



Marc Crumpler

## Native American Past

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is the ancestral homeland of three Bay Miwok speaking tribes: Ompin, Volvon, and Julpun. Since time immemorial, the Bay Miwok people have maintained a strong connection to these lands.

## Ranching History

Before the discovery of coal, cattle ranching was the major industry in this area. After the mines closed, some miners turned to ranching. Abandoned buildings became barns; railroad ties were used as fence posts; and boilers were converted into water troughs.

## Coal Mining History

From the 1850s to the early 1900s, small coal mining towns (Nortonville, Somersville, Stewartville, West Hartley, and Judsonville) thrived in the Black Diamond area. Nearly 4 million tons of coal, “black diamonds,” were mined by over 900 miners, some as young as 8 years old. Coal mining operations ceased in 1906 due to rising production costs and new energy sources.



Coal mining exhibit seen on the Hazel-Atlas Mine tour.

## Sand Mining History

In the 1920s, underground sand mining began near the deserted coal mining townsites. The sand mines supplied sand to the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company in Oakland and the Columbia Steel Works in Pittsburg. Competition from Belgian glass sand and the closing of the steel foundry ended sand mining in the late 1940s.

## Wildlife

Observant hikers may see the tracks of raccoons, skunks, opossums, rabbits, and deer, while birds of prey soar overhead. Mountain lions, bobcats, foxes, and coyotes are also occasionally spotted. Over 100 species of birds have been observed, from the meadowlark to the rare golden eagle. Several rare animal species have also been observed, including the white-tailed kite, the Alameda striped racer, the red-legged frog, and the California tiger salamander.

## Vegetation

The Preserve’s vegetation includes grassland, foothill woodland, mixed evergreen forest, chaparral, stream vegetation, and exotic plantings and its hills are covered with stunning displays of wildflower in the spring. Additionally, several non-native tree species were introduced by miners and are still found today, including black locust, pepper tree, almond, eucalyptus, and tree of heaven.

## Rose Hill Cemetery

The historic cemetery is a monument to the lives of former residents. Although more than 10 nationalities resided in the mining area, Rose Hill was a Protestant cemetery that served as the burial ground for many of the Welsh coal mining residents.

## Ours to Explore, Enjoy and Protect

Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely and help protect and preserve the parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

### Safety

- Stay on trails. Shortcuts are dangerous and damage natural resources.
- Bring plenty of water to prevent dehydration.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
- Keep parks clean. Pack out what you pack in.
- Inform someone where you are going and when you will return.
- Save our 24/7 Dispatch Center number on your cell phone: Emergency (510) 881-1121; Non-emergency (510) 881-1833.

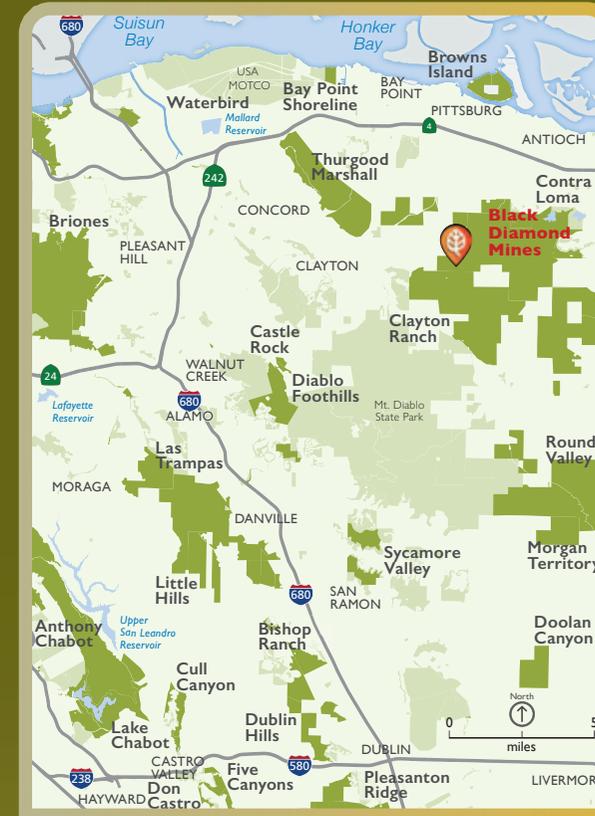
### Rules

- Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, within 200 feet of any trail or park entrance or as posted, in picnic areas, developed areas. Dogs must be under voice control at all times. Clean up after your pet: bag it, bin it.
- Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only.
- Bicyclists yield to pedestrians.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. All bicyclists are also encouraged to wear helmets at all times.

### The following are prohibited:

- Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas
- Consuming alcohol in non-designated areas/parks
- Feeding or approaching wildlife
- Releasing animals into parklands
- Causing damage to plants, geological, or archaeological features
- Smoking/vaping
- Skateboarding
- Drones

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (*Ordinance 38*). See [ebparks.org/rules](http://ebparks.org/rules).



## Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

5175 Somersville Road, Antioch, CA 94509

### East Bay Regional Park District

2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA 94605  
1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757 (TRS 711)  
[ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org)



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Bugs go here

Cover: A tour in Hazel-Atlas Mine

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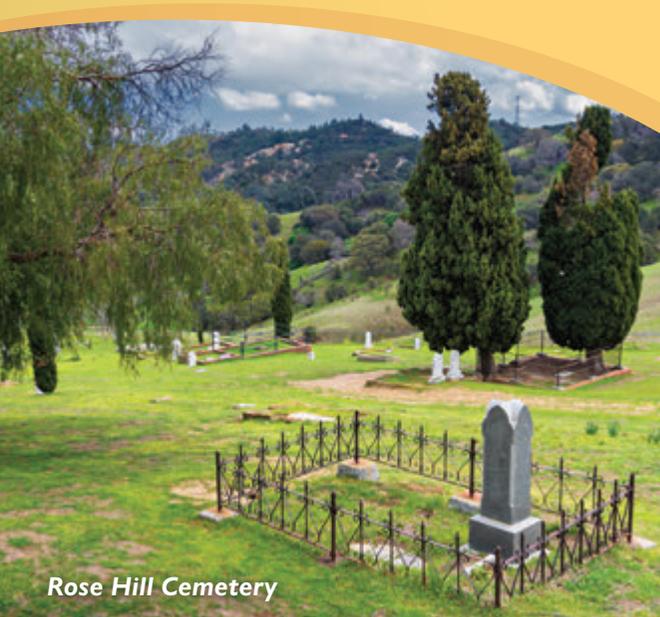
# Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

**Year Opened:** 1976      **Acres:** 8,349

**Highlights:**

- Greathouse Visitor Center (*Mining Museum*)
- Mine Tours
- Rose Hill Cemetery
- Hiking
- Biking
- Horseback Riding
- Camping
- Birdwatching
- Wildflowers

**Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve** is a unique nature preserve with numerous historical sites. It is an ideal location for hiking, picnicking, observing nature, and learning about local history. Naturalists conduct a variety of programs related to the Preserve's natural and historic resources and the Greathouse Visitor Center display exhibits, photographs, videos, and artifacts from the parkland's 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century past.



Rose Hill Cemetery

