**Diablo Foothills**

**Castle Rock**

**Castilleja**

**Roads: 1.060**


**HISTORY**

The Tocant and the Yokuts are two of the six Bay Miwok-speaking tribes who lived in this area for many generations. When the first non-Indians entered Tocant lands – the 1772 Spanish Spanish expedition – the Tocant fled from them in panic. Between 1794 and 1804, 272 Tocant families 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 17,700-acre Rancho Arroyo de la Nuestra y Bollomes (Creek of the Walnuts and Yokuts Indians), which included today's Diablo Foothills. When James Wilson bought part of the ranch in the 1850s, after California became a state, he also bought two Indian barons. From 1902-1940, the Wilson family operated a cattle ranch and dairy at Diablo Foothills. After World War II, a military officer, and later Wilson's son, operated 230 acres as Castle Rock Park.

**DESCRIPTION**

Diablo Foothills offers abundant open land for hiking and nature study. Its 1,060 acres are bordered by two dramatic East Bay landforms: the Castle Rock of Mt. Diablo and the undulating "camel-back" ridges that form Shell Ridge. These ridges link the park to the Mt. Diablo State Park and the City of Walnut Creek's Shell Ridge Open Space, which together, at 17,000 acres, offers a large open space area to the East Bay. Diablo Foothills also contains the 15-acre Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Vegetation varies from grassland with salmon and oak woodland on the hills to riparian and oak woodland in the valley. This creates diverse habitats that support a variety of wildlife, including 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. Roadside outcrops shelter garter andopher snakes, western fence lizards, southern alligator lizards, tree frogs, and California salamanders. The perennial pools in Pine Creek ensure the survival of green sunfish, mosquitofish, and largemouth bass. Golden egrets, 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**

This park offers activities and sights for everyone. A wheelchair-accessible swimming pool with lifeguards, and boardwalks with showers, a softball field, basketball courts, horsehoe 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 operates during city hours, seasonally. For hours and fees, 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 94599.

**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 your safety, keep to the right. The proposed single file rule extends blinding 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.
- Bicycles must always yield to pedestrians. Before passing, SLOW DOWN, establish verbal contact, and call out or ring a bell.
- For y

**POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL EMERGENCY**

- **POLICE**
  - 1-888-327-2757, option 1 ext. 4525.
- **FIRE/HEADQUARTERS**
  - 1-888-327-2757, option 1 ext. 4526.
- **PICNIC & POOL RESERVATIONS**
  - 1-888-327-2757, option 2 ext. 4526.

**LOCATION**

Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area

Walnut Creek, Concord, Alamo

1700 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94599

To reach Diablo Foothills and Castle Rock: From I-680 at Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek and drive east. After about three miles turn left on Walnut Avenue. About half a mile further turn left on 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 further along Castle Rock Road. A couple of miles further along Castle Rock Road prior to the Orchard Staging Area is the Castle Rock Ridge Open Space. The American Discovery Trail and the Stanley Cove-to-Crest Trail are found in nearby Diablo Foothills.

**Trails**

Diablo Foothills is located close to the Briones-to-Mt. Diablo Regional Trail, which aligns along the Briones Ridge Ranch-Pinole Canyon Trail and Castle Rock Ridge Open Space.
Press option 2.

Call 1-888-327-2757, or 1-888-327-2757, option 6, 4515.

See detail map below.

No public access.

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

To Oak Grove Road in Walnut Creek

Mt. Diablo State Park

North Gate entrance station

Press option 2.

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