

# LAKE TEMESCAL WATERSHED

## Priority Conservation Area APPLICATION

The proposed PCA “Lake Temescal Watershed” builds upon the existing “Temescal Creek” PCA by importantly stretching across highways to capture the lake itself and additional open space. It qualifies as a Natural Landscape through its contributions to critical habitat protection and watershed preservation and restoration. Within its boundaries lies a Regional Recreation PCA, “Lake Temescal & Path,” applied for separately.

As a Natural Landscape, it benefits **Terrestrial Ecosystems, Water Supply & Water Quality** and **Aquatic Ecosystems**. Co-benefits include Recreation, Climate & Resilience and Compact Growth.

As a watershed, this PCA consists of many Open Creeks, determined by the City of Oakland. These creeks eventually feed into Lake Temescal, which the San Francisco Estuary Institute classifies as a Wetland. The watershed includes one Priority Creek Restoration Site, which Oakland identified with Measure DD for restoration. There are several Undeveloped Creekside Parcels, assessed by the City of Oakland to have less than \$10,000 in improvements and which would provide an opportunity to preserve creek functions. One of these larger parcels is a Priority Acquisition Creek Parcel that the City of Oakland has identified for watershed preservation. All these water features benefit Aquatic Ecosystems by protecting targeted streams, they benefit Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting critical riparian corridors and the diversity of animals using them, and they benefit Water Supply & Water Quality by supporting watershed health and protecting downstream water uses. They provide co-benefits of Compact Growth, Climate & Resilience and Recreation.

Much of the Lake Temescal Watershed is considered Bay Area Protected Areas by the Bay Area Open Space Council (BAOSC), private land and parks with conservation easements. There are many parcels designated as Open Space by the City’s Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the General Plan (OSCAR parcels). Sections of the watershed are zoned Resource Conservation Areas on the City of Oakland zoning maps. The lake itself is a park managed by East Bay Regional Park District. These overlapping and complementary area types demonstrate how the PCA benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting unique habitat and botanical areas of high priority, and co-benefits Recreation, Compact Growth and Climate & Resilience.

The Lake Temescal Watershed also benefits Terrestrial Ecosystems by protecting Fragmented Habitat, determined by BAOSC’s Conservation Land Network, and through its inclusion of Bay Area Critical Linkage land, as demonstrated by mapping from Science and Collaboration for Connected Wildlands.