

# EAST RICHMOND HEIGHTS | CONTEXT

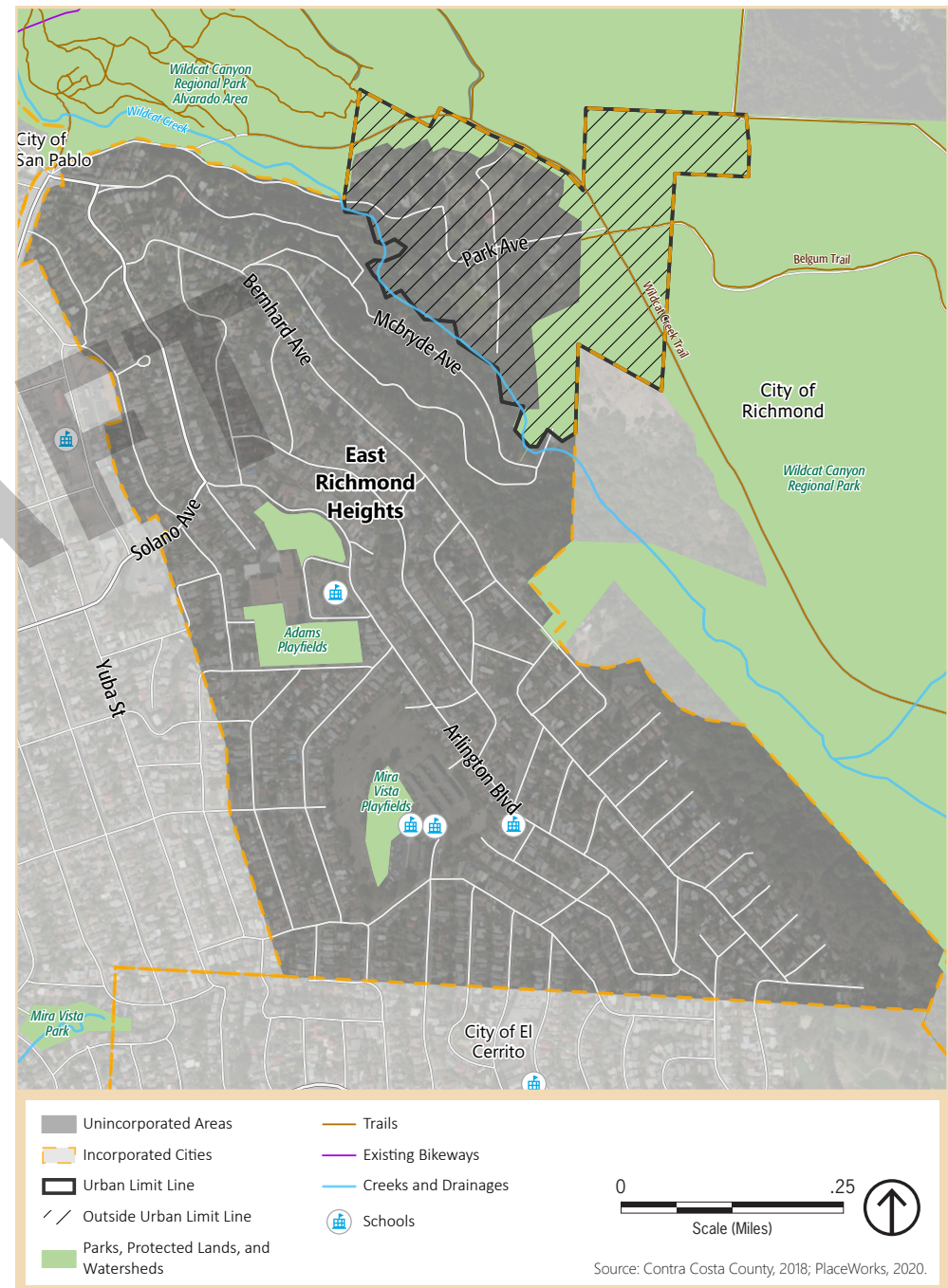
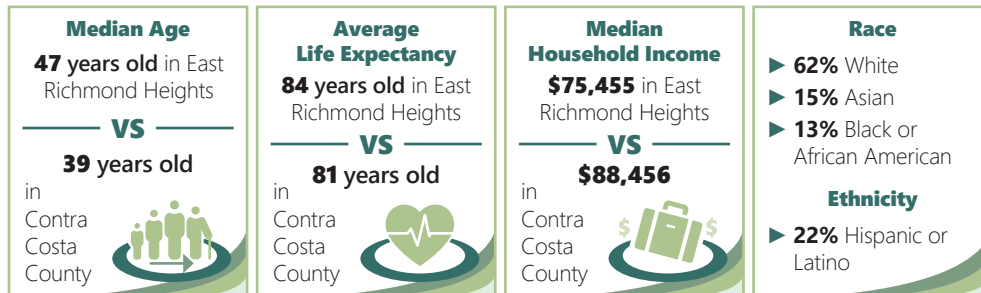
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Situated north of El Cerrito and Richmond in the Berkeley Hills, East Richmond Heights is a primarily residential community of about 3,600 residents. Adjacent open space in Wildcat Canyon provides respite and outdoor recreation for residents, who support enhancing open space access. Given East Richmond Heights' location, the community has a premier view of the San Francisco Bay, Mount Tam, and beyond. Residents cite the gorgeous views as an important community asset that should be preserved for generations to come. East Richmond Heights is also home to two schools, Crestmont School and Mira Vista Elementary School, which support the family-oriented, friendly community that residents value. Interstate 80, located about a ½ mile to the west, provides regional transportation access, and Arlington Boulevard serves as the major north-south thoroughfare.



Despite the small-town community feel, residents are concerned about safety and formed the East Richmond Heights Neighborhood Watch team to prevent crime, enhance emergency preparedness, and improve neighborhood communication. In addition, residents would like more street lighting and new and expanded community facilities and events. Residents are also concerned about fire hazards from vegetation in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and throughout the neighborhood, particularly from dead, standing trees. The community would like to enhance fire protection services and evacuation preparedness to ensure the residents are safe in the event of a natural disaster.

## WHO LIVES IN EAST RICHMOND HEIGHTS?



## Hazards

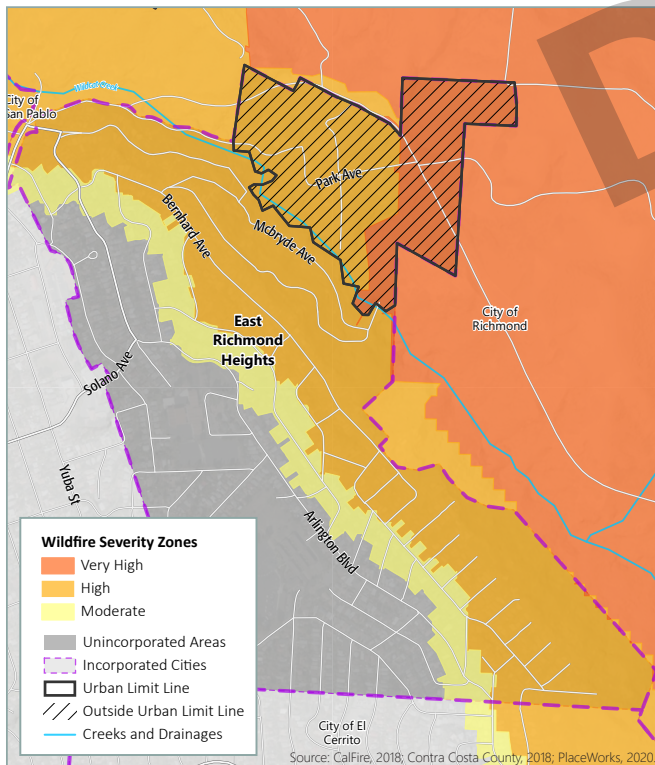
-  Air Quality
-  Drought
-  Extreme Heat
-  Flooding
-  Human Health Hazards
-  Landslides
-  Seismic Hazards
-  Severe Weather
-  Wildfire

## Major Vulnerabilities

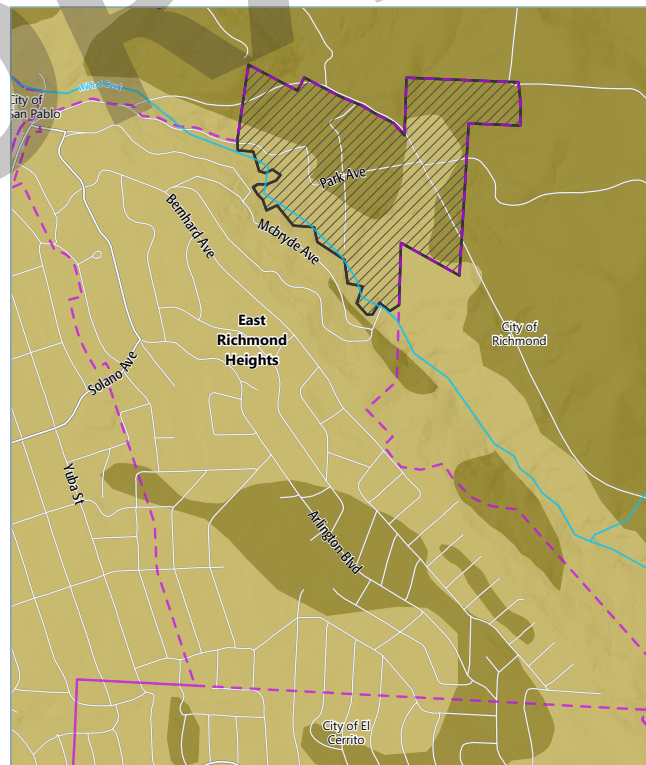
- Persons living on single access roads and seniors living alone are vulnerable to flooding, landslides, and wildfire.
- Cost-burdened households and renters are vulnerable to extreme heat, flooding, landslides, seismic hazards, severe storms, and wildfires.
- Persons with chronic illnesses and seniors (including those living alone) are vulnerable to air quality, extreme heat, human health hazards, and wildfire.
- Single access roads are vulnerable to damage from flooding, landslides, seismic hazards, and wildfire.
- Electricity transmission and distribution lines are vulnerable to landslides, wind from severe storms, and wildfire.
- Mira Vista Elementary, Adams Middle School, and Crestmont School are vulnerable to landslides, seismic hazards, and wildfires.
- Public safety and emergency medical response are vulnerable to flooding, landslides, severe storms, and wildfire.
- Woodland habitat in the eastern area of the community is vulnerable to drought, severe storms, and wildfire.

The information on this page presents a summary of hazards and vulnerabilities in East Richmond Heights based on the Contra Costa County Vulnerability Assessment; please see the [online Vulnerability Assessment](#) for a full description of these hazards and vulnerabilities.

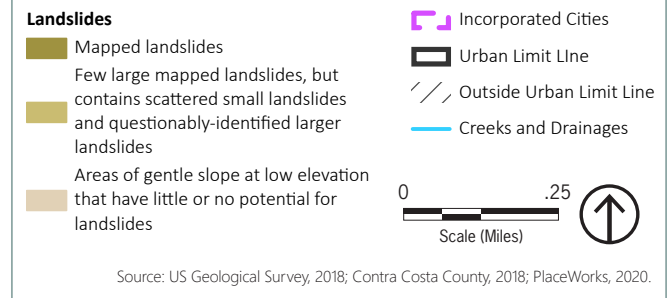
## WILDFIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES



## LANDSLIDES



This image represents wildfire as one of the hazards to which East Richmond Heights is vulnerable.





## PLANNED LAND USE

Land use designations for East Richmond Heights are shown on the Land Use Map and defined in the Land Use Element. East Richmond Heights is planned primarily for single-family residential use, with small pockets of commercial uses, public/institutional sites, and open space lands.

East Richmond Heights contains two small commercial pockets intended to support neighborhood-serving businesses. One is located near the southern end of the community, at the intersection of Arlington Boulevard and Olive Avenue, and the other is located to the north, at the intersection of Bernhard Avenue and Felix Avenue.

East Richmond Heights' proximity to Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and Alvarado Park allows for easy access to outdoor recreational opportunities. As such, there are wide swaths of land designated for open space and park use. East Richmond Heights also includes multiple areas designated for public/institutional use. These sites include community facilities such as Crestmont School, Mira Vista Elementary, and numerous religious institutions.



Retail example in a nearby community.



Existing single-family home in East Richmond Heights.

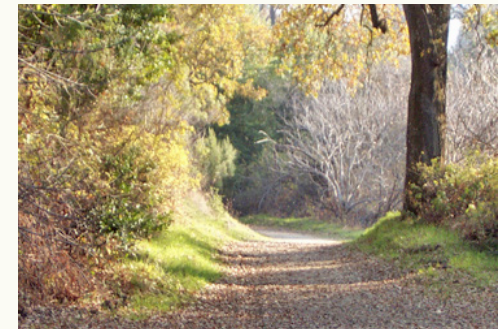
## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles articulate the values, priorities, and aspirations for the future shared by East Richmond Heights community members:

1. East Richmond Heights has a small community feel as a result of its diverse housing stock, moderate densities, and compact form. Residents know their neighbors and care for each other and the community. This tightly knit, small community feel should be preserved.
2. East Richmond Heights' panoramic views of San Francisco Bay, bridges, cities, and natural landscapes should be preserved.
3. Existing public services, such as police and fire services, should be supported and enhanced in order to ensure a safe community.
4. Because East Richmond Heights is proximate to Wildcat Canyon Regional Park and the Hayward Fault, it is exposed to wildfires and earthquakes. The community should be protected from these hazards through proper planning and emergency response.
5. A variety of housing types should be encouraged to ensure housing opportunities for residents of all ages, incomes, and abilities.



Existing single-family home in East Richmond Heights.



Existing open space in the region.

## POLICIES

1. When reviewing new development proposals, consider the need for mitigation of wildfire and earthquake exposure as appropriate.
2. Ensure new development provides reasonable protection for existing residences with regard to views, design compatibility (including building mass, height, and mechanical devices), adequate parking, privacy, and access to sunlight.
3. When reviewing new development proposals, ensure views of scenic natural features (e.g., San Francisco Bay, mountains) and the developed environment (e.g., bridges, San Francisco skyline) are substantially preserved.
4. Improve pedestrian and roadway infrastructure in a manner that balances the needs of users with the desire to retain East Richmond Heights' small community feel.
5. Promote local-serving commercial establishments to encourage local business growth, create retail shopping near residents, and provide opportunities for residents to conduct business within their own community.
6. Prioritize review of projects incorporating community-serving medical facilities and services.
7. Encourage improvements to local drainage infrastructure.
8. Recognize affordable housing in East Richmond Heights as a community asset, and encourage alternative dwelling types such as accessory dwellings and co-housing.

## ACTIONS

1. Coordinate with public safety and health agencies to create a comprehensive emergency plan, including evacuation routes and additional fire hydrants in East Richmond Heights.
2. Improve pedestrian safety and roadway infrastructure by repaving and regularly maintaining streets, installing continuous street lighting, illuminating pedestrian crossings, adding ADA compliant facilities, and closing sidewalk gaps and delineating on-street parking spaces along major roads.
3. Work with PG&E to underground utilities to reduce fire hazards and improve community safety and appearance.
4. Explore the possibility of siting and constructing a library in East Richmond Heights.
5. Coordinate with the West Contra Costa Unified School District on a plan for the future of Adams Middle School. The site should be a model for sustainable, green development that meets the housing, retail, and service needs of the community.