

JOHN WATERS

1941–2010

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Hazel-Atlas Mining Museum and Greathouse Visitor Center are two of the many accomplishments of John Waters.

John began his career with the East Bay Regional Park District in 1968 as a Park Ranger. Later, as Resource Analyst, he designed Black Diamond's parking lot, picnic areas and water system. John eventually became Black Diamond Park Supervisor, and later served as the Preserve's first Mine Manager, a position he held until his retirement in 2006.

The former coal and sand mining region had a history of injury and death prior to Park District acquisition in the 1970s. John designed and constructed closures for many of the abandoned mines. Additionally he worked in partnership with the Federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to acquire over four million dollars to secure other dangerous mines. As a result, no one has been injured or killed in abandoned mines on Park District lands. One of John's proudest achievements was the development of the Special Use Program which promotes scientific research and academic study underground.

The East Bay Regional Park District is indebted to John for these many accomplishments and for keeping the land safe for future generations.



Photograph by Susan Pollard, circa 1983