

Celebrating Fifty Years

It all started in 1908 with the purchase of 20 acres of land off Redwood Road by George F. McCrea. Fast forward to 1943 when Robin McCrea, George's son donated the property to the City of Oakland as a memorial to his father. The area was to become Leona Heights and McCrea Park.

Meanwhile in 1940 the Oakland Casting Club was being organized and gave lessons, held tournaments and meetings at Oakland's Lake Tasmescal. As the docks began to deteriorate at the Lake, the club found the need for a new place for casting programs and somewhere to hold their meetings.

We now jump to 1954 and find the Metropolitan Fly Casting Pool Committee meeting with the Oakland Chamber of Commerce to hack out a plan for the Club's new pools by the City. Under the direction of Park Superintendent William Penn Mott Jr., Leona Heights Park and McCrea Park were chosen as the new site.

The Club was instrumental in the design and raising of money fro the construction of the pools.

The philosophy at the time was to build pools that would be headquarters for fishermen and would-be-fishermen for the entire East Bay with instructions for casting to be given by the Oakland Casting Club. The pools would be suitable for local, state and national casting tournaments.

The Oakland Casting Club has held National Tournaments at the pools in 1990 and 1996 and has continued to provide casting lessons for both men and women in all phases of the sport.