





# CREEKSIDE PARK and CORTE MADERA CREEK MULTIUSE PATHWAY MASTER PLAN REPORT

March 2009



## Master Plan Statement

Creekside Park and Corte Madera Creek Multiuse Pathway are beloved community amenities that have begun to show their age. Designed and constructed in the 1970s, both the Park and the Pathway have elements in need of refurbishment to bring them in line with current safety and accessibility guidelines. The Park’s proximity to Creekside Marsh, five schools and Marin General Hospital also makes it a valuable resource for many types of visitors. Recognizing the local community’s needs, the master plan advocates recreation, health, environmental education and habitat restoration.

## Project History

Constructed on landfill in the mid 1970s, Creekside Park was the result of intense community activity. The original design concept included a neighborhood park with play equipment, lawn, restroom, restored marshland and a network of pathways with access to the parcourse stations along Corte Madera Creek Multiuse Pathway. Since that time, Creekside Park has become a favorite community recreation space, has provided habitat for sensitive native animal species and has helped mitigate flooding along Corte Madera Creek. The Pathway is a popular recreational feature that is also used by walkers, joggers and bicyclists.

## Master Plan Design Process

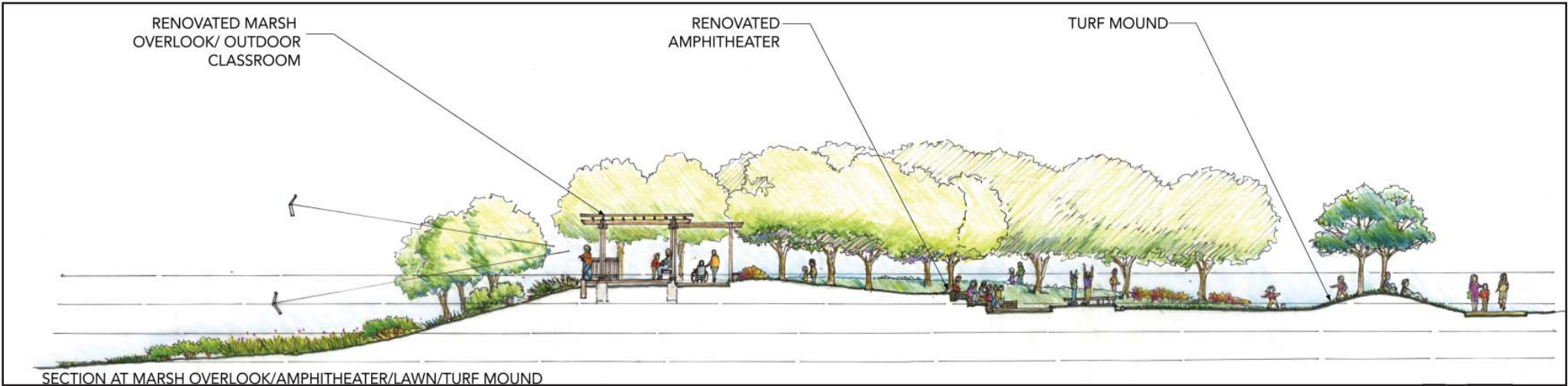
The County of Marin conducted a variety of events to determine the community’s renovation priorities for Creekside Park and Corte Madera Creek Multiuse Pathway. These events provided opportunities for community members to participate in a hands-on way in the planning and design effort. These included stakeholder interviews, a “Family Discovery Day” located in Creekside Park, a design charette and an evening public meeting. The information gathered in these events informed and guided the proposed renovations to Creekside Park and Corte Madera Creek Multiuse Pathway. Based on community input, planned renovations will retain the character and function of the Park and the Pathway while improving their functionality and relevance for future generations.

## Master Plan Elements

### Creekside Park

#### Renovated and Expanded Children’s Play Area

The outdoor play environment will be separated to accommodate two distinct groups—preschool-age children (ages 2 to 5) and school-age children (ages 5 to 10). The two play areas will be adjacent to one another and a low fence will enclose the preschool area. Both play areas will emphasis age-appropriate play elements designed to enhance the physical and social development of children as well as integrated play opportunities for children with and without disabilities. The play areas will promote exploration of nature and will feature natural materials such as wood, boulders and plants that delight the senses. Resilient surfacing, shade, and sand and water play will also be incorporated into the design. A caregiver seating area will be located near the play areas, picnic area and the lawn for easy supervision of children of all ages.



#### Habitat Restoration

Upland marsh transition habitat areas, relatively rare in Marin’s urban settings, are located within Creekside Park. Renovations to the Park offer the opportunity to restore and expand this critical habitat for riparian species living in Creekside Marsh. Improvements will consist of enlarging habitat areas near the Marsh by realigning some pathways as well as removing invasive plant species and replacing them with native grasses and shrubs. In addition, a new biofiltration swale will filter water running off the existing lawn before it drains into the Marsh. Within the Marsh and surrounding upland transition habitat areas, there are additional opportunities for future restoration work that fit into the overall vision for Creekside Park.

#### Expanded Picnic Area

The current picnic area will be renovated and expanded to provide more seating and shade. The expansion will maintain current setbacks from the Marsh, filter runoff from the play area and include restoration to the adjacent upland habitat area on the hillside below.

#### Renovated Amphitheater

The timber amphitheater will be renovated and a small informal stage added for greater flexibility of use. A new low grass-covered mound at the edge of the adjacent path will provide opportunities for additional seating and play.

#### Renovated Marsh Overlook

Located on the highest spot in the park, the Marsh Overlook will be renovated with decking, interpretive signage, seating and improved shade. This will facilitate its use as an outdoor classroom by students of all ages.

#### Renovated Restroom

The existing restroom will be upgraded to provide greater accessibility for people with all ability levels. To better incorporate the restroom into the landscape, the building will be screened with landscaping.

#### Health and Meditation Grove

The existing grove of trees near the Bon Air entrances of the Park will be ex-

panded with additional plantings of native trees to enhance its use as a quiet and restorative retreat for community members and Marin General Hospital patients, visitors and staff. Areas of the grove will be used for informal recreation and picnicking and may include some adult fitness equipment or a labyrinth.

#### Accessible On-Street Parking

Currently there is no accessible parking along Bon Air Road. Van-accessible parking spaces will be placed directly in front of the principal Bon Air entrance. While several on-street parking spaces will be lost, the new accessible parking spaces will encourage park visits by a wider variety of users.

#### Relocated and Improved Pathways

To improve accessibility, some of the Park’s paths shall be regraded and re-surfaced. Others will be realigned for better access and habitat restoration.

#### Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage

Improved signage will more clearly designate entrances, pathways and features within the Park. Interpretive signage along park pathways will provide information about the unique natural resources of the Park and Marsh.

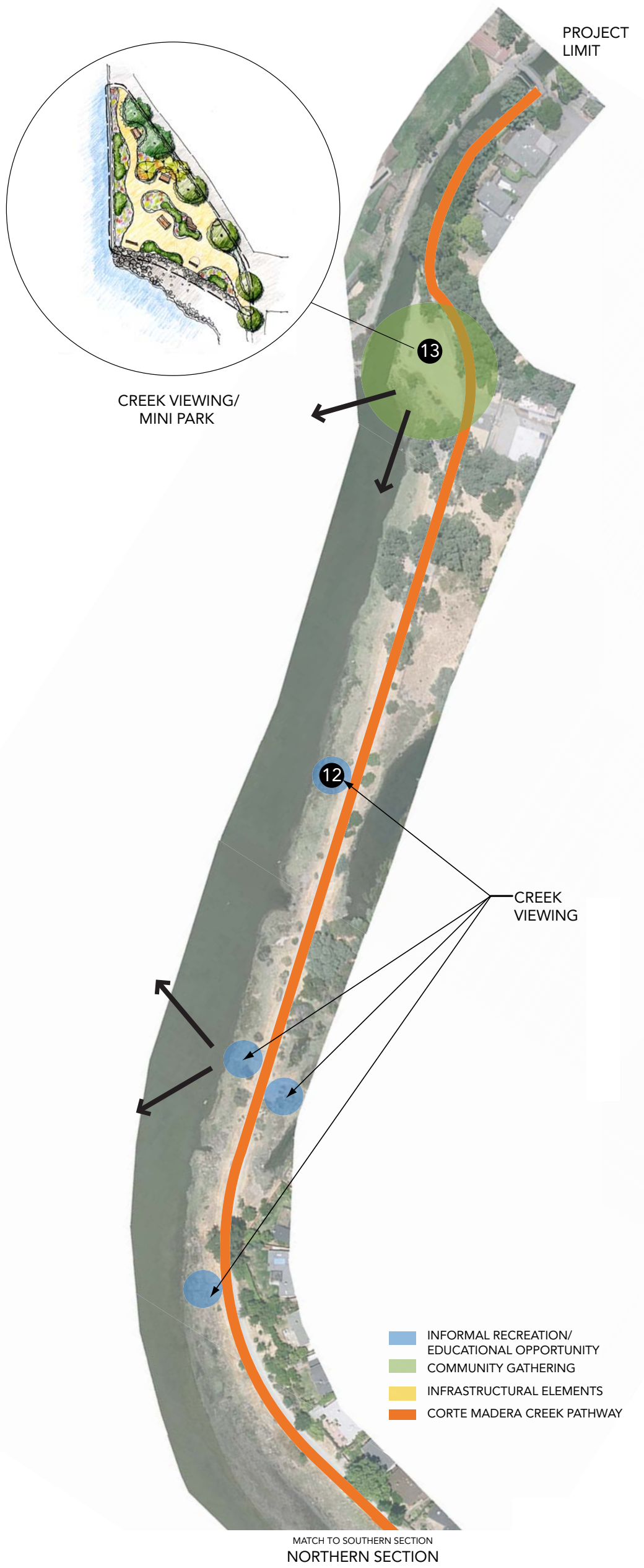
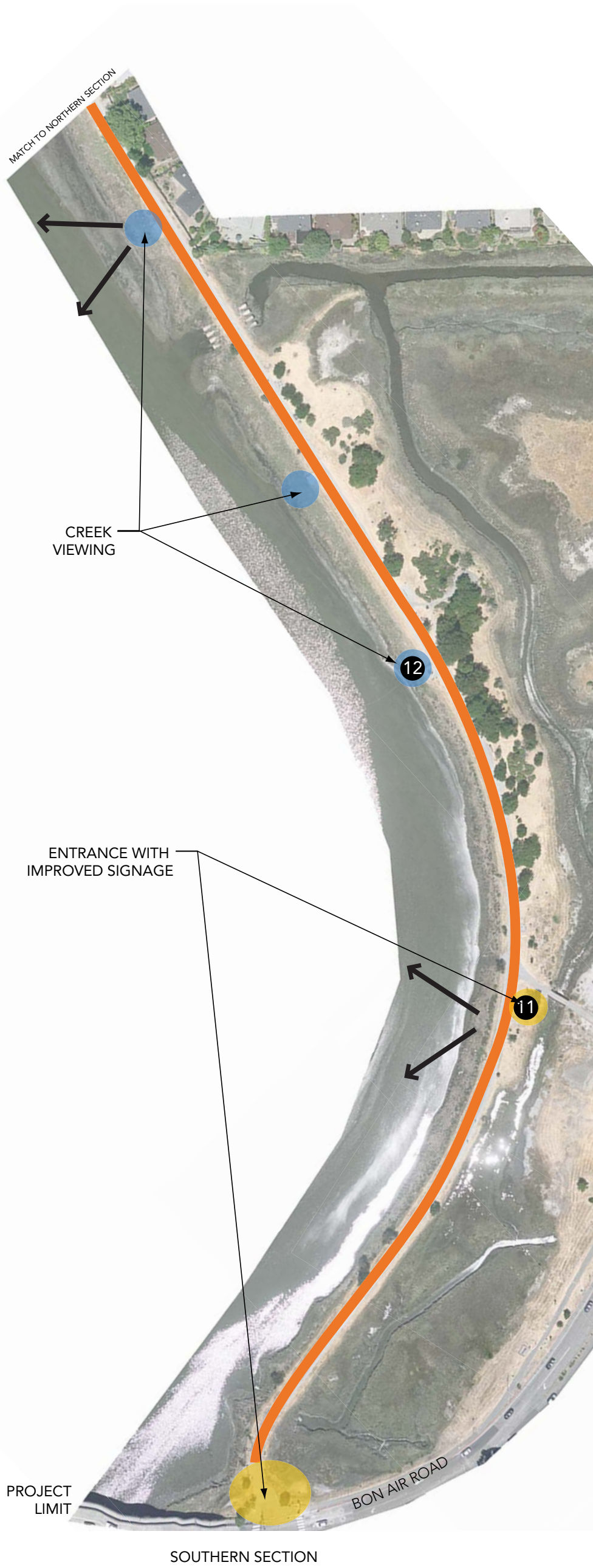
#### Alternative Transportation Facilities

The master plan proposes an additional bus stop on Bon Air Road at the Park pathway that connects to the Corte Madera Creek Multiuse Pathway. Secure bicycle parking will be located to encourage more users to visit the park without driving their cars.

#### Corte Madera Creek Multiuse Pathway

Entrances to the Pathway will be improved and renovated with planting and signage to improve wayfinding, nature interpretation and connections between the community and the Pathway and Creekside Park. Renovating the existing parcourse stations along the Pathway will offer opportunities for creek viewing and informal recreation. The “triangle” area south of the Stadium Avenue pedestrian bridge will be renovated as a mini-park with seating, native plantings and improved creek and wildlife viewing.





- INFORMAL RECREATION/ EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
- COMMUNITY GATHERING
- INFRASTRUCTURAL ELEMENTS
- CORTE MADERA CREEK PATHWAY

SCALE 0 25 50 100 FEET

NORTH