Welcome to Lake Temescal

Year opened: 1936  
Acres: 50

Highlights: Swim beach, fishing, picnicking, hiking, historic Temescal Beach House. Did you know? The Temescal Beach House was completed in 1940 by Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration workers using materials left over from the construction of the Caldecott Tunnel, which connects Oakland to Orinda via Highway 24 through the Oakland hills. The Beach House served as the Park District headquarters until 1962.

HISTORY  Huchiuin Ohlones loved, tended, and built domed, willow-framed homes in this verdant, creekside land for many generations before Spanish newcomers named the creek Temescal, from the Aztec words temca (to bathe) and cola (a house). In 1868 hydraulic engineer Anthony Chabot built a dam to create today’s Lake Temescal for the then “tiny town” of Oakland. Within two years it was replaced by larger water reserves. In 1936 Lake Temescal, one of the East Bay Regional Park District’s three original parks, opened as a recreation area. The park boasts a 13-acre lake, 10 acres of turf, a rose garden, and lush growth of native and ornamental area. The park boasts a 13-acre lake, 10 acres of turf, a rose garden, and lush growth of native and ornamental plants, including live oak, willow, laurel, thimbleberry, ninebark, hazelnut, ferns, and blackberry.

THE HAYWARD FAULT  This fault runs through the center of the park. It has created sags or depressions along the course of Temescal Creek.

TO REACH TEMESCAL:  Take Highway 24 (towards Walnut Creek), exit at Old Tunnel Road, and turn right at the exit onto Broadway. Proceed west to the north end parking lot entrance on the left. Public Transit—AC Transit Transbay Line C8 runs weekdays along Broadway Terrace to Florence Ave. Transbay Line V runs weekdays along Broadway Terrace into Mountain View. Call or visit www.511.org to determine route and to confirm schedule—AC Transit. See 511.org or call 511 or 817-1717; TRS Relay for the Hearing Impaired: 711; ParaTransit: 510-287-5000.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please contact the EBPRD Public Affairs Department at (510) 544-2200; fax (510) 635-3478; TRS Relay for the Hearing Impaired: 711; or info@ebparks.org.

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY  9-1-1  TRS RELAY FOR HEARING IMPAIRED  7-1-1

To Reach Lake Temescal: Temescal is located next to the Highway 24/Highway 13 interchange in Oakland. Ample parking is available at the north end of the park, accessible from Broadway. Limited parking is available at the south end, accessible from Broadway Terrace. To reach the larger north end lot from the south end, drive east on Broadway Terrace, go under Highway 13 and turn left onto the Highway 13 on ramp. Transition onto Highway 24 east (towards Walnut Creek), exit at Old Tunnel Road, and turn right at the exit onto Broadway. Proceed west to the north end parking lot entrance on the left.

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