Parks Division

Growing a Diverse, Equitable, and Resilient Urban Forest

Parks Make Life Better!

CITY OF BERKELEY

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Senior Forestry Supervisor

- Board Certified Master Arborist
- Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
- Registered Consulting Arborist
- 28 years at City of Berkeley
- 30+ years as arborist
- Graduate- Municipal Foresters Institute 2017

Ian Kesterson-

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Tree Planting Supervisor

- Board Certified Master Arborist
- Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
- 12 years at City of Berkeley
- 22 years experience as arborist
- Graduate- Municipal Foresters Institute 2022

Principles to Growing a Resilient and Equitable Urban Forest

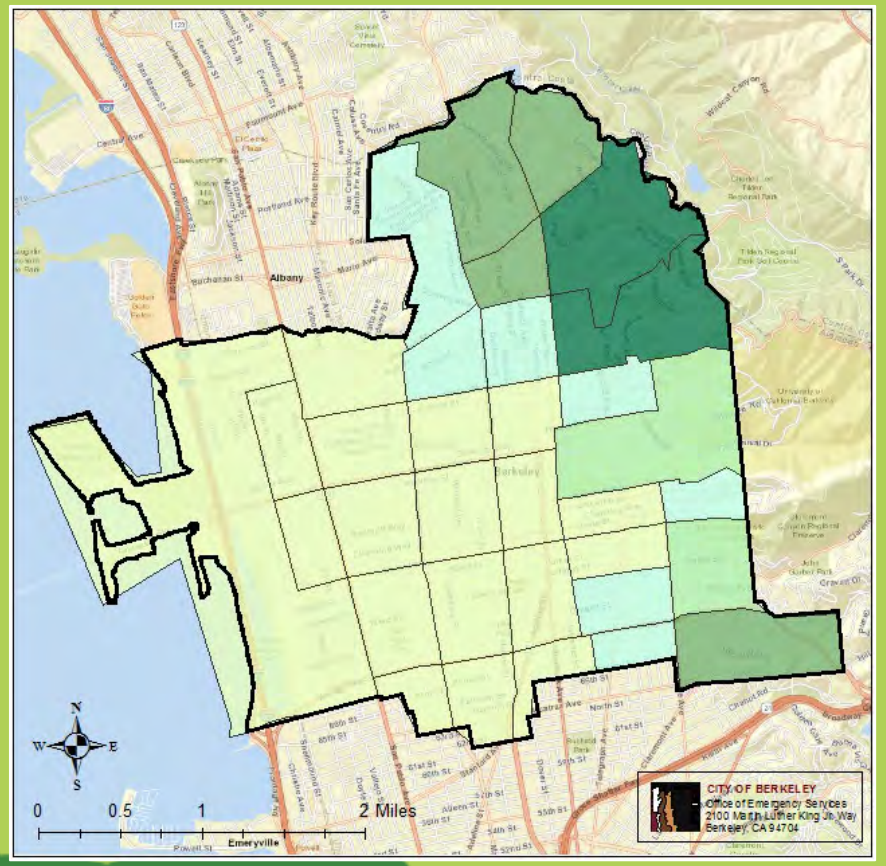
If we had nature, we wouldn’t need to plant nature.

We’re taking a new step forward in adding wild and green spaces to the urban environment.

The Urban Forest is a complicated urban/ecosystem

Berkeley Tree Canopy Coverage

The first step in choosing where to plant a tree is to identify areas with fewer trees



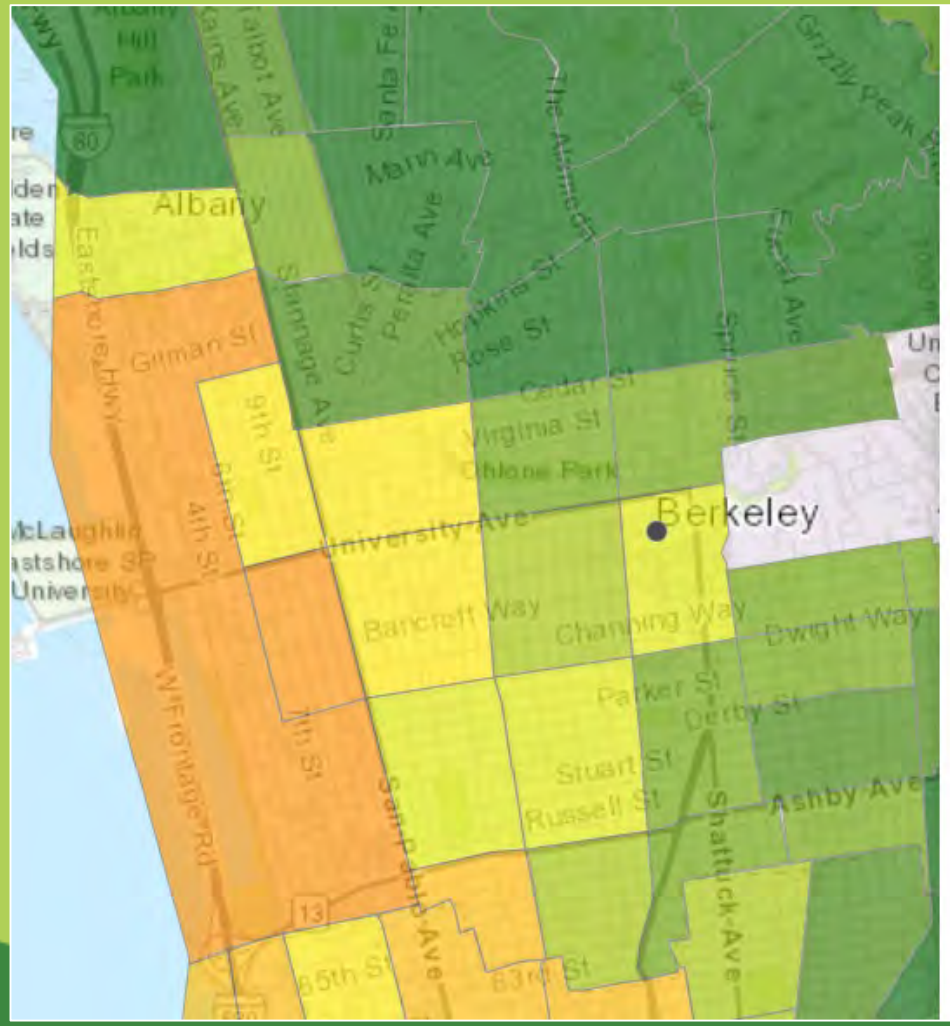
City of Berkeley

Tree Coverage

- 41% to 50%
- 31% to 40%
- 21% to 30%
- 11% to 20%
- Less than 10%

Environmental Impact in Berkeley

Then identify the areas with poorer environmental quality



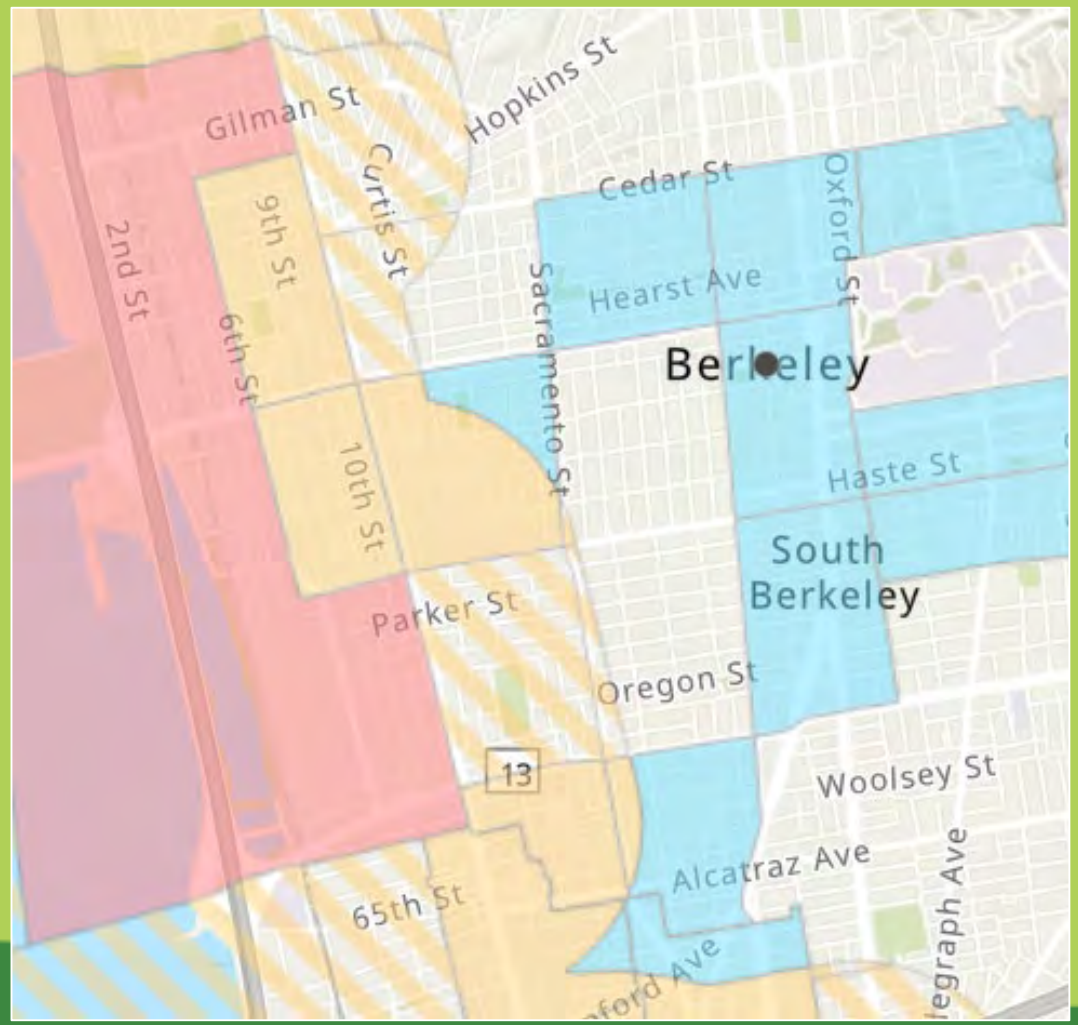
CalEnviroScreen 3.0 Results (June 2018 Update)

- 91 - 100% (Highest Scores)
- 81 - 90%
- 71 - 80%
- 61 - 70%
- 51 - 60%
- 41 - 50%
- 31 - 40%
- 21 - 30%
- 11 - 20%
- 1 - 10% (Lowest Scores)

High Pollution, Low Population

Environmental Impact and Income Levels

Further dial in areas of need with income levels



Legend

Priority Populations 2020

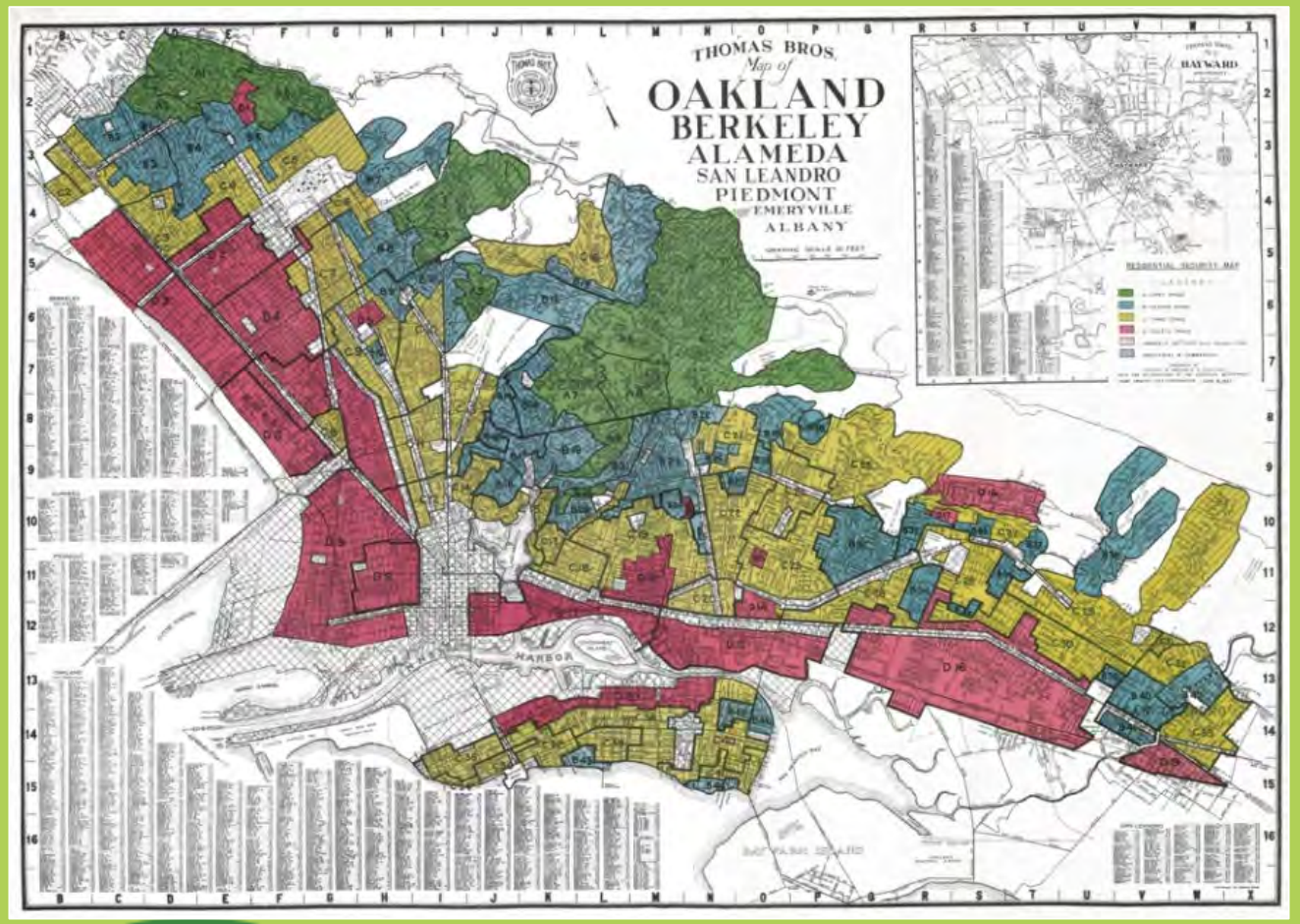
Priority_Populations_CES3_2021

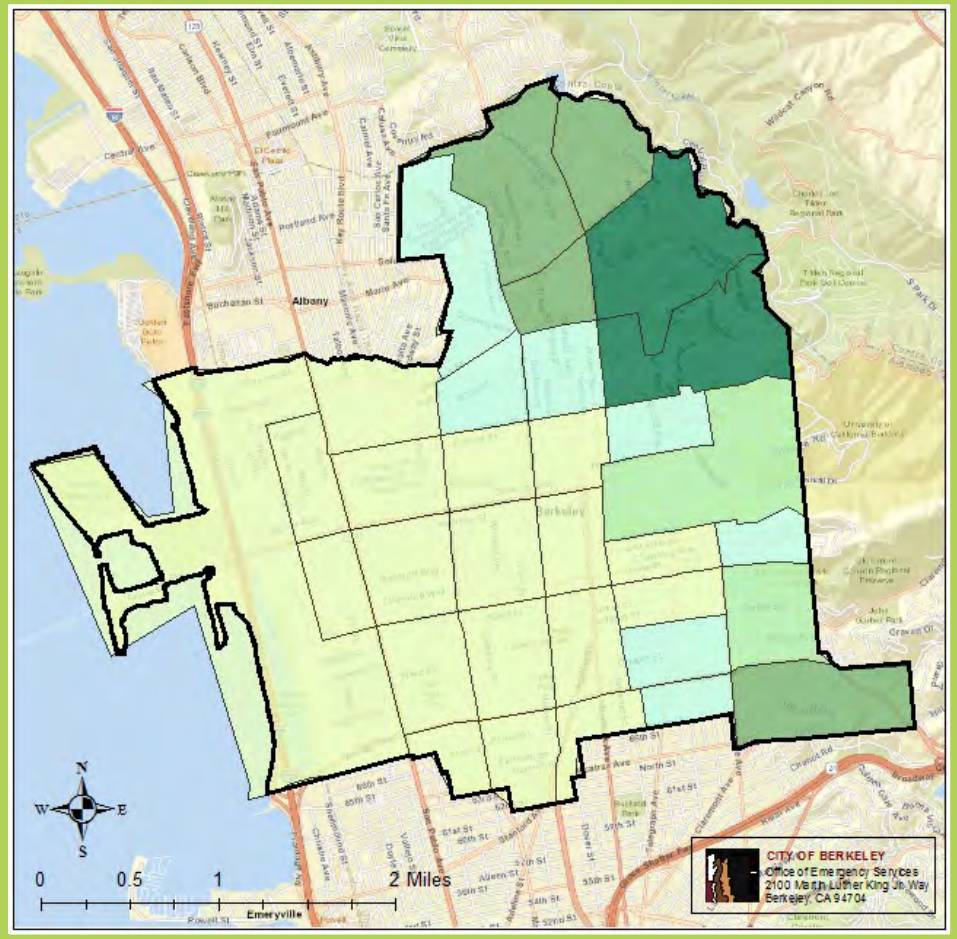
- Disadvantaged Community
- Disadvantaged and Low-income Community
- Low-income Community
- Low-income Community within 1/2 mile of Disadvantaged Community
- Potential Low-income Households within 1/2 mile of Disadvantaged Community

* Low-income households statewide are also considered a priority population for the purposes of California Climate Investments

Recognize Redlining Areas

The urban forest canopy cover matches these zones





Urban Street Tree Inventory

Identifying our open planting locations

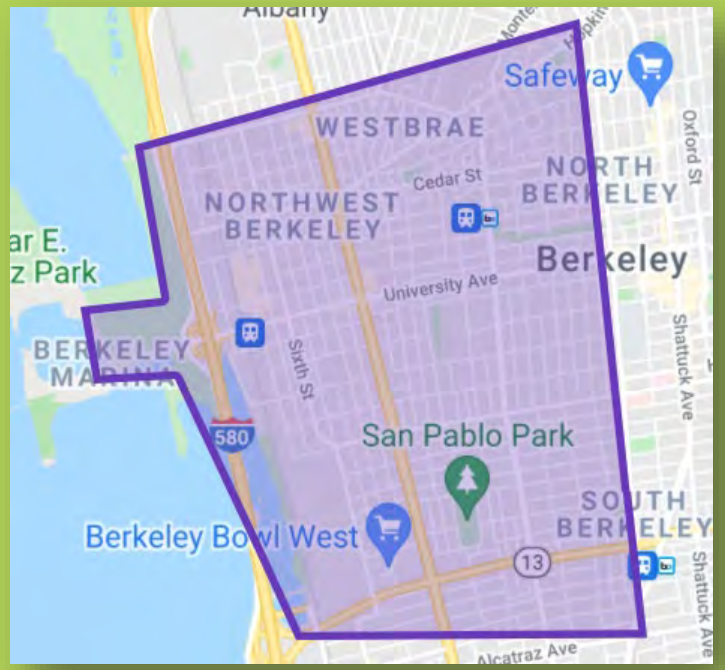
Green Dots: Trees

Orange Dots: Potential Planting Locations

Grant Funded Project Locations

Different project areas based on state bill that provides the funding

Urban Greening: now-2025



EEM: 2022-2025. Included Aquatic Park and urban areas west of MLK

New Grant!

Federal Inflation Reduction Act Grant Award

Taking a site specific view:

A water gum in a standard street site

Tree Species Selection:

An updated selection:

They look like trees!

Big awesome trees need big awesome spaces.

Wild spaces need time and cultural appreciation. Build and utilize those sites with the appropriate species when available. Plan accordingly when working with the leftover and limited spaces.

Tree Species Selection:

We've messed up before, we'll mess up again.

- Build in resiliency, grow in sustainable sites, develop biosecurity.
- Species diversity is an asset when grown within our requirements.
- Think in tree time. They can't move and if done right, they stay around for a while.
- Mimic nature. In nature different signals and tropisms affect tree growth. Plan for non-evolved challenges of traffic and infrastructure, and unknown futures.

Learning from Legacy Trees:

People matter and are a critical element to the process.

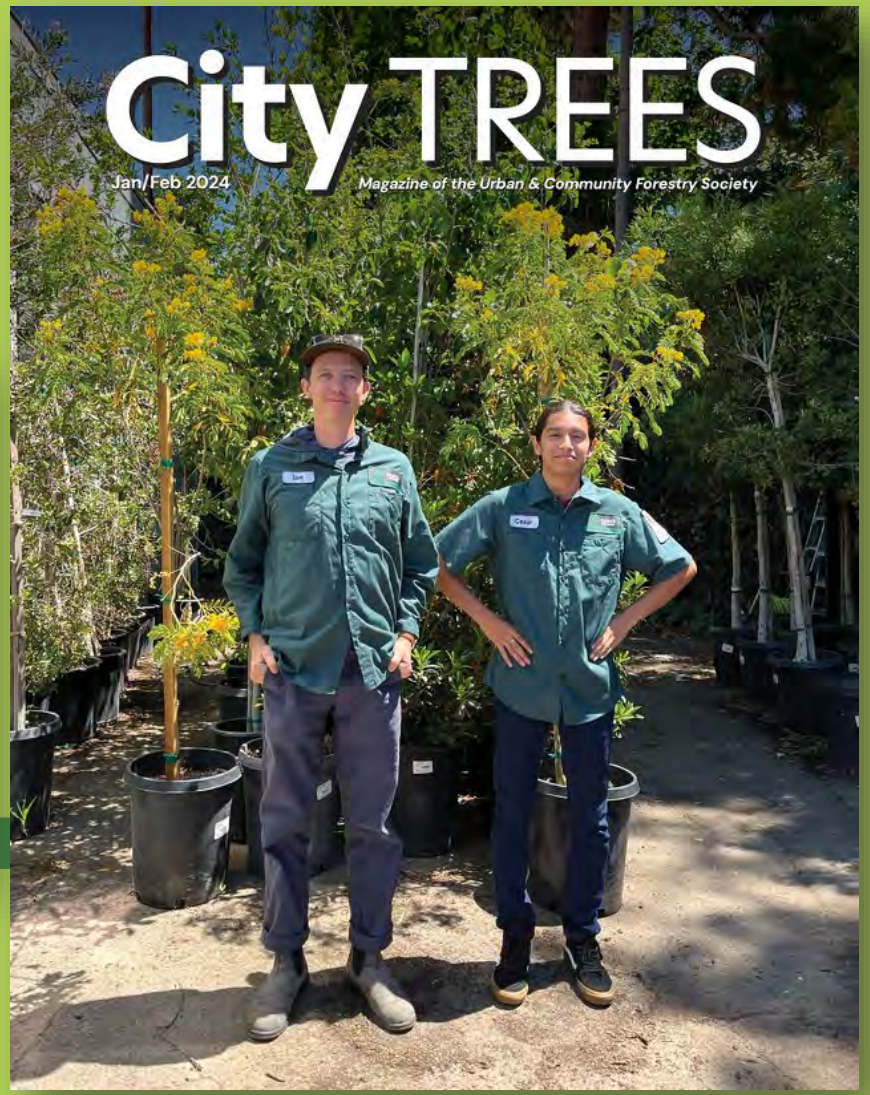
Where we plant, the people our trees affect, and our methods of engagement all matter and change the long term growth of a tree and the urban forest.

Aquatic Park Westside:

Aquatic Park Westside:

Trees take time to mature, but still provide immediate impact

2023: Internship



Thanks for your support!

- The Urban Forest is a complex system
- Growing sites and building community support is our next step
- Building resilience in our urban forest is a constant goal and never-ending challenge
- Big trees need big spaces!
- We are a well-connected and informed team, with a strong passion to grow the urban forest and green spaces in the City of Berkeley.

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