

## Media Release, Friday, September 28, 2012

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**Title:** 15,000 More Acres: Save Mount Diablo's New Mount Diablo Regional Trail Map

**Image:** <https://www.yousendit.com/download/TEhVbGtKQk4zeUp1a3NUQw>

**Captions and Credits:** At Bottom

What is waterproof, tearproof and has 15,000 more acres of protected lands? Save Mount Diablo has released the second edition of the "Mount Diablo, Los Vaqueros & Surrounding Parks, Featuring the Diablo Trail" map. The original map was the first to show the entire Diablo Region with nearly 40 parks and 520 miles of trails. With 15,000 more acres of protected lands, a lot of updates were needed both in the cartography as well as in the size of the map itself. As with all non-profit projects, the map wouldn't have been possible without volunteers. This one required a father son duo.

Mike McCormack was happy to lend his skills, "For the past year and a half, my son Tommy and I have been working on Save Mount Diablo's volunteer map committee to produce an update to our highly popular and ground breaking regional outdoor recreation map." Mike, who chaired the map committee, and his son, Tommy, spent hundreds of hours updating land statuses and trails with Geographical Information Systems (GIS), a skill Tommy learned before graduating from college a few months earlier.

The new map details more than 110,000 acres of protected land throughout Central and Eastern Contra Costa County and portions of Alameda County. "No other map shows all of the Diablo area parks in a unified design and in regional context", remarked Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo's Land Programs Director. "The map illustrates what has been accomplished and what private lands still need to be protected."

### New and Improved

The updated map is 60% larger but designed to open and close efficiently with accordion folds. The map displays protected lands and trails within the Diablo wilderness which is roughly bounded north to south from Suisun Bay to Highway 580 through the Altamont Pass, and west to east from Highway 680 to the Byron Highway. Of the 338,000 acres shown, over 110,000 are now protected. This new edition shows recently preserved lands including:

- Protected lands in the Tassajara Valley area.
- East Bay Regional Park District and East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy lands connecting Mount Diablo to Black Diamond Mines and expanding preserves in the Vasco corridor.
- Contra Costa Water District's mitigation lands for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion.
- The Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse Plan's parks and open space adding over 3,500 acres.
- 18 parcels purchased by Save Mount Diablo, including several along the Marsh Creek corridor, as well as the Thomas Home Ranch property on the southern edge of Pittsburg.

### The Diablo Trail

As in the original 2007 map, this map presents the 30-mile Diablo Trail, including an elevation profile. Save Mount Diablo wanted to create a map that specifically details the Diablo Trail as it winds through six different open spaces—Shell Ridge Open Space, Diablo Foothills Regional Park, Mt. Diablo State Park, Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, the Los Vaqueros watershed, and Round Valley Regional Preserve. "The inclusion of the trail demonstrates more clearly the connections of parks across Mount Diablo from Walnut Creek to Brentwood and Livermore" Adams explained.

The map also shows a proposed route for a 60-mile "Diablo Grand Loop." Due to the increased size of the 2012 map, this envisioned route is now shown in its entirety on a single side. Most importantly, with the acquisition of several key parcels since the 2007 map printing, the last remaining gaps in unprotected lands were closed. The Diablo Grand Loop is now complete although sections of the trail aren't yet open to the public. However, Save Mount Diablo's Advancement Director, Julie Seelen, is excited for the expanded recreational opportunities for the community, "We hope to be able to

have to print a new edition of the map because more lands have been protected and more trails are open to the public. Especially once the Diablo Grand Loop is entirely accessible to the public. For now, we celebrate the preservation of these additional lands acquired through all of our collective efforts: Save Mount Diablo's donors and volunteers, and our partners"

### Making Maps

A project this large required a combination of skills and support. Although the McCormacks had generously volunteered their time and skills, they needed software to allow them to compile information from multiple parks, agencies and areas. The map was created using Esri's GIS mapping product, ArcMap. "We used the software to make numerous park, trail and parcel additions to the map. The grant will continue to provide us with the capability to create and update maps. "

Save Mount Diablo's new map will be publicly available to purchase beginning October 1st at Save Mount Diablo's office, located at 1901 Olympic Boulevard, Suite 320 in Walnut Creek, for \$10.00, or by mail for an additional \$2.50 in postage and handling (total \$12.50). For more information about the map and how you can support Save Mount Diablo visit [SaveMountDiablo.org](http://SaveMountDiablo.org).

### Summary

**Who:** Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit organization that preserves, defends and restores Mount Diablo's natural lands for people and wildlife to enjoy. Mike and Tommy McCormack, a father son duo, are members of Save Mount Diablo's volunteer map committee.

**What:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the "Mount Diablo, Los Vaqueros & Surrounding Parks, Featuring the Diablo Trail" map features 15,000 more acres of protected lands and is the only map detailing all of the Diablo area parks in a unified design and in regional context.

**Where:** The map displays protected lands and trails within the Diablo wilderness which is roughly bounded north to south from Suisun Bay to Highway 580 through the Altamont Pass, and west to east from Highway 680 to the Byron Highway. Of the 338,000 acres shown, over 110,000 are now protected.

**When:** Monday, October 1, 2012

**Why:** Proceeds benefit Save Mount Diablo in their mission to preserve, protect and restore the remaining 70,000 acres on Mount Diablo and its foothills for wildlife and people to enjoy.

**How:** Save Mount Diablo's new map will be publicly available to purchase beginning October 1st at Save Mount Diablo's office, located at 1901 Olympic Boulevard, Suite 320 in Walnut Creek, for \$10.00, or by mail for an additional \$2.50 in postage and handling (total \$12.50). For more information about the map and how you can support Mount Diablo visit [SaveMountDiablo.org](http://SaveMountDiablo.org).

### **Captions and Credits:**

1. Mike McCormack, Jodi Bailey and Seth Adams review Save Mount Diablo's second edition trail map which has 15,000 more acres of preserved land. By Beryl Anderson.
2. Tommy McCormack volunteered hundreds of hours updating the map with GIS software. By Beryl Anderson
3. The new Diablo Regional Map contains more than 10,000 new acres of protected lands including the Contra Costa Water District's mitigation lands for the Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion. Cover photo by Scott Hein, [www.heinphoto.com](http://www.heinphoto.com).

Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit 501(c)(3) conservation organization, which has been preserving lands on and around Mount Diablo and educating the public to the mountain's natural values since 1971. Preserved lands have increased from 6,788 acres in one park to more than 110,000 acres in 40 parks and preserves. Save Mount Diablo continues to preserve, defend and restore the remainder of the mountain for people and wildlife to enjoy. Contact: Save Mount Diablo, telephone: (925) 947-3535, fax: (925) 947-0642, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 320, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; [www.SaveMountDiablo.org](http://www.SaveMountDiablo.org) ###