

# Diablo Foothills

# Castle Rock

Acres: 1,060  
Highlights: Hiking, biking, equestrian trails, bird-watching, Bay Area Ridge Trail.

**HISTORY** The Tatcan and the Volvon are two of the six Bay Miwok-speaking tribes who lived in this area for many generations. When the first non-Indians entered Tatcan lands – the 1772 Spanish Fages-Crespi expedition – the Tatcan fled from them in panic. Between 1794 and 1804, 271 Tatcans and Volvons became incorporated into the Spanish mission system. Under Mexican governance of California, local tribal people became the primary labor force on large, Mexican cattle ranches, including Dona Juana Sanchez de Pacheco’s 17,782-acre Rancho Arroyo de las Nueces y Bolbones (Creek of the Walnuts and Volvon Indians), which included today’s Diablo Foothills. When James Walker bought part of the rancho in the 1850s, after California became a state, he also bought its Indian laborers. From 1902-1940, the William Ford family operated a cattle ranch and dairy at Diablo Foothills. After World War II, a military officer, and later William’s son Ron, operated 230 acres as Castle Rock Park.

**DESCRIPTION** Diablo Foothills offers abundant open land for hiking and nature study. Its 1,060 acres are bounded by two dramatic East Bay landforms: the Castle Rocks of Mt. Diablo and the undulating “camel-back” ridges that form Shell Ridge. These ridges link the park to Mt. Diablo State Park and the City of Walnut Creek’s Shell Ridge Open Space, which together, at nearly 22,500 acres, represent one of the largest open space areas of the East Bay. Diablo Foothills also contains the 15-acre Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area.

**NATURAL RESOURCES** Vegetation varies from grassland and oak savannah on the hills to riparian and oak woodland in the valley. This creates diverse habitats that support a wide array of wildlife, including mule deer, bobcats, coyote, grey fox, and long-tailed weasels. Birds, such as red-winged blackbirds, northern mockingbirds, orioles, and woodpeckers, use the park for nesting and foraging habitat. Rock outcrops shelter garter and gopher snakes, western fence lizards, southern

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY ..... 9-1-1  
PARK OFFICE ..... 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4526  
EBRPD HEADQUARTERS..... 1-888-327-2757  
PICNIC & POOL RESERVATIONS .....  
..... 1-888-327-2757, option 2

alligator lizards, tree frogs, and California salamanders. The perennial pools in Pine Creek ensure the survival of green sunfish, mosquitofish, and largemouth bass. Golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and peregrine falcons nest in Castle Rock’s striking Domengine sandstone formations and hunt for prey in Diablo Foothills.

**CASTLE ROCK REGIONAL RECREATION AREA** offers eight reservable group picnic facilities that accommodate from 50 to 100 persons. To reserve, call 1-888-327-2757, option 2. Castle Rock amenities include a wheelchair-accessible swimming pool with lifeguards, and bathhouse with showers, a softball field, basketball courts, horseshoe pits, a volleyball court, and plenty of open space. The facility is ideal for family picnics or parties, corporate gatherings, and other social events. The swimming pool operating hours change seasonally. For hours and fee, call the park at 1-888-327-2757, option 3, ext. 4526. The pool may be reserved for private parties on days that the pool is not open to the public: call 1-888-327-2757, option 2. Castle Rock is located at 1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

### RESPONSIBLE TRAIL USE RULES

Violations of any of the following may result in citation:

#### ALL TRAIL USERS:

- Be safe, considerate and aware of your impact on the trail and other trail users.
- For everyone’s safety, keep to the right. Proceed single file around blind curves.
- For your safety, headphones are not advised.

#### BICYCLES:

- Bicycles are not permitted, either walked, ridden or carried, on trails marked “No Bicycles.”
- Bicycles shall not be ridden at an unsafe speed, or greater than the posted speed limit. Be aware of how you are perceived by other trail users.
- Bicycles must always yield to pedestrians. Before passing, SLOW DOWN, establish verbal contact, and call out or ring a bell.
- When approaching equestrians, call out or ring bell, and STOP, whether you are seen or not. Ask for instructions on how to pass safely.
- On blind turns, SLOW DOWN, call out, ring bell, and ride single file.

#### PEDESTRIANS:

- **Keep to the right** when approached by other trail users.
- Always yield to equestrians.
- Check behind and to both sides before changing course.

#### EQUESTRIANS:

- Keep your horse to the right or where safe when encountering other trail users.
- Communicate. Let other trail users know how to pass your horse safely.
- Please clean up after your horse in the staging area.

**Trial conflicts or violations** should be reported to (510) 881-1833. **In case of emergency, dial 9-1-1.**

### OURS TO EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely, and help protect and preserve the parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

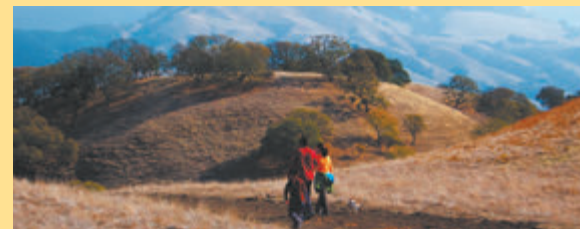
### SAFETY and ETIQUETTE

- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and causes erosion.
- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas may be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water. Dehydration is a leading cause of injuries on the trail.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed carefully at your own risk.
- Keep the parks beautiful. Pack out what you pack in.

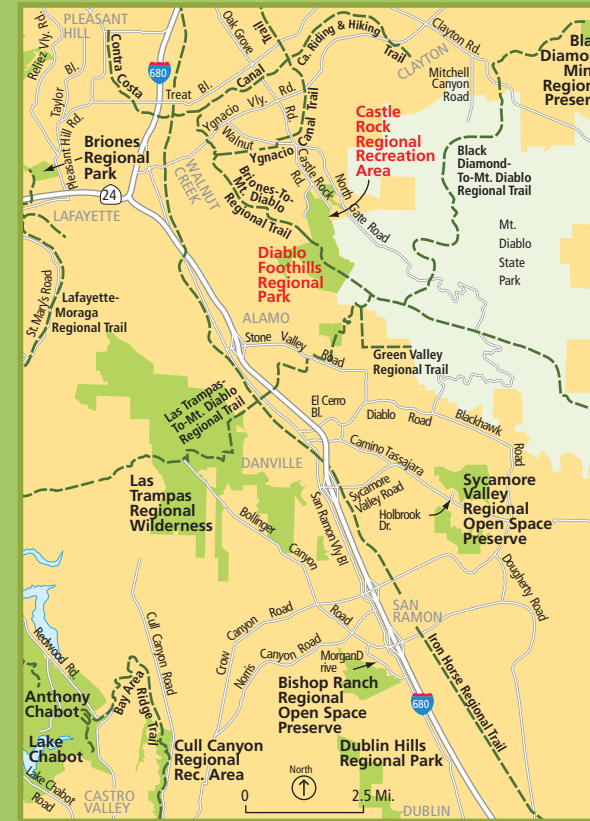
### RULES

- Pets must be leashed in parking lots, 200 feet from any trail or park entrance, picnic areas, developed areas such as lawns and play fields, on some trails, and where grazing animals are present. They must be under voice control at all times. Clean up after your pet; bag it, bin it.
- Feeding or approaching wildlife is dangerous and illegal.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only.
- Horses have the right-of-way on trails.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. Equestrians and bicyclists are also strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- Smoking is prohibited.
- Drones are prohibited.

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 38). See [www.ebparcs.org/rules](http://www.ebparcs.org/rules).



Hikers view Mt. Diablo from the Briones-to-Mt. Diablo Regional Trail, which shares an alignment through Diablo Foothills with the American Discovery Trail and Mokelumne Coast-to-Crest Trail.



1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

**To reach Diablo Foothills and Castle Rock:** Exit I-680 at Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek and drive east. After about three miles turn right on Walnut Avenue. After about two miles, enter the traffic circle and exit right onto Castle Rock Road. Follow Castle Rock Road to the Orchard Staging Area and a trailhead on the right. This staging area is not paved and is closed during wet weather and winter months. Another parking area with trail access is located 1/4 mile farther along Castle Rock Road. A right turn onto Borges Ranch Road prior to the Orchard Staging Area will bring you to the City of Walnut Creek’s Borges Ranch and a trailhead into Shell Ridge Open Space.

**East Bay Regional Park District**  
2950 Peralta Oaks Court,  
Oakland, CA 94605-0381  
1-888-327-2757 (1-888-EBPARKS) (TRS 711)  
[www.ebparcs.org](http://www.ebparcs.org) Rev. 1/2020



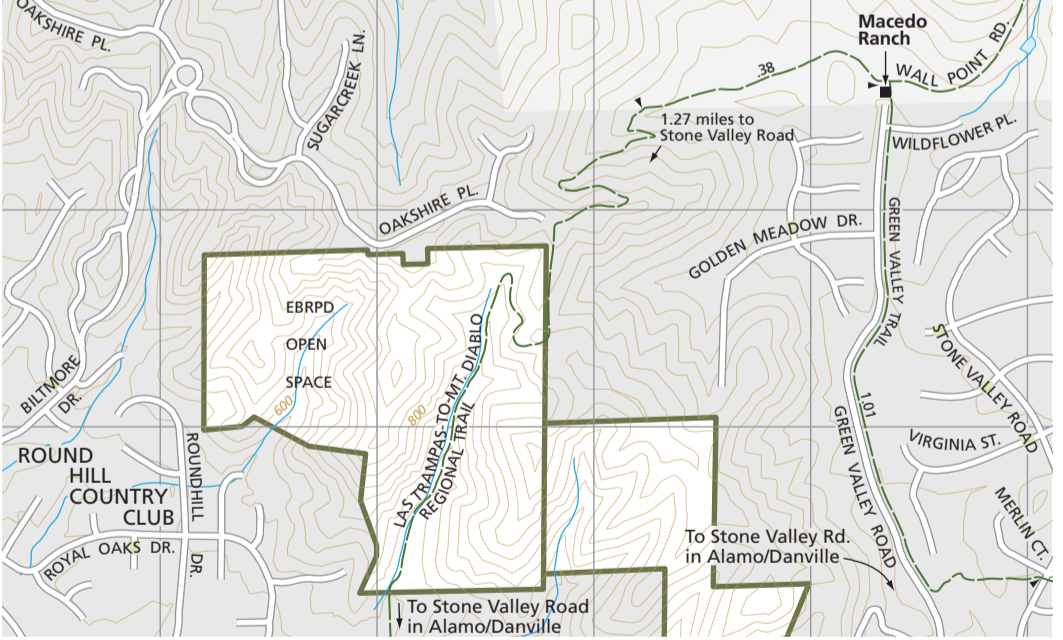
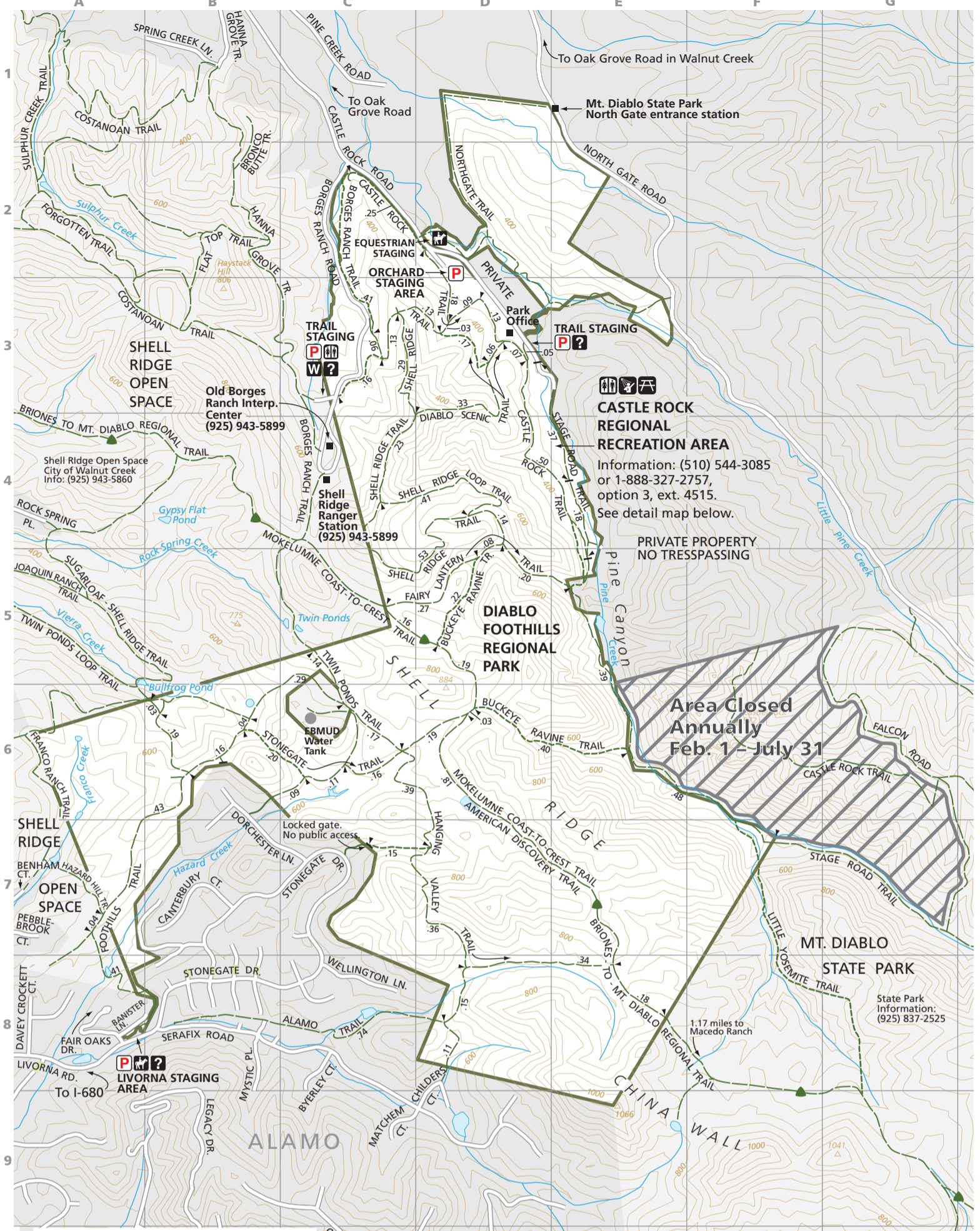
# Diablo Foothills Regional Park

# Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area

Walnut Creek, Concord, Alamo

East Bay Regional Park District





**Castle Rock Picnic Area Capacity**

Ford's Well	100
Castle Tree	100
Pool Oak Terrace	100
Castle View	50
Pine Creek	50
Eddybrook	100
Shady Glen	50
Stagecoach	50

To reserve a picnic area, call 1-888-327-2757, press option 2.

