

A couple is walking away from the camera through a large, ornate archway. The woman on the left has dark, curly hair and is wearing a red spaghetti-strap top and blue jeans, carrying a white tote bag. The man on the right has dark, curly hair and is wearing a light-colored jacket and brown pants. They are holding hands. The archway is made of dark metal with intricate scrollwork and has the words "CONCORD" and "CALIFORNIA" inscribed on it. In the background, there is a statue of a man on a pedestal, a green lawn, trees, and a park bench. The scene is bright and sunny.

Concord

CALIFORNIA

Concord History

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CONCORD VISITOR CENTER

For anyone wanting to know more about Concord, make your first stop the Concord Visitor Center! Our knowledgeable team, along with our new, interactive information kiosk can help you find out even more about the city of Concord!

The Visitor Center is located inside the Visit Concord offices in the heart of Concord's historic downtown at 2151 Salvio Street, in Salvio Pacheco Square. There's plenty of free parking too! More details at VisitConcordCA.com.

The Concord, California region has a rich and colorful history. From its beginnings as a land grant named Monte del Diablo to the vital Bay Area center it is today, Concord celebrates its past and welcomes the new growth and development of its bright future.

EARLY YEARS

In the beginning, a small tribe of Bay Miwok Indians (native to Northern California) from the Chupcan tribe were the first inhabitants in Diablo Valley, where herds of deer, elk, bear, and antelope roamed. The tribe lived along salmon-filled streams and shared the valley with the wildlife. In 1772, Captain Pedro Fages and Father Juan Crespi led a group of Spanish explorers into the area, becoming the first outsiders to enter. The Spanish continued to explore the valley for the next 50 or so years but did not create a settlement in the area.

In 1828, Don Salvio Pacheco petitioned Mexico for land in the valley and in 1834, received a 17,921-acre land grant called "Monte del Diablo" a name used by Spanish soldiers to describe the valley area. The grant covered the Walnut Creek channel east to the hills, and from the Mount Diablo foothills north to the Bay. Fernando Pacheco, Don Salvio's son, occupied the grant and began a cattle-raising business on the family's new Rancho; in 1846 the Pacheco family joined Fernando there. Don Salvio's grand adobe became a focal point as the region's business and social center and still remains in downtown Concord. Don Fernando's adobe is built a few miles north on the hills. Both adobes are registered historic landmarks. A new town,



named Pacheco, grew neighboring the Rancho. The town soon fell on hard times due to flooding, fires, and the 1868 earthquake.

In 1868, the Pacheco men created a new town and named it Todos Santos (All Saints). The following year, they offered the town for free to the residents and merchants of Pacheco, but the name Todos Santos would not last for long. The town's residents recorded the name "Concord" as the official name of their new town; the Contra Costa Gazette announced it on April 17, 1869. Concord was cheered for the spirit of its name. Concord means "harmony" or "hearts together". In spite of Don Fernando's published use of Todos Santos, the Concord name remained.

The 1870s saw the new town of Concord forming, as businesses opened along Salvio Street around the town square. By 1879, the Concord population had hit 300. The area around Concord in the surrounding Ygnacio and Clayton Valleys was a large and rich agricultural region. Crops that were grown included grapes, walnuts, almonds, wheat, hay, and even tomatoes. The land to the east (now the site of the Concord Naval Weapons Station) was the site of a few enormous wheat ranches over 5,000 acres and was almost a sea of wheat all the way to the marshes bordering Suisun Bay. During Prohibition, many vineyards were removed and replaced with walnut orchards.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

The 1900s saw residential expansion. In 1901, Mount Diablo Union High School opened. The school would become California's longest continually operating high school. In 1905, Joseph Boyd became the first mayor of Concord, the city's population had again doubled, and on February 5, 1905, the "Town of Concord" incorporation was officially approved by a two-vote margin.

Over the next 35 years, the population would again double. By the start of World War II, small-town Concord had a full-service commercial downtown area and boasted a comfortable residential lifestyle. In 1948, Concord became a California City with a population of 6,500. The 1950s and 1960s saw a growth explosion even as the original downtown began to deteriorate.



However, new development was on its way. During this time, the First Concord Summer Jazz Festival was held, and the original town square was officially renamed Todos Santos Plaza.

From the 1970s through the 1990s and toward the end of the millennium, Concord saw great growth and change. BART operations came to the city, the Concord Pavilion was established, June Bulman became the first woman mayor, the Tishman Building opened to become Contra Costa's tallest high-rise, the City adopted its Art in Public Places and Gateway Art Program, Brenden's 14-screen movies theater megaplex opened and an elevated BART line extended to North Concord.

EXPLORING CONCORD'S PAST TODAY

At the Grant Street entrance of Todos Santos Plaza, you'll find a statue of Don Salvio Pacheco, a founding father of Concord. Created by internationally recognized master sculptor, Paula Slater, M.A., the bronze statue stands a powerful 7 feet tall. Pacheco's left-hand holds a scroll of his land grant and the right rests upon a map with the marked boundary of his land.

Other noteworthy Concord landmarks include:

- Galindo Home Museum and Gardens. This is the home of Don Francisco Galindo, also a founder of Concord. Tours happen most Sundays, from 1 pm to 4 pm.
- Dave Brubeck Park. Named after the jazz great and Concord Native, the park was also the first Concord Jazz Festival!
- Don Salvio Pacheco Adobe. The adobe home of founder Don Salvio Pacheco was built in 1835.
- Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial. A memorial dedicated to the 1944 tragedy and WWII's worst homefront disaster.



TODAY AND LOOKING FORWARD

Concord is Contra Costa County's largest city and a proud home to a diverse, vibrant population approaching 125,000. In this new world of living closer to work, Concord offers affordable Bay Area living and a shorter commute allowing a much better quality of life.

Its Bay Area location makes Concord a top choice for businesses. BevMo is headquartered here, Honda chose Concord as the site to test its self-driving cars and Whole Foods opened the first East Bay Area 365 store in Concord.

Several cutting-edge Biomedical Technology companies are in Concord: John Muir Health I Concord Medical Center (Ranked #2 Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News & World Report), John Muir Health I Behavioral Health Center, and Akesis Inc. a High-Tech Radiation Medicine company.

Also making their home in Concord are Cerus Corporation and Fresenius Medical Care - both are innovators in the Health Care Industry.

GoMentum Station tests their connected and autonomous vehicles on the Concord Naval Weapons Base in partnership with brands like Honda, Toyota, Uber, and Lyft.

Concord schools offer diverse and innovative curriculums to advance students' academic and personal development. At the elementary level, Mount Diablo Unified School District includes three magnet schools that have a focused theme and aligned curricula. Wren Elementary specializes in Visual and Performing Arts, Holbrook Elementary in Language, and Sun Terrace in STEM.

High Schools in Concord provide opportunities, stretch students' minds and build their ingenuity and creativity. From award-winning Performing Arts programs at Concord High School to a STEM Innovation Center at Carondelet High School. Mount Diablo High School offers an International Hospitality & Tourism Academy and Pathway program that includes a student-run restaurant and bakery, Serendipity!

Mount Diablo Unified School District enlists the support of students in a Homeless Outreach Program for Education HOPE which helps homeless students and their families by providing food, clothing, shelter, and assistance.



Clayton Valley Charter High School is a Gold Ribbon Honoree and is the highest-performing public school in Concord.

De La Salle High School holds the national record, a 151-game winning streak, spanning from 1992 to 2004. The school's undefeated 2002 season was documented in the book "When The Game Stands Tall" and became a major motion picture!

The city's social, environmental, and economic focus is constant. One of the most significant environmental initiatives is Save Mount Diablo. The mission is to forever preserve the remaining 60,000 acres of natural lands around Mount Diablo and to preserve its wildlife, and recreational, scenic, and scientific values.

Concord has a strong Climate Action Plan. Most recently, the city installed electric car stations and banned the use of styrofoam to reduce waste further.

Concord champions developing and fostering multi-family dwellings, offices, and retail space. Growth in the downtown area is ongoing. Currently, 1000+ housing units are under construction, approved for building, or planned for development.

The redevelopment of the Concord Naval Weapons Station into a vibrant part of Concord presents a fantastic opportunity for the people of Concord and the entire East Bay region. The proposed community includes an estimated 13,000 units of housing and millions of square feet of commercial space. It will also be home to a new 2,540-acre East Bay Regional Park, named Thurgood Marshall Regional Park - Home of the Port Chicago 50, commemorating the nearby Port Chicago tragedy during World War II.

Concord offers its residents a high quality of life and has been named one of the "Best Places to Raise a Family" by Livability.com and "One of the Top Cities in Which to Retire" by Condé Nast Traveler.