

Michele Salmon

Priority Conservation Area Types: Definition, Objectives, Datasets and Benefits

Natural Lands (NL) Areas critical to the functioning of wildlife and plant habitats, aquatic ecosystems and the region's water supply and quality.

Natural Lands Objective 1 – Protect a full representation of the Bay Area's habitats in robust amounts to ensure long-term resilience of the region's biodiversity.

Quarry Road originally cut across native grasslands on the flanks of San Bruno Mountain, home to several endangered and endemic species. Removing invasives and restoring vegetation with plants native to SBM helps protect the overall habitat and educational signage helps the public to understand the importance of maintaining biodiversity. Dr. E. O. Wilson (1929 – 2021), Harvard Professor Emeritus and foremost biodiversity biologist in the world, considered San Bruno Mountain one of biodiversity hotspots in the world worthy of saving.

Natural Lands Objective 2 – Enhance watersheds including priority stream corridors, wetlands, and groundwater recharge areas.

There is a great deal of water run-off from the mountain. It channels through this area creating streams, seasonal wetlands and recharges groundwater. Managing the water flow will help slow run-off. Replacing old asphalt with permeable pavement will enhance groundwater recharge and reduce storm-water run-off to SF Bay.

Natural Lands Objective 3 – Maintain and enhance wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity.

Quarry Road is a direct pathway to the greater mountain without going through a neighborhood and leads right to Buckeye and Owl Canyons with enough cover for animals to feel safe. It is already a wildlife corridor and is a vital connector to the wildland habitat.

Recreation (R) Existing and potential parks, trails, and other publicly accessible recreation facilities that support community wellbeing.

Quarry Road is ideal for this. It is current used by dogwalkers, runners, hikers, and some bicycles. It begins one block from the Community Park in Brisbane next to Senior Housing and the Community Garden. The road has a slight incline and is shady in some areas. It connects with access to the public intermediate school and offers a safer route to school for bicycles both from central Brisbane and from the Northeast Ridge development.

Recreation Objective 1 - Complete and enhance access to the Regional Trails Network.

Quarry Road connects with trails leading up to the top of the San Bruno Mountain on both ridgelines, as well as trail leading into Buckeye and Owls Canyons. It also connects with the Crocker Trail (aka Guadalupe Trail) that runs all the way around Crocker Industrial Park.

Recreation Objective 2 - Create new and enhance existing local parks, particularly in areas with limited access to outdoor recreation.

Instead of a heavily-used crumbling old asphalt road closed to all vehicles, Quarry Road will become a parkway with educational interpretive signage, native plantings, along with resting benches as well as permeable pavement and structural support of the hillside and roadway. It will remain closed to vehicular traffic except emergency vehicles.

Recreation Objective 3 - Prioritize recreation areas within 1/2 mile radius of Equity Priority Communities

Quarry Road project area is accessible via public transportation and is walking distance from three Sam Trans bus stops, plus the commuter shuttle. The project site is situated between three identified EPC communities – in South San Francisco, Daly City and San Francisco and is accessible to all three by Sam Trans public transportation.

Climate Adaptation (CA) Areas that will accommodate habitat range shifts and will buffer climate impacts to enhance ecosystem and community resilience.

Climate Adaptation Objective 1 – Enhance and prepare areas that provide habitat migration opportunities, particularly for marsh and other shoreline systems when sea levels rise, and extreme precipitation events become more frequent.

Quarry Road has served as a buffer between residential Brisbane and Crocker Industrial Park for decades as well as corridor for all kinds of wildlife. Working to enhance the native habitat and managing the water flow for seasonal wetland and groundwater recharging will further help provide habitat, manage extreme precipitation events including recharging groundwater instead of just funneling run-off. This is a vital function already and could be so much better managed.

Climate Adaptation Objective 2 - Manage very high fire risk to reduce the intensity and spread potential for future wildfires.

Quarry Road, while closed to vehicle traffic from San Francisco St (central Brisbane) to Army Road (gravel access road leading up to the ridgeline), it is a vital access route that can and has been used by emergency vehicles. It provides an additional escape route for evacuation of Crocker Industrial Park in the event of wildfire or flooding.

Climate Adaptation Objective 3 - Enhance areas that provide cooling experiences in areas experiencing extreme heat.

The shade along the project portion of Quarry Road is perfect on a hot day. There are several mature trees and more will be planted to grow as these age.

Urban Greening (UG) Existing and potential green spaces in cities that improve community health, capture carbon emissions, address stormwater, and enhance the public realm.

The Project portion of Quarry Road is already an example of urban greening. In 1960, this road was an asphalt strip with heavy quarry truck traffic across the grasslands grazing lands of SBM. Once this portion was closed to Quarry trucks, the landscape slowly changed. We want to continue this transformation more thoughtfully to create better habitat, address stormwater runoff, and make it even more user-friendly.

Urban Greening Objective 1 – Expand tree cover in urban areas with limited shade and vegetation. o Dataset: Tree Canopy (NLCD, 2021)

We will be adding more trees, particularly natives, along the project area to replace aging trees and add to our overall urban canopy. Adding to the tree canopy is already a Brisbane initiative.

Urban Greening Objective 2 – Expand green stormwater infrastructure projects particularly in areas with low surface permeability or other stormwater management issues in urban areas. o Dataset: Impervious Surface (NLCD, 2021)

This is critical and integral to the project. Having permeable pavement is only a part of managing storm water runoff. Creating holding ponds for wildlife can slow down the water flow and recharge groundwater while providing valuable habitat for frogs, marsh plants, and drinking water for animals and birds. This wider area still hosts the largest Chorus Frog population in the greater Bay Area.

Urban Greening Objective 3 – Enhance urban creeks to provide improved ecological, recreational, and resilience functions. o Dataset: Stream Conservation Targets (CLN 2.0)

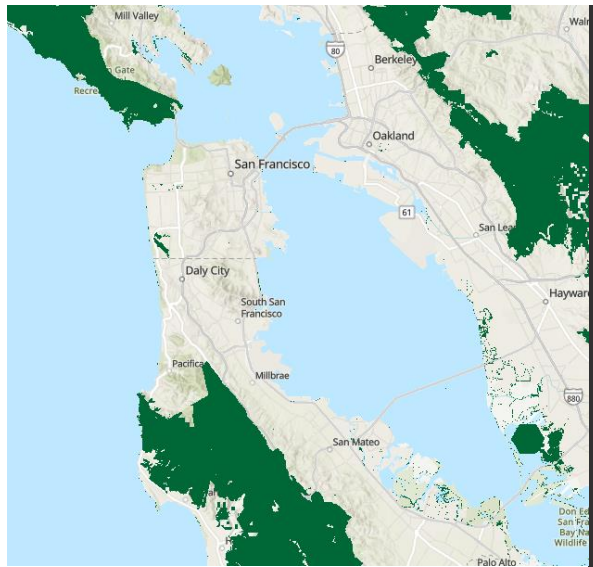
This is an area with many little creeks and seeps that need enhancement. Not only will that contribute to urban greening, but enhancements will provide habitat opportunities and groundwater recharging.

Urban Greening Objective 4 – Prioritize urban greening areas within 1/2-mile radius of Equity Priority Communities and/or areas with high pollution burden.

Quarry Road project area is accessible via public transportation and is walking distance from two Sam Trans bus stops. The project site is situated between three EPC communities – South San Francisco, Daly City and San Francisco and is accessible to all three by Sam Trans public transportation. There is also a high pollution burden nearby with the Brisbane Baylands and this would be a respite for those folks seeking nature.



 Equity Priority Communities



Draft Priority Conservation Area Map

9. Briefly describe the how the project serves a greater than-local need. Indicators of regional significance include a project’s consistency with and contribution to existing regional habitat, agricultural or open space plans (such as the Conservation Lands Network), Estuary Blueprint, countywide plans, Plan Bay Area, MTC Active Transportation Plan and other bicycle/ pedestrian plans. Protection, restoration, or enhancement of regional wildlife corridors, including upland shoreline migration areas, are also a priority. Projects that address and overcome common challenges—and share lessons learned to help others—can also be an indicator of regional significance. (Suggested length: 200 words)

The project area, Quarry Road from San Francisco St (central Brisbane) to Army Road (gravel access road leading up to the ridgeline), Brisbane, CA skirts along a small part of San Bruno Mountain. This may seem like a “locals” project at first glance, but look again.

San Bruno Mountain is the last remaining intact fragment of the Franciscan habitat that once covered the entire area. It is an island completely surrounded by urban development and yet still has incredible wild spaces, fully functioning native habitat, and endemic species that live nowhere else on the planet. It was home to the Ohlone and many still rest there. It is a sacred mountain.

Dr. E. O. Wilson (1929 – 2021), Harvard Professor Emeritus and foremost biodiversity biologist in the world, considered San Bruno Mountain one of biodiversity hotspots in the world worthy of saving. It is home to three federally-listed endangered butterflies, one of which lives nowhere else on earth – only here.

You can see San Bruno Mountain from many vantage points around the bay and from the its top, you can see from the Farallones to Mt. Diablo and from Tamalpais to Mount Hamilton. It is surrounded by San Francisco, Daly City, Colma, South San Francisco and Brisbane.

People from all of the surrounding communities come to hike on the mountain, but not all visitors enter through the SMCO/CA State Park entrance on Guadalupe Parkway which is primarily accessed by car. However, Quarry Road is a primary conduit to the trails on the eastern side of the mountain and is withing walking distance of three Sam Trans bus stops – Bayshore and Old County Rd, Bayshore and Valley Drive, and Bayshore and Guadalupe Parkway. Quarry Road is the main access point to Buckeye and Owl Canyons and trails leading up to the ridgeline of the mountain and the *only conduit easily accessible by public transportation*.

People come from all over the Bay Area and the SF Peninsula to visit San Bruno Mountain – to hike, to run, to study, to view, to help preserve the habitat through volunteering, and just to breath.

Looking at the Draft Priority Conservation Area Map Viewer, the SF Peninsula north of SFO, and in particular, San Bruno Mountain, looks neglected.

It is time to show some love for San Bruno Mountain – the peoples' mountain.

Dr. E.O. Wilson (1929-2021), renowned American evolutionary biologist, entomologist (ant specialist), and naturalist, often called the "father of biodiversity, Harvard Professor Emeritus, and foremost biodiversity biologist in the world said this:

"The Bay Area is incalculably fortunate to have a unique oasis of biodiversity at San Bruno Mountain. However, as is the case with so many other global treasures, this great fortune is not being handled with adequate care."

"San Bruno Mountain's ecosystems are severely jeopardized by development and its associated problems, principally the invasion of non-native species."

"More development, as is currently proposed, will further fragment what is home to hundreds of plant and animal species, including several that live nowhere else."

"It is imperative that all the open space that remains on San Bruno Mountain be saved. We can leave our descendants a sorely degraded environment and an example of abuse and exploitation, or we can leave a rich legacy of respectful stewardship-it is our choice. I urge all Californians to take a stand in favor of conserving San Bruno Mountain."

Erin Becker

The Project portion of Quarry Road is already an example of urban greening. In 1960, this road was an asphalt strip with heavy quarry truck traffic across the grasslands grazing lands of San Bruno Mountain. Once this portion was closed to Quarry trucks, the landscape slowly changed. We want to continue this transformation more thoughtfully to create better habitat, address stormwater runoff, and make it even more user-friendly. Quarry Road originally cut across native grasslands on the flanks of San Bruno Mountain, home to several endangered and endemic species. Removing invasives and restoring vegetation with plants native to San Bruno Mountain helps protect the overall habitat and educational signage helps the public to understand the importance of maintaining biodiversity. Quarry Road is the main access point to Buckeye and Owl Canyons and trails leading up to the ridgeline of the mountain. Instead of a heavily-used crumbling old asphalt road closed to all vehicles, Quarry Road will become a parkway with educational interpretive signage, native plantings, along with resting benches as well as permeable pavement and structural support of the hillside and roadway. It will remain closed to vehicular traffic except emergency vehicles. Working to enhance the native habitat and managing the water flow for seasonal wetland and groundwater recharging will further help provide habitat, manage extreme precipitation events including recharging groundwater instead of just funneling run-off. Quarry Road currently used by dogwalkers, runners, hikers, and some bicycles. Quarry Road connects with trails leading up to the top of the San Bruno Mountain on both ridgelines, as well as trail leading into Buckeye and Owls Canyons. It also connects with the Crocker Trail (aka Guadalupe Trail) that runs all the way around Crocker Industrial Park. Quarry Road project area is accessible via public transportation and is walking distance from three Sam Trans bus stops, plus the commuter shuttle. The project site is situated between three identified EPC communities – in South San Francisco, Daly City and San Francisco and is accessible to all three by Sam Trans public transportation.