



## CONCORD HISTORY

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 in 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 the 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 a business and social center of the region and still remains in downtown Concord. Don Fernando's adobe is built a few miles north on the hills. Both adobes are registered historical 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 and 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 onto 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 movie theater megaplex opened and an elevated BART line extended to North Concord.

## TODAY AND LOOKING FORWARD

Concord is the largest city in Contra Costa County, and is proud to be home to a diverse population approaching 129,000. At the Grant Street entrance of Todos Santos Plaza is 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. His left hand holds a scroll of his land grant and the right rests upon a map with the marked boundary of his land.

Concord's excellent Bay Area location continues to make the city a top choice for business ventures. BevMo is headquartered here with an eye on the future, 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.

Today several cutting edge Biomedical Technology companies are based in Concord including John Muir Health | Concord Medical Center (Ranked #2 Best Regional Hospital by U.S. News & World Report), John Muir Health | Behavioral Health Center, and Akesis Inc. a High-Tech Radiation Medicine company. Also located in Concord are Cerus Corporation and Fresenius Medical Care – both are achieving innovative breakthroughs in the Health Care Industry. Innovative Technology Companies include Starship Technologies – a network of autonomous robots, GoMentum Station where autonomous vehicle testing is conducted and Marble Robotics a business developing intelligent courier robots.

Concord schools offer diverse and innovative curriculums to advance student's 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 also provide a range of opportunities for students. From award winning Performing Arts programs at Concord High School, to plans for a STEM Innovation Center at Carondelet High School, to Mount Diablo High's Sustainable Hospitality Pathway – a Career Technical Education program for students in the International Hospitality & Tourism Academy that includes their student run restaurant and bakery, *Serendipity* – these programs stretch student's minds and builds their ingenuity and creativity. Mount Diablo Unified School District enlists the support of students in their Homeless Outreach Program for Education HOPE that 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 high school in Concord.

The city's social, environmental and economic developments continue. 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. *Save Mount Diablo* strives to keep free from development the Mount Diablo core area, and to preserve specific areas that have major wildlife, recreational, scenic, and scientific values. Concord has a strong Climate Action Plan that initiates change. Most recently, the city installed eclectic car stations and banned the use of Styrofoam to further reduce waste.

Concord has several policies and programs in place to facilitate continued development – encouraging and fostering multi-family dwellings, offices and retail space. Growth in the downtown area is ongoing. Currently, 1000 units of housing are under construction, approved for building, or planned for development within the next four years. The City has approved an initial agreement for an 18,000 seat stadium concept for professional soccer. The 32 acre development also includes hotels, apartments, retail and office space near the downtown area, with convenient BART access.

The redevelopment of the Concord Naval Weapons Station into a vibrant part of Concord presents an amazing opportunity for the people of Concord and the entire East Bay region. FivePoint is leading the development of Phase 1 on behalf of Lennar, the master developer. The proposed community includes an estimated 12,200 homes, approximately 6.1 million square feet of commercial, campus and institutional space. The plan incorporates Smart Cities concepts and technologies including smart parking, a potential higher-education campus, K-12 school buildings, open space and a developed park network. The project will also include 800 acres of parks and open space, doubling the amount of park space in current Concord.

Concord offers a high-quality of life for its residents 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.