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Title: Save Mount Diablo Saves Marsh Creek and Money

Images: please follow this link to a selection of hi-res images

<https://www.yousendit.com/download/M3BsTXRYcHY1aVp4Tk1UQw> **Captions and Credits:** At bottom

Save Mount Diablo just preserved its most recent creek parcel, Marsh Creek 7 near Brentwood. The pace of creek preservation is increasing – the organization has announced purchase of two other creek parcels in the past six months, Marsh Creek 5 and 6, two mini volcanic domes. The organization has preserved more than a mile of Marsh Creek on such properties in just the past few years. A strategy that Save Mount Diablo says will not only protect a critical resource and wildlife corridor but will save money in the long run.

Marsh Creek 7 is adjacent to another nine acre property owned by Save Mount Diablo, Marsh Creek 1. The new property protects the neighboring 460 foot section of the creek, tripling the length of the protected area. Marsh Creek is one of the Diablo wilderness' most important features, defining and connecting the area east of Diablo, the second longest, least disturbed creek in the county and one of its most important wildlife corridors. A new state park, the former Cowell Ranch two miles downstream, has been named Marsh Creek State Park partly in respect to its integral role for Mount Diablo's wildlife.

The park's new name and focus will help Save Mount Diablo's program to protect segments of Marsh Creek upstream. Water is one of the rarest resources in dry California and most wildlife visit water every day. In total, 8.5 miles of the creek have been preserved upstream of Brentwood, including 1.2 miles of creek on property preserved by Save Mount Diablo.

Stream preservation and restoration is becoming increasingly widespread for a host of reasons from resource protection to fish migration. However stream restoration projects around the Bay Area can cost millions of dollars even for short segments of creeks. "We bought 10 creek parcels averaging 650 feet of creek for an average purchase price of \$300,000", Seth Adams, Land Programs Director explains. Ron Brown, the organizations Executive Director pointed out, "By preserving and protecting creeks before habitat deteriorates, we can minimize restoration costs down the road."

Marsh Creek 1 and 7 stretch from Marsh Creek Road across the toe of a rocky blue-oak wooded ridge into the grassland valley to the west that connect to Round Valley Regional Preserve. Several years ago Save Mount Diablo volunteers built a small loop trail on Marsh Creek 1 but it is somewhat steep. The new property will allow a realignment and expansion of part of the trail.

Save Mount Diablo purchased vacant Marsh Creek 1 in 2007 hoping that the neighboring parcel would become available. Now the owner has sold Save Mount Diablo the neighboring 7.6 acres, including a home, for \$550,000. The owner is pleased to preserve the property while continuing to live in the house for the next several years.

"Although more than 8 miles of Marsh Creek have been protected, many more still need to be preserved for habitat and wildlife corridors," remarked Julie Seelen, Save Mount Diablo's Advancement Director. "We wouldn't be able to be proactive and increase conservation without the support of our generous donors and volunteers." To learn about opportunities to get involved with Save Mount Diablo visit SaveMountDiablo.org.

First Tours of Marsh Creek 7

Tours of Marsh Creek 7 will take place on Saturday, March 31st and Sunday, April 8th. Each tour is less than a mile in length; look forward to beautiful sections of Marsh Creek, and one short climb to spectacular views. Space is limited and RSVP is required. Visit SaveMountDiablo.org for more details.

Summary

Who: Save Mount Diablo, non-profit organization in Walnut Creek, CA

What: Save Mount Diablo purchased another property, Marsh Creek 7, tripling the length of protected Marsh Creek in the area.

Where: Marsh Creek 7 is adjacent to Save Mount Diablo's Marsh Creek 1 property on Marsh Creek Road east of Mount Diablo.

When: The first public tour will be held on Saturday, March 31st, from 9:30 am to noon. The second opportunity to see Marsh Creek 7 will be Sunday, April 8th, from 9:30 am to noon. Space is limited and RSVP is required. Visit SaveMountDiablo.org for more details.

Why: Marsh Creek 7 protects the neighboring 460 foot section of Marsh Creek, a critical resource and wildlife corridor, tripling the length of the protected area. In total, 8.5 miles of the creek have been preserved upstream of Brentwood, including 1.2 miles of creek on property preserved by Save Mount Diablo.

How: Stream preservation and restoration is becoming increasingly widespread for a host of reasons from resource protection to fish migration. However stream restoration projects around the Bay Area can cost millions of dollars even for short segments of creeks. "We bought 10 creek parcels averaging 650 feet of creek for an average purchase price of \$300,000", Seth Adams, Land Programs Director explains. Ron Brown, the organizations Executive Director pointed out, "By preserving and protecting creeks before habitat deteriorates, we can minimize restoration costs down the road."

Events: Save Mount Diablo will lead a tour of Marsh Creek 7 on Saturday, March 31st from 9:30 am to noon. There is more information about the properties and tours at SaveMountDiablo.org.

Captions and Credits:

1. The area of protected Marsh Creek has tripled in length with the preservation of Save Mount Diablo's Marsh Creek 7. By Scott Hein, www.heinphoto.com.
2. A map of Save Mount Diablo's properties near Marsh Creek with properties crossed by the creek are in solid red. Over eight miles of Marsh Creek have been protected so far including 1.2 miles on Save Mount Diablo's preservations like Marsh Creek 7. By Save Mount Diablo.
3. A view of Mount Diablo looking west from Save Mount Diablo's new Marsh Creek 7 preservation. By Scott Hein, www.heinphoto.com.
4. Save Mount Diablo's new Marsh Creek 7 property includes a house in addition to its stretch of Marsh Creek. The seller will continue to live in the house as Save Mount Diablo's preserves the property for the next few years. By Scott Hein, 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 100,000 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

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