

# From Rancho to Recreation

Lands that became Grass Valley Regional Park in 1952 (later Anthony Chabot and Lake Chabot regional parks) were on territory east of what would become Oakland and San Leandro, an area where Native Americans collected acorns and other dietary staples. Today the 5,069-acre park and its lake are named for Anthony Chabot, a pioneer California businessman and philanthropist who created Lake Chabot by building an earth-fill dam in 1874-75.

A small portion of Lake Chabot at the park's southern boundary was part of Rancho San Antonio, granted to Luis Maria Peralta in 1820. The southern half of Anthony Chabot Regional Park is within the 27,722-acre Rancho San Lorenzo, granted to Don Guillermo Castro in 1843. Rancho lands were used primarily for cattle grazing. Gambling debts led to Castro's sale of the rancho land in the 1860s. It was subdivided into nine ranches, and the new American owners raised beef cattle. The northern portion of the park was not included in Spanish or Mexican land grants. American settlers developed ranches in the area, including the largest, the 525-acre Grass Valley Ranch.

Most of these lands were consolidated into watershed property for the City of Oakland in the early 1900s by the People's Water Company. The water company began large-scale eucalyptus planting about 1910, greatly changing the landscape of the area. People's Water Company became the East Bay Water Company in 1916, and creation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District followed in 1928. The last major addition to Anthony Chabot Regional Park was Lake Chabot, EBMUD's reserve water supply for Oakland. Through a lease to the Park District, it opened to the public in 1966.

**LAKE CHABOT RESERVOIR** was built in 1874-75 as a primary water source for the East Bay. The 315-acre lake was closed to recreation for 91 years. In the 1960s it was opened for controlled recreational uses. Today the lake is a standby emergency water supply. For this reason visitors are asked to observe certain necessary regulations to keep the waters pure.

**FISHING** The lake is well-stocked and is a popular Bay Area fishing destination. It is also an ideal location for kids out for their first fishing experience.

All California Fish and Game regulations apply. A current California Fishing License with stamps and an EBRPD Daily Fishing Access Permit are required for all anglers aged 16 and older. Fishing licenses and EBRPD permits may be purchased at the Marina Cafe. Senior Fishing Access Permits, valid for one year from date of purchase, are available to those aged 62 and older. Permits are valid at all Park District lakes and reservoirs.

No live fish may be used as bait. All other legal bait and lures are permitted. Fish may be cleaned only at the cleaning station along the walk near the parking lot (see Lake Chabot Marina detail map at right). Catch-and-release angling is encouraged for bass, bluegill, and crappie. However, the release of badly hooked game fish and all non-game fish is not allowed. Please bring any unwanted and tagged fish and your completed creel census card (on the back of your fishing permit) to the Marina. With your cooperation, we can maintain an effective fish management program to ensure that you will always have good fishing.

**DAILY BAG LIMITS** for Lake Chabot are: black bass (12-inch minimum)—5; trout—5; catfish—5; crappie—25; striped bass (18-inch minimum)—5. Crappie, bluegill, sunfish, carp—no limit.

**BOATING AT LAKE CHABOT MARINA** This popular area features fishing in the 315-acre Lake Chabot, and offers rental boats, tour boat rides, the Marina Cafe (see description below), recreation trails, and picnicking at reservable and first-come, first-served picnic areas. Swimming is not permitted in the lake. Rental boats include row boats, canoes, pedal boats, kayaks, and boats with electric trolling motors. Canoes, kayaks, and scull craft 20 feet and under may be carried in and launched (launching fee). Rafts and inflatable vessels with 2 or fewer chambers are not permitted on the lake.

**MARINA CAFE AND BAIT SHOP** The Lake Chabot Marina Cafe, open year round, features a well-stocked bait and tackle shop and a restaurant that serves snacks, breakfast, and lunch. The Marina Cafe (510-247-2526) is closed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**ANTHONY CHABOT FAMILY CAMPGROUND** Year-round camping is available in a eucalyptus grove overlooking Lake Chabot. Spacious sites, disabled accessible sites and facilities, RV hookup sites (max length 35 feet; sewage, water, 30-amp electric), hot showers,

and lawns are provided. Campers may hike to the lake for fishing. Daily Fishing Access Permits and firewood are sold at the campground. The campground's location is convenient for people visiting San Francisco and for East Bay residents looking for a recreation respite near home. Registered campers park free at the Lake Chabot Marina. Stay Limit: 15 consecutive days; 30 total days per year with a 2-day minimum break following the first 15-day visit. There are fees for tent camping and for full hookup sites, for second or visiting vehicles, and for dogs. Persons 16-17 years of age must have written consent to camp, signed by a parent or guardian, unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other competent adult leadership. Persons age 15 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian or other competent adult leadership who is at least 21 years of age. Reservations are recommended for April 1-Sept. 30 and are accepted year-round. Campground gates close at 10 p.m. Info/reservations: 1-888-EBPARKS (327-2757), option 2.

**GROUP CAMPING** Seven overnight camping areas are available by reservation (see map). Organized groups are encouraged to use these group camps rather than the family campground. Information and reservations: 1-888-327-2757, option 2. Make reservations at least 14 days in advance. There is limited vehicle parking.

**BICYCLE TRAILS** Safe use of trails by bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians requires everyone's cooperation. Each trail user is asked to exercise common courtesy. Trail mileages for most trails are indicated on the map. There are over four miles of paved bicycle trails at Lake Chabot. The Lake Chabot bicycle loop (see map) is 12.42 miles via Live Oak Trail, and 14.41 miles via Honker Bay Trail. All fire roads in the park are open to mountain bikes unless otherwise posted. Narrow, single-track trails are closed to bicycles. Riders should be aware of hazardous trail conditions in winter months. State law requires that bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet, and the Park District strongly recommends that all bicyclists and equestrians wear helmets while riding to reduce the risk of injury or death.

**SKYLINE NATIONAL TRAIL/BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL** These popular Bay Area trails share an easement through the park. To complete a third of this 31-mile trail, follow the triangular symbols on the map, which signify the route from EBMUD's Chabot Staging Area northward to MacDonald Staging Area on Redwood Road adjacent to Redwood Regional

<b>POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY</b> .....	9-1-1
<b>PARK OFFICE, ANTHONY CHABOT</b> .....	
.....	1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4502
<b>PARK OFFICE, LAKE CHABOT</b> .....	
.....	1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4536
<b>EBRPD HEADQUARTERS</b> .....	1-888-EBPARKS
<b>PICNIC/CAMPING RESERVATIONS</b> .....	
.....	1-888-EBPARKS, option 2
<b>WEB SITE</b> .....	www.ebparks.org

6/11/12

