

ORANGE MEMORIAL PARK

STORMWATER

CAPTURE PROJECT

Regional Watersheds

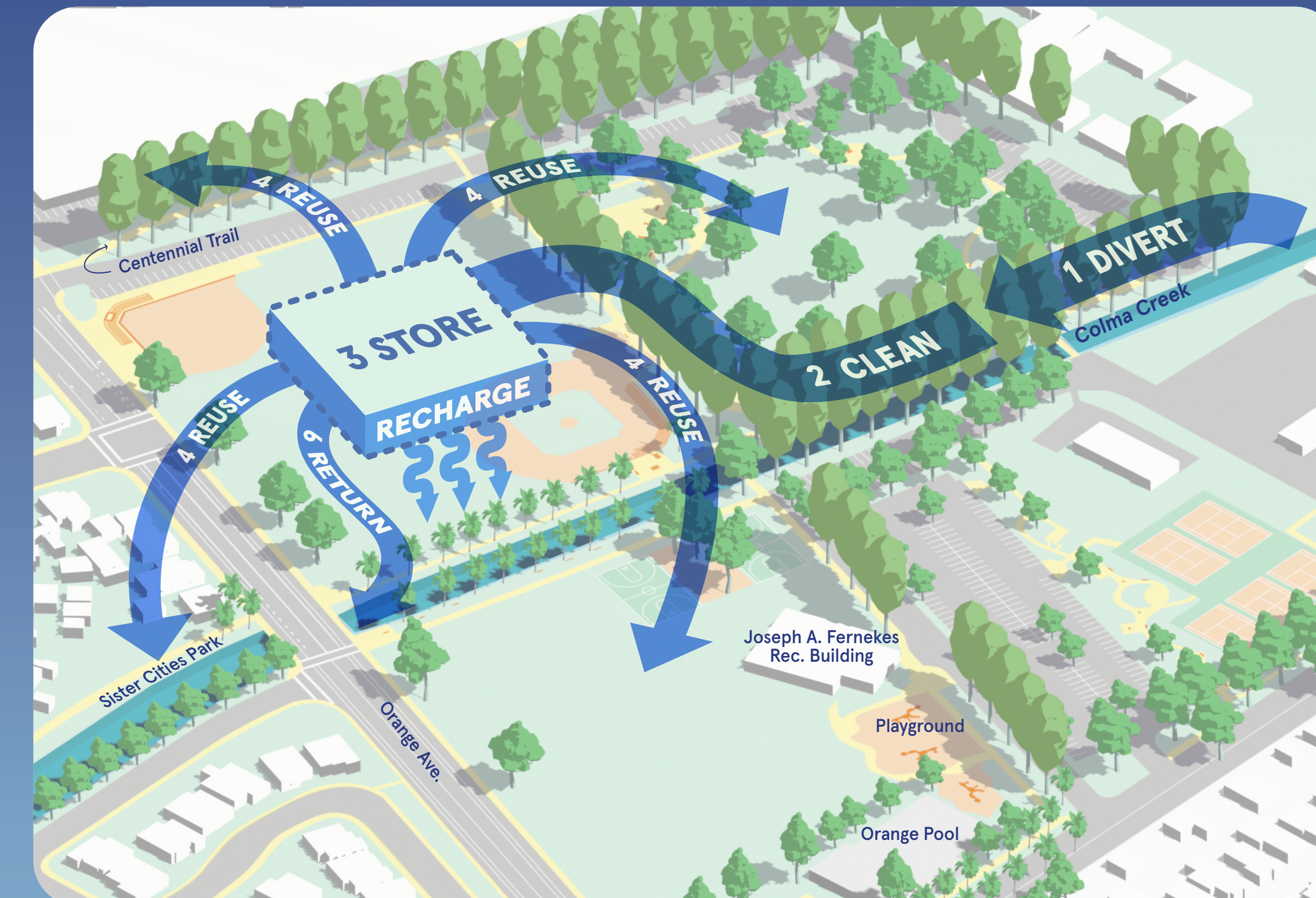
A watershed is a land area that channels rainfall to streams, creeks and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as bays and the ocean. The Colma Creek watershed is one of several major watersheds on the San Francisco Peninsula whose boundaries are defined by the Santa Cruz Mountain range running down the spine of the peninsula and San Bruno Mountain.



Colma Creek Watershed

Rain falling east of the Santa Cruz Mountain range drains into San Francisco Bay, while rain falling on the western side drains to the Pacific Ocean. This project helps clean water flowing from our cities to the Bay. The reach of Colma Creek running through Orange Memorial Park drains over 6,500 acres of land from six different municipalities, including the City of South San Francisco.

This regional stormwater capture project, the first of its kind in Northern California, diverts all dry-weather flow and the dirty first flush of urban stormwater runoff from Colma Creek into an underground system integrated within the park. Overall, 200 million gallons of water, or 15 percent of the annual flow in Colma Creek, passes through the system for treatment and beneficial use.



ORANGE Memorial Park

Once water is diverted into the park, the system treats the water to remove trash, debris, and sediment. A large cistern under the sportsfield stores water for further treatment and disinfection so it can be used to meet irrigation and other non-potable demands, saving over 15 million gallons of potable water per year. When full, the cistern overflows into an infiltration gallery which recharges 55 million gallons of groundwater every year.

During storms when the underground storage is full, 130 million gallons of cleaned water is returned to the creek and flows into the Bay. For comparison, Orange Pool, located just on the other side of Colma Creek, holds around 130,000 gallons of water. Every year 150 swimming pools of water are cleaned and put toward the highest and best uses!

1

DIVERT

Stormwater is redirected from Colma Creek beneath the park to be cleaned and used for beneficial purposes.

2

CLEAN

Trash and sediment are removed from the diverted stormwater.

3

STORE

1.4 million gallons of underground storage beneath the sportsfield holds water for reuse or groundwater recharge.

4

REUSE

Treated water is used to irrigate landscape in and around the park.

6

RETURN

When capacity in the storage system is exceeded, the system will remove trash and pollutants from water that is returned back to Colma Creek.

5

RECHARGE

Millions of gallons of water every year will help recharge the underlying Westside Groundwater Basin.

