

Temescal News & Views

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PostMark Temescal Completed, Dedication Planned

PostMark Temescal, the public art project on Shattuck Ave. outside the new post office in Temescal Plaza, has been completed. The project took more than four years from the time of the first proposal, and thousands of volunteer hours to complete. To celebrate this achievement, and to introduce the community to this magical little gathering place, a dedication will be held Saturday, October 18, from 10 to noon at the site. Everyone is warmly invited.

Conceived as an opportunity to celebrate those aspects of the Temescal community that make it unique, PostMark Temescal fuses interpretive information about the neighborhood with imaginatively designed seating, paving and native landscaping. Key features include a ceramic tile tribute to Temescal Creek, which once flowed through the site, a welded steel map of our watershed, and paving bricks displaying quotes about the neighborhood from local residents and students. Historic and contemporary photographs pertaining to some of Temescal's special people and places wrap around a large, circular bench that is crowned with a large relief map of the neighborhood. All of this has been elegantly designed to fit the narrow, wedge-shaped strip of land on the Shattuck Ave. side of the post office.

Led by core team members Bruce Douglas, Sue Mark, Remi Rubel and Jeff Norman, the project benefited from input provided by dozens of community workshop participants and through the labor and talents of over thirty neighborhood volunteers who helped construct it. The seating and creek components were built in phases, often initially in various neighbors' backyards before being transported to the site. Funding for PostMark Temescal came from several sources, including Berkeley Land Company and the City of Oakland Community and Economic Development Agency.

The October 18th dedication is co-sponsored by the Temescal Merchants Association, Temescal Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council, and Temescal Neighbors Together. Join us at this event,



The PostMark Temescal public art project is complete and will be dedicated in October. Photo: Jeff Norman

and while there, learn more about the neighborhood, skip among the tile creek "stepping stones," pick out where you live on the large circular map, or simply rest on one of the cool benches. Breakfast treats will be provided. For more information, call 653-7190; e-mail: sharedground@california.com.

—Jeff Norman

Temescal Branch Library News

Temescal Branch has a new schedule! We are now open from Monday to Friday (Monday: 12:30–8:00; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10:00–5:30; Friday: 12:00–5:30), and closed on Saturday and Sunday. The schedule of the Tool Library has not changed (Tuesday: 12:30–8:00; Wednesday 10:00–5:30; Friday: 12:00–5:30; Saturday: 10:00–5:30).

Do you know any children who need some extra help with their homework? The library's homework assistance program, PASS, will be starting up again in September. Our PASS program leader and teen mentors help elementary school children with homework assignments on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2:30 pm to 5:15 pm. Come by the library for more details.

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<i>Lead</i>	Volunteer Coordinating Team: Bruce Douglas (Friends of Temescal Creek), Sue Mark (local artist), Jeff Norman (Shared Ground), and Remi Rubel (local artist)
<i>Funding</i>	City of Oakland CEDA (\$15,000), Berkeley Land Company (\$15,000), Alameda County Clean Water Program (\$1,500), and other grants and contributions. Berkeley Land Company dedicated the plot of land for this community project as mitigation for the Post Office construction.
<i>Volunteer Hours</i>	Coordinating Team – 6,000 hours over 3 years Neighborhood Volunteers (construction, gardening, etc.) – 2,000 hours
<i>Project Area</i>	500 square feet
<i>Design</i>	Coordinating Team designed and implemented project Roots 'n Shoots installed the native plant garden
<i>Plant list</i>	California native plants used in native plant garden
<i>Maintenance</i>	Roots 'n Shoots Landscaping, Berkeley Land Company, and neighbors
<i>Monitoring</i>	Coordinating team holds regular dog walks at the park to monitor progress

Photo Gallery



View of neighborhood map and mosaic creek



Stewardship messages are part of the mosaic creek



Volunteers pour concrete