A photograph of a grassy field with a yellow flower in the foreground and people in the background. The field is filled with tall green grasses. In the foreground, a single bright yellow flower with multiple petals is in focus. In the background, several people are visible, some standing and some sitting, in a grassy area with trees in the distance. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

ALBANY NATURAL AREAS OVERVIEW 2023-24

Margot Cunningham, Natural Areas Coordinator

AGENDA

- Albany Hill
 - Update on Eucalyptus Project
 - Overview of Vegetation Management on the Hill
 - Urban Tilth work
 - Habitat Restoration Intern Program
 - Eagle Scout Project
- Cerrito Creek
- Codornices Creek



ALBANY HILL



- <http://www.albanyca.org/albany-hill>

ALBANY HILL EUCALYPTUS PROJECT

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN

- **Goals:**

- Phased removal of dead and dying eucalyptus trees on city property on Albany Hill and
- Restoration of habitat for monarchs and native plants and wildlife in a way that creates self-sustaining ecosystems with low fire hazards and minimal maintenance requirements

- **Team:**

- City Staff (Public Works, Fire, Community Development)
- Consultants (RDG, Nomad Ecology, Creekside Science)

ALBANY HILL EUCALYPTUS PROJECT

FOREST MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN

- City Council Study Session
- Community Education Session
- Site Walk
- Community Design Workshops



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBANY HILL

- Goals:
 - Fire prevention
 - Ecosystem health
 - Access/safety

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBANY HILL - CURRENT

2012 Creekside Albany Hill Master Plan

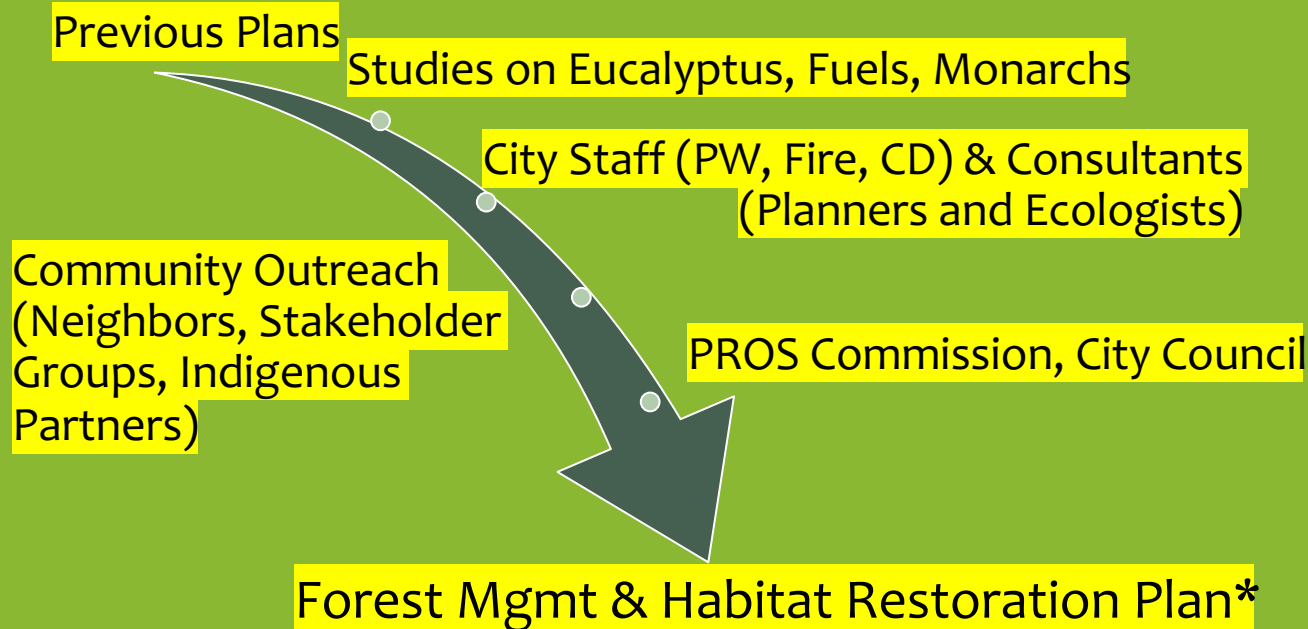
2022 Albany Parks Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

Consultation with Fire Dept

Consultation with monarch, bird, native plant biologists/experts

Current Work

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ON ALBANY HILL - FUTURE



*with adaptive mgmt, continued consultation w/ Fire, ecological experts

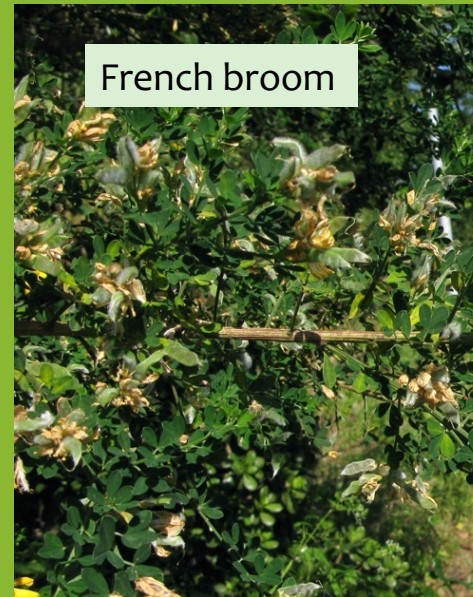


HABITATS ON ALBANY HILL



INVASIVE PLANTS

- Definition: California Invasive Plant Council defines invasive plants as plants that are *not native* to an environment, and once introduced, they *establish, quickly reproduce and spread*, and *cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health*.



URBAN TILTH

- Extension of 3-year contract
- Work year-round on Albany Hill, Cerrito Crk, Middle Crk, Codornices Crk



INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL



- Between Taft & Jackson
- E side Albany Hill

RETAINING WALL



- Along Taft
- Lumber milled from eucalyptus

EROSION CONTROL & PLANTING

- Slope above Jackson St
- Oak woodland



TRAIL REPAIR



- Fixing erosion
- Shoring up trails

INDIGENOUS PARTNERS



- Sharing knowledge
- Seed collection
- Trail re-route



FIRE REDUCTION WORK



- Frequent mowings from spring to fall
- Reduce weedy annuals, cut down dry grasses
- Create more space for natives to thrive
- Clear branches from fire roads

HABITAT RESTORATION INTERN PROGRAM

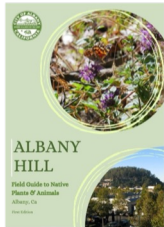
- Weeding invasive plants
- Mapping plants
- Educational materials
- Survey of park users
- Growing and planting native plants



DIGITAL FIELD GUIDE

ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT NATURE ON
ALBANY HILL?

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY, CULTURAL
SIGNIFICANCE, AND PLANTS AND ANIMALS
OF ALBANY HILL IN THE



ALBANY HILL FIELD GUIDE TO NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

SCAN THIS CODE TO ACCESS
THE GUIDE



<https://www.albanyca.org/home/showdocument?id=54879>

Albany Hill Field Guide

HERBACEOUS PLANTS

Sample Page

CALIFORNIA GOLDENROD *Solidago velutina ssp californica*

A perennial herb from the Asteraceae family, with clustered, bright yellow flowers in the late summer and fall. You can find this herb throughout California, particularly in open grassy spaces. At Albany Hill, you can find them at the crest of Albany Hill in forest openings. To see exact locations of this plant observed at Albany Hill, click on the picture to the right to be directed to the CalFlora site.

Identification tips: the stems and leaves of the California goldenrod are slightly hairy, with the leaves pointing vertically up the singular stems.



CALIFORNIA MUGWORT *Artemisia douglasiana*

A perennial herb from the Asteraceae family, known for its aroma and healing properties—it is often used as a remedy for poison oak. It thrives in moist, riparian environments throughout the state. At Albany Hill, you often see this shrub on the east side of the hill, especially along Cerrito Creek. To see exact locations of this plant observed at Albany Hill, click on the picture to the right to be directed to the CalFlora site.

Identification tips: California mugwort has a distinct herbal smell and narrow, sometimes "toothed" leaves that are smooth and green with light and "wooly" undersides. Flowers range from white to yellow and can occur from late spring to fall.



COYOTE MINT *Monardella villosa*

A perennial herb from the Lamiaceae family has a pleasant minty smell and produces beautiful, round, purple flowers which support many native California pollinators. It can grow 2-5 feet tall and is found in various environments—woodlands, chaparral, shrublands. At Albany Hill, you can find coyote mint in the native plant garden at the crest entrance off of Tah St. To see exact locations of this plant observed at Albany Hill, click on the picture to the right to be directed to the CalFlora site.

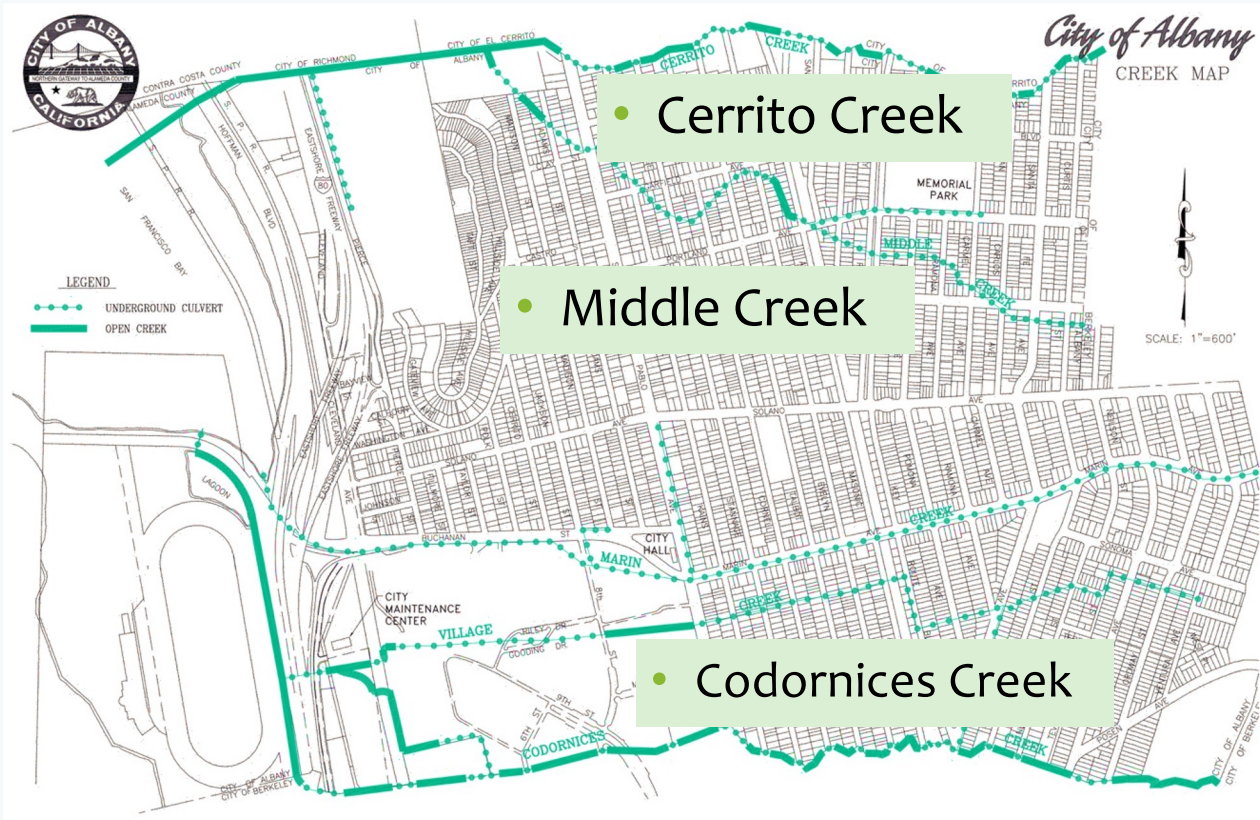
Identification tips: This herb has fuzzy, greyish-green leaves, a minty scent, and in late summer, purple "puff-ball" flowers.



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



Railings on oak
woodland trail





CERRITO CREEK

VEGETATION MAINTENANCE



- Invasive plant removal
- Planting and watering



CODORNICES CREEK



- <http://www.albanyca.org/codornices-creek>

VEGETATION MAINTENANCE



- Erosion control
- Invasive plant removal
- Planting
- Pruning

2023 MOU MAINTENANCE TASKS & BUDGET

Activity	Issue/Scope	Lead Agency	MOU Reference	Est. Cost
Task 1 – Public Space Refresh	General refresh of public gathering spaces (2-3 locations) along Multiuse Plath. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rake areas to remove cigarette butts, leaves and other debris. Refresh decomposed granite as needed. Repair or replace public seating logs Remove graffiti 	Albany/Berkeley	Sec 4c & 5c	TBD
Task 2 – Trail Maintenance (Paved)	The paved trail runs from 8 th Street to 5 th Street. Issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species push up through the path (included Veg Management T4). Remove graffiti from paved trail. AC Deterioration <p>Solution Pending</p>	Albany/Berkeley	Sec 4c & 5c	None
Task 3 – Trail Maintenance (Unpaved)	The unpaved trail runs from 6 th Street to the pedestrian bridge at the soccer field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trail erodes during significant rain events <p>Solution Pending</p>	Albany/Berkeley	Sec 4c & 5c	None
Task 4 – Vegetation Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand removal of invasive vegetation along the creek banks between 8th Street and the railroad tracks. This scope is intended to only include work that does not require a permit from the regulators- no work in creek channel. Mow approx. between 1'-2' beyond the paved limits of the trail. 	Albany	Sec. 4d & 5d	\$25,000
Task 5 – Pedestrian Bridget Maintenance	Stabilize peeling paint and remove graffiti.	Berkeley	Sec. 4d & 5d	\$2,500
Task 6 – Rain Garden Refresh	Remove and replace plantings and biotreatment soil. <p>Solution Pending</p>	Berkeley	Sec. 4d & 5d	TBD
Task 7 – Public Outreach	Signs, posters, mailers & magnet	Berkeley		\$5,000
		Projected Budget:		\$32,500

2023 MOU MAINTENANCE BUDGET

Creek Account Balance (as of June 30, 2023): \$311,109.18							
Task	Agency	FY 2016-17	FY2018-19	FY2019-20	FY2020-21	FY2021-22	FY2022-23*
Creek Monitoring	Albany	25,000	18,307	8,966	13,141	-	-
Signage	Berkeley	-	-	3,601	-	-	-
Vegetation Management	Albany	7,425	-	19,870	17,445	9,024	24,500
	Totals	32,425	18,307	32,437	26,697	9,024	24,500



*Pending audit



QUESTIONS