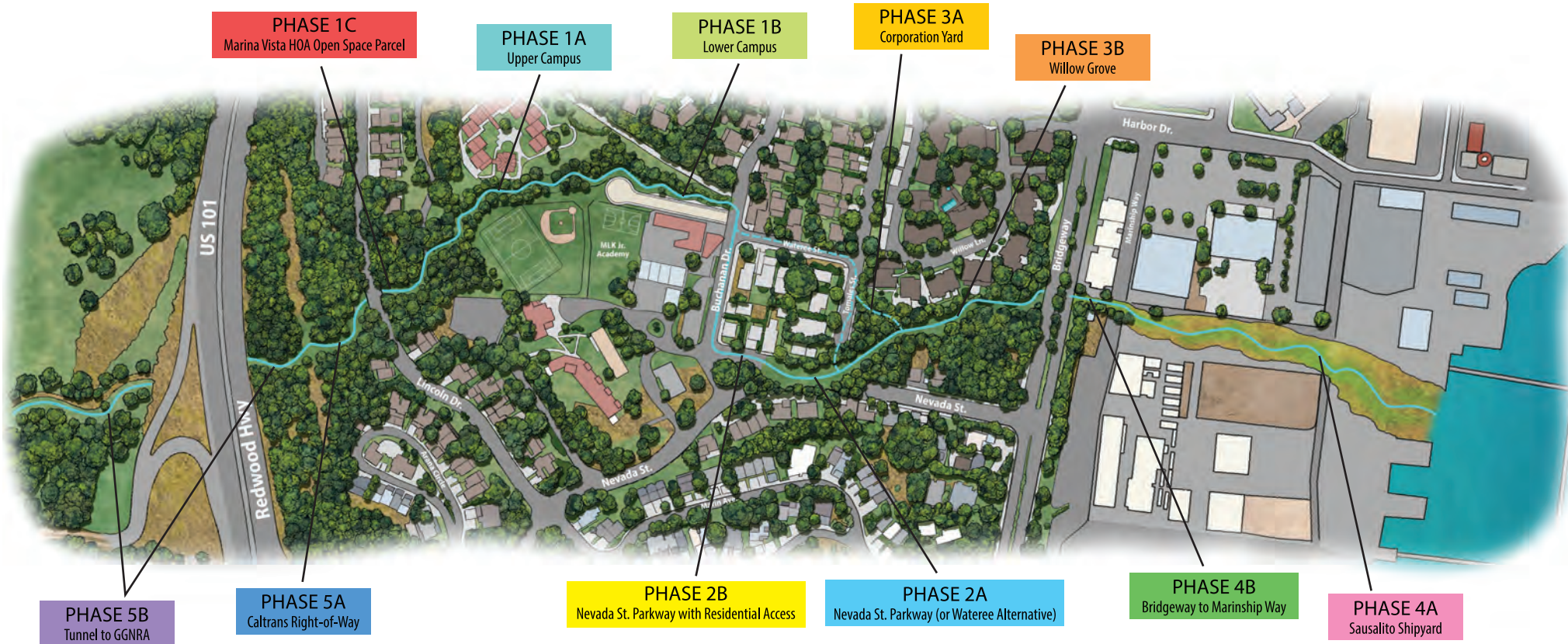


DAYLIGHTING PHASE MAP



Before shipyards lined the shoreline during World War II, creeks once flowed freely through Sausalito—rare permanent streams in a mostly dry state. The willow trees growing along them inspired the city's name, "Sausalito," meaning "little willow grove." Over time, these creeks were buried in underground culverts for development. Now, Friends of Willow Creek, a local nonprofit, is working to uncover and restore these forgotten waterways. Since 2011, they've been replanting native species and advocating to daylight Willow Creek, joining a growing national movement to revive urban creeks for flood control, cleaner water, and stronger community connection.

Restoring Willow Creek is possible because much of its path lies on public land, with no permanent structures above the culvert aside from roads. Due to the high cost of urban creek restoration, the project is planned in five phases. Phase one begins on school and open space property between Lincoln Drive and Buchanan Drive. Future phases extend along Nevada or Wateree Street, through Willow Grove and the City's Corporation Yard, to the Bay, where it would transition to tidal marsh. The final phase connects to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area via a tunnel under Highway 101, creating a wildlife corridor and vital link to the National Park. Together, these phases will reconnect Willow Creek from its headwaters to Richardson Bay.



We are excited to bring Willow Creek back to life!
Stay involved—click on the QR code or visit friendsofthecreek.org for more info.



DAYLIGHTING Willow Creek

Where Nature Returns. Community Thrives!



Beneath our streets, a stream is waiting. Daylighting Willow Creek is our chance to restore a vital natural resource, protect against climate impacts, and create a healthier, greener Sausalito—for wildlife, for families, and for future generations.

Water, Wildlife, and Wellbeing: The Case for Daylighting

1. Improves Water Quality

Natural stream channels filter out pollutants and reduce harmful runoff, creating cleaner water for wildlife and the Bay.

2. Reduces Flooding

Open creeks absorb more rainwater than pipes, helping prevent overflow and flooding in neighborhoods.

3. Supports Wildlife and Biodiversity

Restoring the creek creates thriving habitats for birds, fish, frogs, deer, and pollinators.

4. Increases Climate Resilience

Vegetated creeks absorb and retain moisture, helping resist drought, wildfire, and sea level rise.

5. Creates a Green Community Space

Transform unused or paved areas into vibrant greenways for walking, relaxing, and connecting with nature.

6. Improves Mental and Physical Wellbeing

Access to natural environments has been shown to lower stress, improve mood, and encourage healthy outdoor activity.

7. Provides Natural Cooling and Shade

Trees and plants along the creek help cool the area and improve air quality.

8. Restores Local Water Flow

A visible creek brings life to the neighborhood and offers educational and recreational opportunities.

9. Reduces Carbon in the Atmosphere

Plants in and around the creek absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, helping combat climate change.

10. Brings People Together

Streams have always been places for gathering. A daylighted Willow Creek becomes a shared resource and community treasure.



Restoring the creek creates shelter and sanctuary for creatures like the Great Horned Owl, Grey Fox, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Dragonflies.

Daylighting the creek creates a living laboratory—an outdoor space where students and families can explore, learn, and connect with the natural world.

Watch native plants return and thrive—like Arroyo and Pacific Willows, Coast Live Oak, Toyon, Pink Flowering Currant, Sedges, Horsetails, Ferns, and Lupine.