

Mount Diablo Review

MOUNT DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

Spring/Summer 2017 • MDIA, PO Box 346, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0346 • 925-927-7222 • www.mdia.org

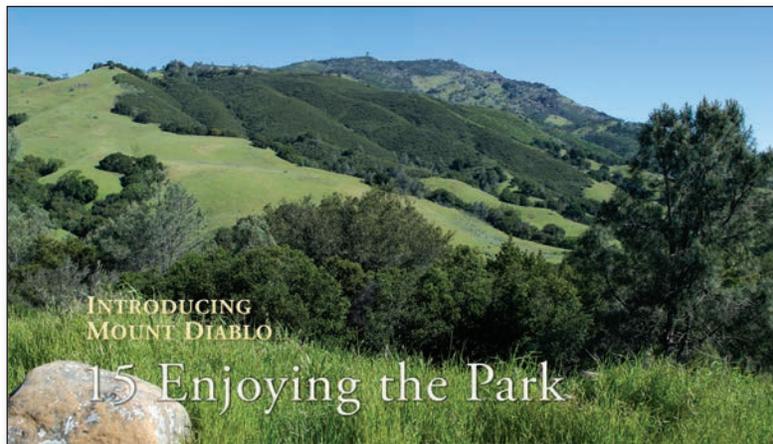
Audible Mount Diablo Enlightens, Enriches, and Entertains

Michelle Hummel, Mount Diablo State Park Volunteer and MDIA Board Member

Are you looking for a way to enrich your experience at Mount Diablo State Park? Try watching and listening to Audible Mount Diablo, a collection of multimedia tours that will guide you along some of the mountain's most popular trails.

The tours, which are sponsored by Mount Diablo Interpretive Association, Save Mount Diablo, California State Parks Foundation, and others, discuss the natural and human history of the park, as well as the plants, animals, and rocks that you may see during your visit. You'll hear from host and producer Joan Hamilton, as well as other experts and volunteers who share their knowledge of the park.

If this is your first time in the park, consider starting with "Introducing Mount Diablo," which gives an overview of the history, flora, and fauna of the park. You'll learn about the origin of the name Diablo, the native people who looked to Mount Diablo as a sanctuary for prayer, and the start of the tourism industry on the mountain. You'll also hear about the animals that call



JOAN HAMILTON

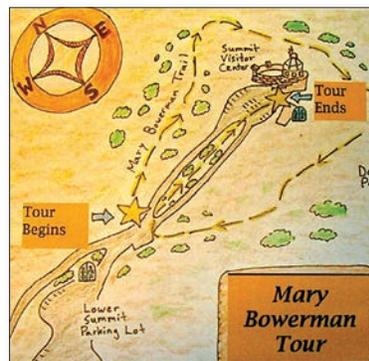
Mount Diablo home, including mountain lions, golden eagles, and tarantulas.

If you're heading up to the Summit along South Gate Road, stop by Rock City and follow the accompanying Audible Mount Diablo guide, which will

enhance the 1.6-mile hike past graceful madrones, sandstone caves, and historic Diablo stoves. At Artist Point, the last stop on the hike, you'll be rewarded with views to the west and hear a comical story about Mount Diablo's second dedication ceremony.

A few miles farther up the road is Curry Point, where another Audible Mount Diablo tour will guide you along the 6.5-mile loop past meadows and rocky pinnacles, ideal habitat for a variety of birds and wildflowers. Malcolm Sproul, a biologist and expert birder, will teach you some bird calls along the way.

Once you reach the summit, the "Mary Bowerman Tour" will guide you along an accessible 1-mile trail with expansive views of the surrounding area. Ken Lavin, a naturalist with the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association, will



PATRICK HAMILTON

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Park Superintendent's Report

• Ryen Goering

Welcome to Mount Diablo State Park! The park staff and volunteers of Mount Diablo State Park welcome you to explore and enjoy this unique island mountain in the heart of the San Francisco Bay Area.



Many of you visiting the park will travel to the 3,849-foot summit to take in the spectacular 360-degree view from the observation deck, which is well worth the drive. Be sure to check out the rest of the Summit Visitor Center. It is open daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and offers a wealth of information to introduce you to the park and its natural environment—the diverse flora and fauna, and its fascinating geology and cultural history.

Many other notable features of the nearly 20,000-acre Mount Diablo State Park are just off the main roads in the park: overlooks, picnic areas, campgrounds, and, of course, a labyrinth of hiking trails covering some 162 miles. The road map on the center page of this newsletter pinpoints some of the features of interest. For example, along South Gate Road, Rock City is one of the highlights of the park, where children of all ages can explore the unique sandstone rock formations and wind caves carved into the mountain.

I encourage you to talk to a ranger or one of the docents at the Summit or Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center who might tell you about their favorite locations in the park.



The park staff and volunteers continue to seek ways to improve the amenities in the park for the enjoyment, comfort, and safety of everyone in the park. First and foremost, we focus on safety. The general park rules listed on the back page of this newsletter are based on common sense and courtesy to others.

Please take time to explore and savor the park and also share it with others who may not have yet discovered it. Enjoy your outdoor adventure!

MDIA President's Column

• Mike Woodring

It's not every day that you are asked to do something truly unique, interesting, and challenging. Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA), the park's all-volunteer nonprofit cooperating association, was approached by Mount Diablo State Park staff in 2015 regarding a trail survey on some single-track trails to determine the what, when, and where of plants considered rare by the park.



The park was awarded a generous grant from California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) to assist in the expense to conduct the survey, and MDIA offered to match the amount. The total was enough to hire a botanist, but there was more work to do than one person could manage for the given timeframe. The idea of using volunteers came up, but a professional botanist was still required to do the evaluations and write the formal report. The net outcome was a combination of both, with MDIA supplying both funds and volunteers.

Assembling a group of knowledgeable, enthusiastic volunteers was the easy part. We also needed an online tool to record the plants found and transmit the data to the botanist. He suggested using iNaturalist.org, which allowed us to record a location, photo, and other details while on the trail using a smartphone. A little tweaking of the app ensured privacy of the sensitive rare plant data, and off we went.

How the survey results will impact trail maintenance is yet to be determined, but we are pleased that the volunteer efforts contributed to the park and the project proved to be a rewarding learning experience for the volunteers.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering for the park or MDIA, please visit our website at mdia.org or email volunteer@mdia.org.

AUDIBLE MOUNT DIABLO (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

teach you about the geology of the park at nine stops along the trail. You'll even learn how a cream-filled cookie can be used to understand the movement of tectonic plates in the San Francisco Bay Area.

If you're visiting the Mitchell Canyon area of the park, listen to the accompanying twelve-part audio tour as you stroll along the 2-mile trail through the canyon. This guide describes the plants and animals, including squirrels, ladybugs, and Coulter pines, that can be seen in the park year-round. It also talks about the history of the area, from the time when grizzlies roamed the mountain, to the mining era, to the historic fire that occurred in 1977.

Also starting in Mitchell Canyon is the 4-mile-long "Plants of Twin Peaks" tour. Especially enjoyable during spring wildflower season, it explains how poppies got their name, why druids revered mistletoe, and how dozens of California wildflowers made their way to English gardens in the 19th century.

To get started, visit mdia.org, select the "Audio Tours of Mount Diablo" link, and download the free multimedia guides on any of your electronic devices. You can choose from nine tours within Mount Diablo State Park and three others on public lands just outside the park. Select a guide and download the episodes and you're ready to begin your adventure on Mount Diablo.



JOAN HAMILTON

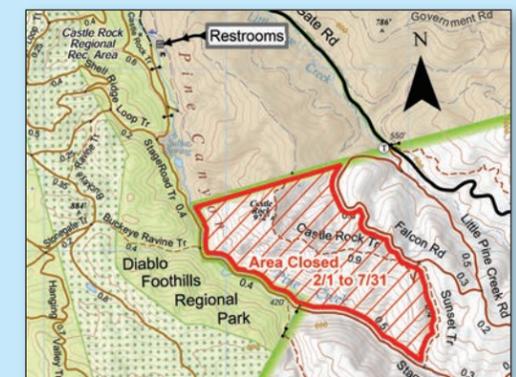
Castle Rock Area Closed for Peregrine Falcon Nesting



DIRK MUEHLNER

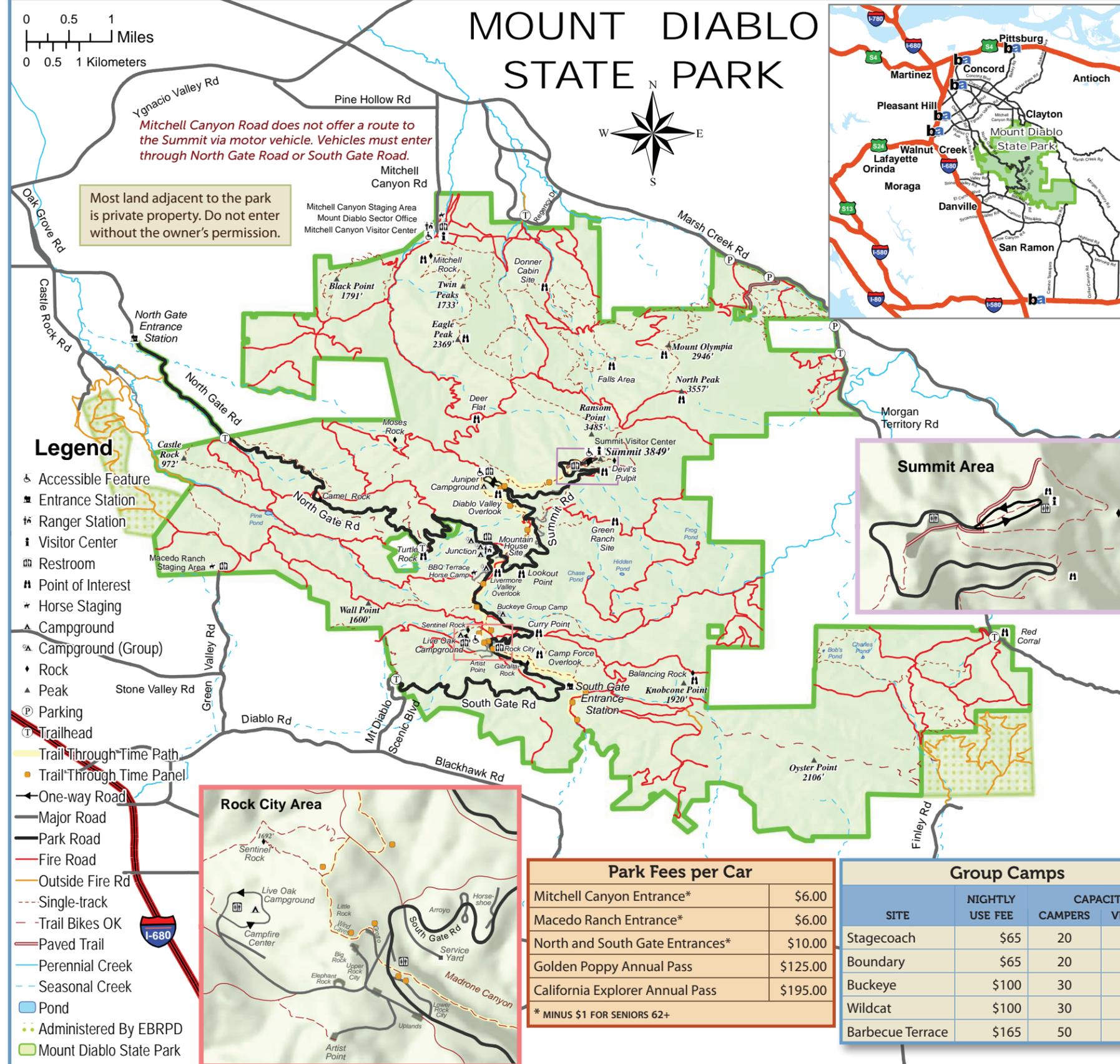


Mount Diablo State Park is first and foremost a wilderness area. In particular, the area known as "Castle Rock" in Mount Diablo State Park is a unique environment that is closed to visitors annually from February 1 to July 31 to help protect peregrine falcons during their nesting season. The peregrine falcon, a "Fully Protected Species" in California, is territorial and highly sensitive to disturbance during nesting season. Please protect this magnificent raptor and respect the closure period, the beautiful rocks, and this amazing natural environment.



A more detailed topographic map is available for purchase at the entrance stations and the Summit and Mitchell Canyon visitor centers.

Camping at Mount Diablo State Park



Mount Diablo has three designated family camping areas and five group camps:

Juniper Campground (36 sites, elevation 3,000 ft.) Located approximately 2 miles below the summit, on Summit Road, Juniper is known for its fantastic views. Three campsites meet accessibility (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. *Reservations available.*

Live Oak Campground (23 sites, elevation 1,450 ft.) Located one mile above the South Gate Entrance Station, off South Gate Road. Live Oak is near Rock City, where one can explore rock formations. *Reservations available.*

Junction Campground (6 sites, elevation 2,200 ft.) Located where South Gate Road and North Gate Road meet at the Ranger Station. This campground is situated in an open woodland area. *Available on a first-come, first-served basis only.*

Group Camps are Buckeye, Barbecue Terrace, Wildcat, Stagecoach, and Boundary. Each campground is primitive with running water (subject to availability) and pit toilets. Barbecue Terrace is equipped with horse ties for equestrian use. RVs are not allowed in the group camping areas. *Reservations available.*

- All campgrounds are provided with picnic tables, fire pits or stoves, potable water (subject to availability) and restrooms. Showers are available at Juniper and Live Oak campgrounds at no additional charge.

- The campgrounds are mainly designed for tent camping, but can accommodate RVs up to 20 feet in length. No hookups and dumping stations are provided.

Camping Procedures

Make reservations 48 hours to 7 months in advance by contacting Reserve America at 800.444.7275 or www.reserveamerica.com. Reservations can be made for a specific campground but not a specific site. Campers cannot be registered at Mitchell Canyon. Check-in time is 2:00 p.m. Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

During the fire season (generally May to October), the park is subject to closure due to extreme fire danger. Campers must call the park at 925.837.2525 or 925.837.0904 one day prior to their arrival to confirm park status.

General Rules

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park.
- 8 people and 2 vehicles maximum per campsite.
- Each juvenile (under age of 18) must have written permission from his/her parents (with parent's phone number) prior to camping without adult supervision. Phone verifications will be attempted.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- No electric generators from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Firewood gathering is prohibited.
- Fires must be in stoves or fire pits provided. **NO GROUND FIRES.**
- Campfire restrictions are in effect during the fire season. Check fire conditions for appropriate use (see page 6).
- Campers are locked in the park overnight from sunset to 8:00 a.m. For emergencies dial 911.
- Quiet—noise must not carry beyond your immediate camp or picnic ground.

Group Picnic Reservations: Call Ranger Daniel Golde at 925.837.6129 x3

2017 Public Astronomy Programs on Mount Diablo

2017	START	TOPIC
March 4	5:30 p.m.	Moon: Earth's Lost Rock
April 1	7:00 p.m.	Planets of our Solar System
May 20	7:30 p.m.	Supernova!
June 10	8:00 p.m.	Sunset to Moonrise
July 15	8:00 p.m.	Getting Ready: August 21 Solar Eclipse
Aug 12	7:30 p.m.	Perseids Meteor Shower Tonight
Sep 23	6:30 p.m.	Search for Alien Worlds
Oct 21	6:00 p.m.	Our Place in our Galaxy
2018 March 24	7:00 p.m.	First astronomy program of 2018— mark your calendar!



CELESTRON 14-INCH TELESCOPE • JON WILSON

- Time:** Beginning about an hour before sunset. Enter the park gate at least 45 minutes before the program starts. You may stay until 11 p.m.
- Where:** Lower summit parking lot of Mount Diablo State Park.
- Cost:** The astronomy program is free; there is a park entry fee.
- Bring:** Kids, binoculars, warm clothes (temperature can drop significantly), snacks, water. If you bring a flash light, please cover it with red cellophane or red cloth.
- Leaving:** The park gates will be locked and visitors will be able to leave the summit and exit the park only by escorted caravans through the North Gate a few times during the evening. Caravans will be announced at hourly intervals during the program (first caravan two hours after program starts); visitors should only leave with these escorts.

The Astronomy Program is presented by Mount Diablo State Park, Mount Diablo Astronomical Society (MDAS), and Mount Diablo Observatory Association. It takes place weather permitting (including "High Fire Danger"). Rain cancels. For more details, go to Mount Diablo Astronomical Society's website, www.mdas.net, and click on Event Calendar, or call Mount Diablo State Park at 925.837.2525.

FIRE DANGER CHART						
Fire Danger Reading	Wood fire permitted in stoves & BBQ pits (designated picnic and campsites)	Use of Compressed Logs	Use of Charcoal	Use of Self-contained Stove	Cigarette Smoking ¹	Park Closed ²
LOW	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
MEDIUM	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
HIGH	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
HIGH WITH RED FLAG	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
VERY HIGH/EXTREME	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

¹ THE PROHIBITION OF SMOKING UNDER HIGH FIRE DANGER INCLUDES SMOKING WITHIN A VEHICLE.
² PARK CLOSURE APPLIES TO ALL HIKERS, VEHICLES, BICYCLISTS (MOUNTAIN AND ROAD), AND HORSEBACK RIDERS.

Fire Danger: How Will It Affect You?

- Maintain fires at all times in a safe condition that does not threaten any person or natural or structural feature.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Extinguish all fires prior to departure.
- Ground fires are not permitted.
- Firewood gathering is prohibited.
- Report all wildfires immediately. Call 911.

MDIA Product Order and Membership Form

Clip and mail to MDIA, PO Box 346, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0346. Checks only, made payable to MDIA.

• Maps and Hiking Information	EACH	QTY	TOTAL
Trail Map of Mount Diablo State Park (7 th Ed.)	7.50		
Hiker's Guide to Mount Diablo State Park	18.00		

• Interpretive Publications	EACH	QTY	TOTAL
Mount Diablo, The Extraordinary Life and Landscapes of a California Treasure	60.00		
The Mount Diablo Guide (3 rd Ed.)	17.00		
Mountain Lore—History & Place Names of Mount Diablo	7.50		
Trees and Shrubs of Mount Diablo	7.50		
Common Birds of Mount Diablo	7.50		
Mt. Diablo Wildflowers	7.50		
Geology Brochure and Map	2.50		

• Nature Guides (Laminated/Folded)	EACH	QTY	TOTAL
Local Birds of the San Francisco Bay Area	9.75		
Local Rocks of North America	9.75		
Local Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay Area	9.75		
Local Animal Tracks of North America	9.75		

• Products with Mount Diablo State Park Logo	EACH	QTY	TOTAL
T-shirts: Sky Blue or Stonewashed Green; S, M, L, XL (circle size and color)	16.00		
Mount Diablo Patch	4.00		
Mount Diablo Lapel/Hat Pin	5.50		

SUBTOTAL \$

10% Discount for MDIA, California State Parks Foundation members, and Park Staff

TOTAL AMOUNT (INCLUDES SALES TAX, SHIPPING & HANDLING) \$

Thank you for your mail order!
Profits from sales support the educational programs of MDIA.

Event Calendar
 Check out all the hikes and other events happening in Mount Diablo State Park.



www.mdia.org/site/mdia-event-calendar

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT MDIA, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING Mount Diablo Interpretive Association Membership Application

Membership dues are deductible to the full extent allowed by law. New memberships include a free Mount Diablo trail map.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CIRCLE ONE)	
Student/Senior (55+)	\$15
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Contributing	\$100
Lifetime	\$500

Donation \$

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

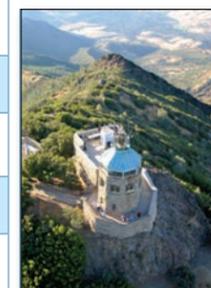
Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

Join MDIA or renew your membership online now. Use your smartphone.



mdia.org/site/online-store/memberships



Summit Museum
 is open
 7 days a week
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 925.837.6119

Article or Photograph Submission

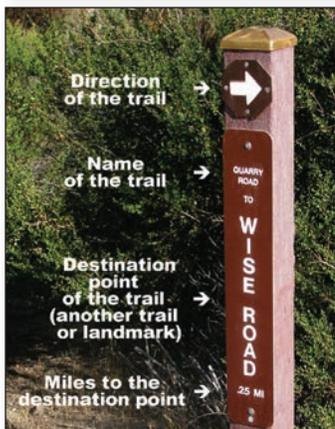
To submit articles or photographs for the next issue of the Mount Diablo Review, email info@mdia.org or leave a message at 925.927.7222. Submission deadline for the Fall/Winter issue is **July 15, 2017**.

Park Rules

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBEYING THESE AND OTHER PARK RULES

- **All Features of the Park Are Protected!** Do not remove or disturb plants, animals, or geological features.
- **Park Hours:** Opens at 8 a.m. and closes at sunset. Visitors should be in their vehicles heading out at sunset to avoid being locked in.
- **No Alcohol:** All alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park.
- **Vehicles/Bicycles Speed Limit:** 15 to 25 mph on park roads, 15 mph in campgrounds and picnic areas. All vehicles must stay on the pavement and are prohibited on trails and fire roads.
- **Bicycles** are allowed only on paved roads, fire roads and designated trails. Check at the Ranger Station for current regulations.
- **Drones or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)** are prohibited.
- **Skateboards**, rollerblades, rollerskates, and gravity-propelled devices are prohibited.
- **Dogs:** Must be on leash at all times when out of your car; must be in a tent or a vehicle at night; and must stay in developed areas—they are not allowed on trails or fire roads.
- **Fires:** Restrictions in effect during season. Check with a Ranger. Fires must be in fire stoves or barbecues provided—no ground fires.
- **Emergencies:** Dial 911.
- **Fireworks** are prohibited.
- **Firearms/airguns** and hunting are prohibited.

Understanding Trail Signs



Trail signs in the park follow California State Parks uniform format. The name of the trail you are on is specified in relatively small horizontal type near the top of the sign. The name that appears vertically in large type (another trail, destination, or park boundary) identifies the termination of that particular trail; note the word "TO" in small letters. The mileage to that end point is specified at the bottom.

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the Contra Solano Sector Office, 925.673.2891. This newsletter is available in alternate formats by contacting 925.673.2891.

Rules of the Road For Motorists and Cyclists



PASS
WITH
CARE

Share the roadway with all Park users.

- Drive at or below the posted Park speed limits.
CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE 22350*
- Pass with sufficient visual clearance.
CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE 21751*
- Do not pass on blind curves.
CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE 21752(a)*
- Give bicyclists 3 feet clearance.
CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE 21760(b)*
- Yield to equestrians.
CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE 21759*

*MINIMUM FINE: \$238.00

Take your time and enjoy
Mount Diablo's scenic views

Mount Diablo State Park Phone Numbers

Supervising Ranger	925.855.1730
Junction Ranger	925.837.6129
Mitchell Canyon Ranger.....	925.672.4266
Summit Museum	925.837.6119
South Gate Entrance Station ...	925.837.0904
Maintenance.....	925.837.6122
Sector Office	925.673.2891
General Information.....	925.837.2525
TTY Relay Service.....	711



Mount Diablo State Park
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517-1500