



Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

*Stewartville/ Star Mine/ Lower
Oil Canyon/Oil Canyon/Upper
Oil Canyon Trail*

Length: 9.3 miles round trip

Location: Antioch

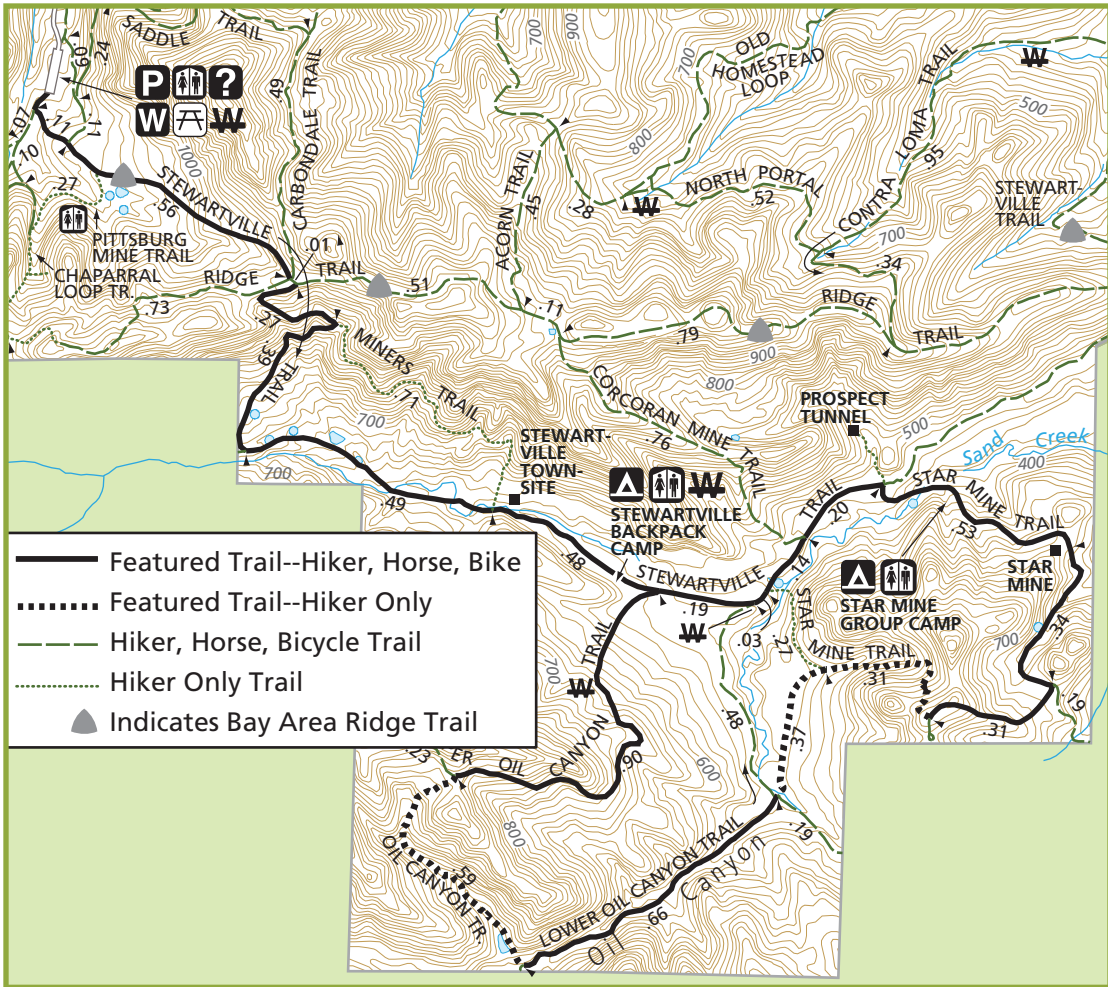
Intensity: Challenging



Park Description: Black Diamond Mines is rich in history and has many different activities to offer. The trail system is great for all types of users for all levels ranging from rugged single track to wide-open, flat multiuse trails. This park features the historic Rose Hill Cemetery, Hazel-Atlas Silica Sand Mines, and other historic landmarks, all worthy of a day's exploration. Mine tours are available on weekends from March through November. Be sure to stop by the Visitor Center and grab a map for more information. Bring plenty of water as it gets hot in the summer; however the mines make for a great natural air-conditioned break! Water is available at the staging area but not on the trails; plan accordingly. The route takes you by a trail that leads to the 200'-deep Prospect Tunnel; bring a flashlight if you decide to check it out.

Trail Directions: In the summer months, this park can reach 100°+, so be sure to bring plenty of water! The trail starts at the upper parking lot at the end of Somersville Road. From the parking area, pick up the trail past the gate. Shortly after, turn left on Stewartville Trail, which is a dirt trail. Continue on past the gate. The trail will merge with the Pittsburgh Mine Trail; stay to the left to continue on Stewartville Trail. In .56 miles, there will be an intersection of trails; go past the cattle gate and take the second right to stay on the Stewartville Trail. The next leg of the route leads down into a canyon. The trail winds left where

it intersects with the Miners Trail. Turn right to stay on Stewartville Trail (or for a more scenic and shorter but rugged route, take the Miners Trail, it rejoins the Stewartville Trail in approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile). After approximately 1.25 miles, the Stewartville Backpack Camp will be on the right- a great stop for a bathroom break. After the backpack camp, continue on the Stewartville Trail, but remember this point. From here you will pass a series of intersections. After approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, there will be a trail post for Prospect Tunnel, which is about $\frac{1}{8}$ mile away. If you brought a flashlight, go check it out! If not, stay right, turning right at the fork to start Star Mine Trail. After approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, an entrance to the Star Mine will be on the right; it is barred from public access. The Star Mine Trail changes from a multiuse trail to a single-track trail, descending steeply. After the gate, turn left on Lower Oil Canyon Trail. It leads through a grassy field, then comes to an intersection. Continue straight through the intersection and the path returns to a multiuse trail again. After approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ mile, turn right on Oil Canyon Trail. The trail turns to single track, traveling through a wooded area, mostly uphill back to the ridge top. The Oil Canyon Trail merges with the Upper Oil Canyon trail. Turn right to stay on the route or go left for $\frac{1}{3}$ mile



for a well-deserved break overlooking the East Bay, highly recommended! Travel .9 miles along Upper Oil Canyon Trail back to the Stewartville Trail. The Backpack Camp will be in front of you at the end of this trail, the starting point for this loop. From here, retrace your steps back to the upper parking lot.

Driving Directions: Black Diamond is located in Contra Costa County, south of Pittsburg and Antioch. Take Highway 4 to the Somersville Road exit in Antioch, then drive south (toward the hills) on Somersville Road to the Preserve entrance.

Park Amenities: Visitor Center, restrooms, drinking water, horse water, and wheelchair accessible facilities.

Park hours: 8 a.m. to dusk

Fees: Parking: \$5 per vehicle, \$2 per dog (service dogs free).

Web Site: www.ebparcs.org/parks/black_diamond