail
- Potential Petaluma River Trail
- Existing Multi-Use Path
- Planned Multi-Use Path
- Annual Grassland
- Riparian Woodland & Oak Savannah Restoration Potential
- Existing Riparian Woodland

0 0.1 0.2 Miles

0 250 500 750 1000 Feet

MAP PERSPECTIVE

Map produced by Tom Robinson Consulting for Friends of the Petaluma River using ArcGIS software, April 2022

Top Conservation Values

Top Conservation Values

Quality of Life for Residents

- **16,000 people** live within ¼-mile from an off-street bike path that leads to the Greenway.
- Forms visible “gateway” to Petaluma for **108,000 drivers** daily.

Public Access and Education

- Complete the planned Petaluma River Trail
- Fulfill a **planned park** along Lynch Creek Trail
- Increase fishing and watercraft **put-in/take-out** options

Top Conservation Values

Climate Change Resilience for People

- Cooling effect where Extreme Heat Days are **expected to double**
- Avoid flood risks from **expected 3.5' of Sea Level Rise**

Climate Change Resilience for Nature

- Ensure lower and upper river habitat connectivity through town for dozens of aquatic and terrestrial animal **27 species recorded** (since 2016)

Climate Change Mitigation

- Avoided GHG soil carbon emissions: equivalent to removing **336 cars for 1 year**
- Sequestration through riparian forest restoration: equivalent to removing **509 cars for 1 year**

Top Conservation Values

Protection from Stormwater Flooding

- Let nature absorb flood waters and storm energy
- **35%** of the Greenway area is within the 100-year floodplain
- **47%** is within the 500-year floodplain

Water Quality Protection

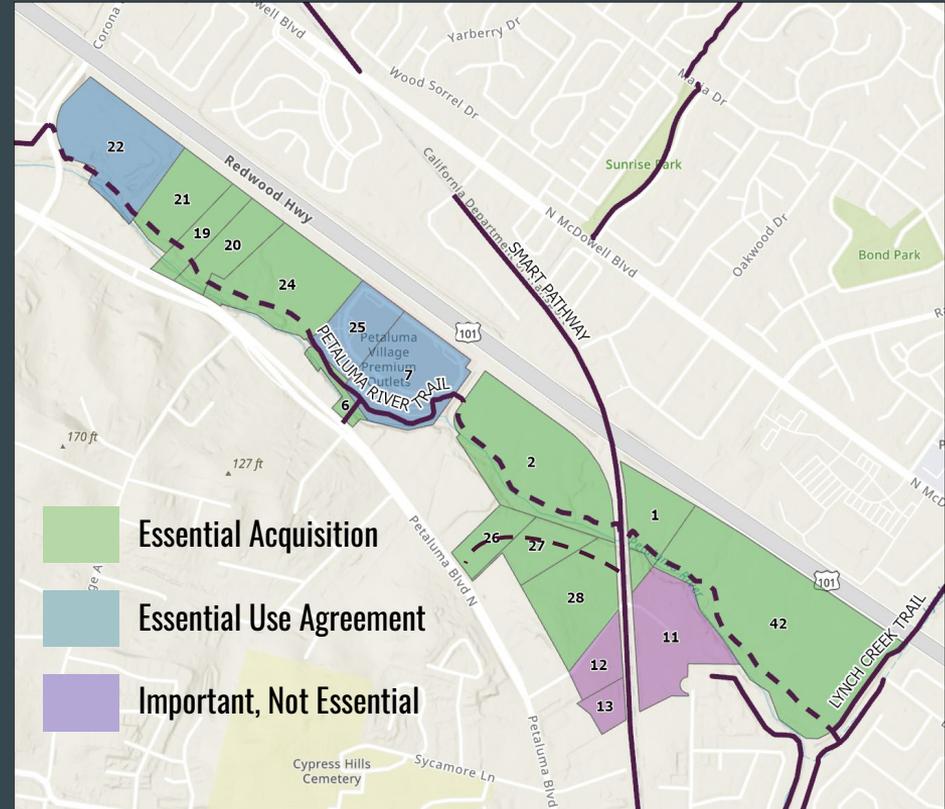
- **100%** of the Greenway area is within a State-designated “hydrogeologically vulnerable area”
- Greenway’s natural area already provides retention **174 kg/year of nitrogen**

Top Opportunities and Constraints

Top Opportunities and Constraints

Acquisition Opportunities

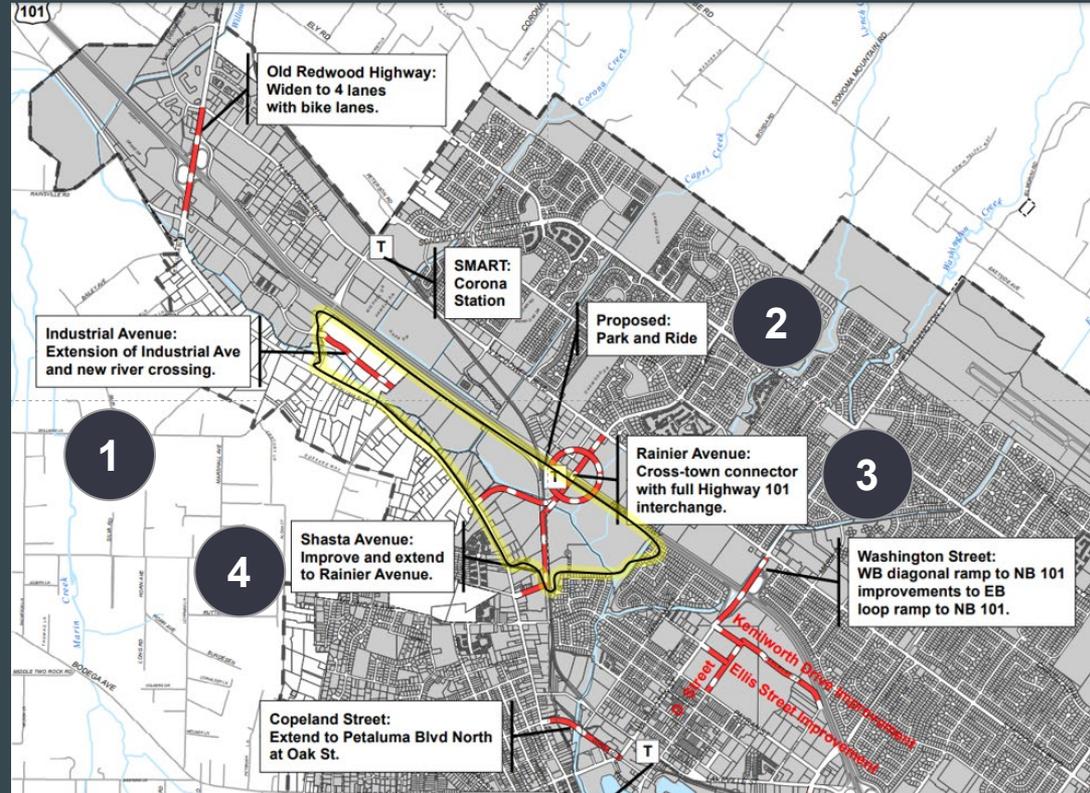
- Although 45 parcels in the project area...
- 7 owners → 17 priority parcels
- 5 owners → 13 “essential” parcels



Top Opportunities and Constraints

Zoning and Development Plans

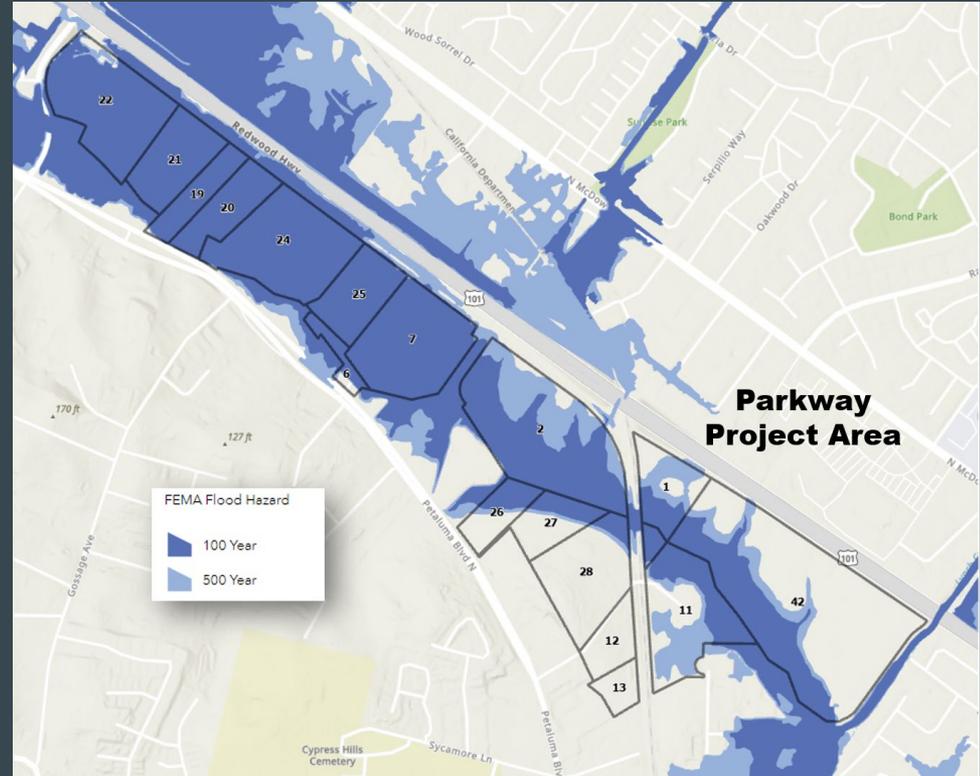
- All parcels zoned for development
 - 7 parcels → R5 Medium Density Residential (8-18 units/acre)
 - 5 parcels → C2 Community Commercial (shopping)
 - 4 parcels → BP Business Park (office parks)
- 4 significant transportation improvements are planned



Top Opportunities and Constraints

Hazards

- Flooding
 - 5 out of 17 parcels are 100% within flood zone
 - **12 of 17 parcels** are at least 50% within flood zone
- Earthquake/Liquefaction
 - Shaking hazard class **Severe Shaking**
 - Liquefaction hazard **Moderate to Very High**



Immediate Funding Opportunities

Top Funding Opportunities

State & Local Funding

- State Coastal Conservancy
- Wildlife Conservation Board Sustainable Groundwater Management Program
- Sonoma County Open Space Matching Grant
- Urban Greening & Urban Flood Protection
- Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation
- 30x30 Initiative – “Pathways” plan finalized in April 2022.
 - Climate resilience
 - Equitable Access
 - Habitat
 - \$382M in Governor’s 22/23 budget



Partners

Partners

City of Petaluma

"How do we ensure the River acts as the lifeblood of the community?" Peggy Flynn, City Manager

"Everything we're talking about today is in line with what we've been hearing, what we're driving toward."
--Heather Hines, Lead City Planning

Sonoma Water

Zone 2A Flood Protection - \$40k for parcel study

Sonoma Land Trust

Providing guidance and planning support
Lead project partner for acquisition

Local Leaders

Mayor Kevin McDonnell
Councilmembers
Supervisor Rabbitt
Senator McGuire
Congressman Huffman

Community Organizations and Agencies

Cool Cities Petaluma
Petaluma River Park
Sonoma Resource Conservation District
Sonoma County Open Space & Agricultural
Preservation District
Sonoma County Regional Parks

Desired Next Steps

Next Steps

Community Visioning

- Planning and process for engaging community
- Equitable access
- Engaging partners – local tribes, community groups

Landowner Outreach and Pre-Acquisition

- Provide funds for property negotiations including appraisals and phase I and II studies

Planning Phase

- Conduct analysis of current ecology including habitat conditions and potentials
- Conduct detailed hydrologic study to determine water sources and flood risks

Expand Existing River Access and Enhancement Plan as it Applies to the Upper River

- Analysis of the potential to restore habitat, retain water, reduce flood risks, mitigate climate change and provide a new hiking/biking route to the north end of Petaluma. Add the historical ecology information.
- Develop preliminary designs for trails and restoration projects