

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Location	Antioch
GPS	37.970785, -121.862544
Phone	(888-327-2757), option 3, extension 4506
Miles	6.8-Mile Loop
Elevation Gain	1,656 ft.
Trails	Railroad/Stewartville/Ridge/Acorn/Old Homestead/Lark/Riverview Loop
Hours/Curfew	8 a.m. to Sunset; varies seasonally
Fees	\$5 vehicle; \$2 dog
Website	ebparks.org/parks/black_diamond

CHALLENGING HIKE



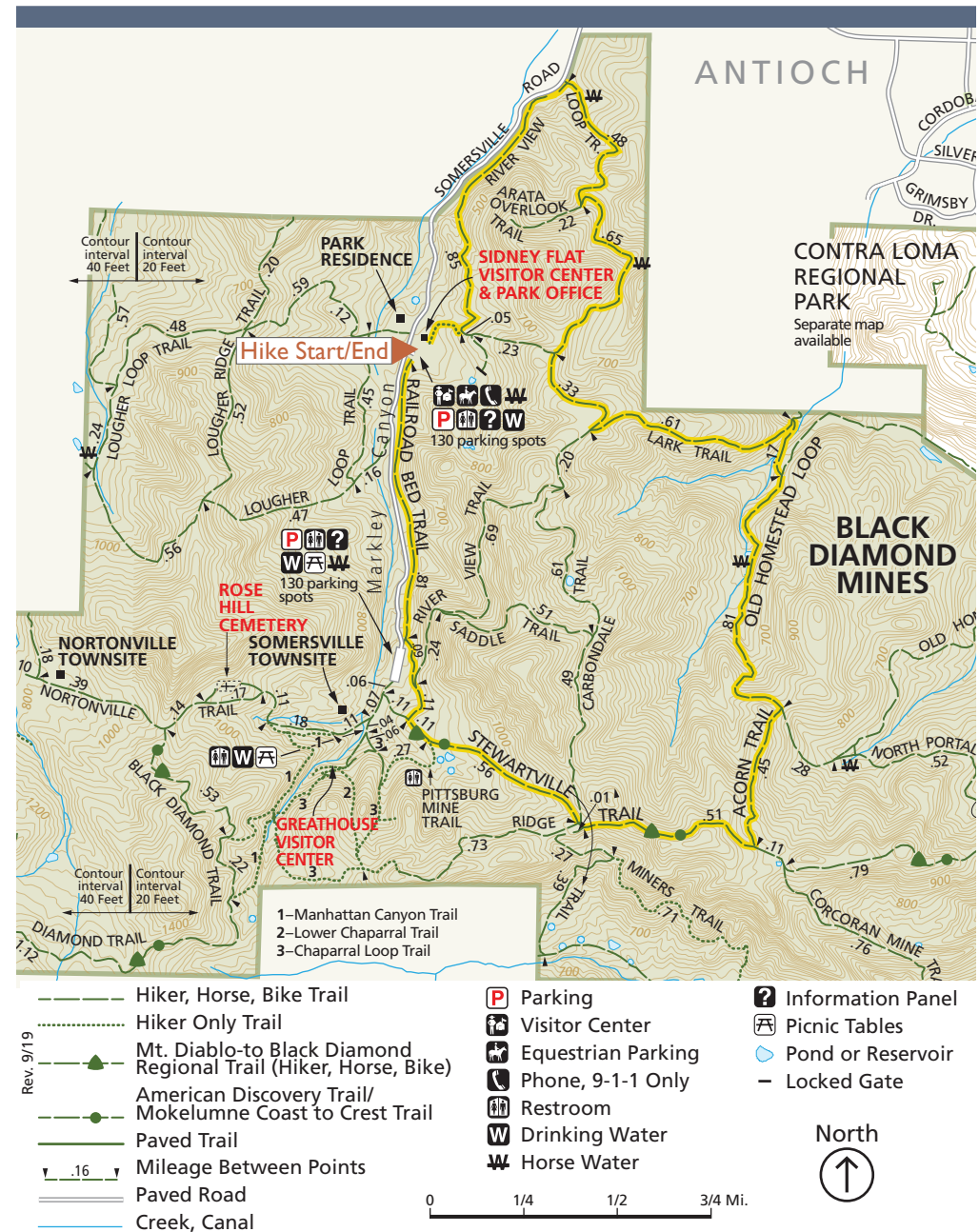
Photo: Marc Crumpler

Trail Directions: Park at first parking lot near the Sidney Flat Visitor Center. Head south to begin the Railroad Bed Trail and follow for 1 mile. Veer left continuing on the Railroad Bed Trail, passing the second parking lot. Turn left to follow the Stewartville Trail, .6 miles. When reaching the top of Stewartville Trail, pass the cattle gate, turning left onto the Ridge Trail for .5 miles. Follow left at the next trail mark onto the Acorn Trail. After .45 miles you will reach a cattle gate, entering the Old Homestead Loop Trail. Follow for .81 miles, veer left onto the Lark Trail and continue west on the trail. Turn right onto the Riverview Trail and follow for .33 miles. Riverview Trail turns into Riverview Loop, following the trail to the right. The optional Arata Overlook along Riverview Loop Trail will add .44 miles to your hike and is a nice resting spot to view nearby areas. Continue Riverview Loop for 1.3 miles heading south, returning down to Sidney Flat parking lot.

Driving Directions: From Concord/Walnut Creek: Take I-680 north to Hwy 242 and merge onto Hwy 4 east towards Stockton/Antioch; take Somersville Rd. exit and follow Somersville Rd. four miles south into the park and continue to the parking lot.

Park Features: Once home to Bay Miwok-speaking people, ranchers, and coal miners, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is an ideal location for hiking, picnicking, and nature study. Five mining towns once occupied the area from the 1860s until the early 1900s, the most famous being Nortonville and Somersville. Almost four million tons of coal were removed before coal mining stopped and sand mining began by the Hazel-Atlas glass company.

Trail Highlights: The Railroad Bed Trail once contained train tracks that aided in hauling large amounts of coal, northward, to the neighboring river cities. Miners and their families also traveled these hills by foot or horse, to traverse the area that is now a preserve. Go against the grain and feel the effects of gravity that once helped coal-hauling trains travel downward.



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Health Tip
Walking enhances creativity, especially when you're seeking a solution.
A Stanford study found that walking increased creative inspiration by an average of 60% versus sitting.