A REGIONAL PRESERVE  The Park District began acquiring land for this Preserve in 1973. Today, most of the former mining district lies within the Preserve. The area is an ideal location for hiking, picnicking, and observing nature. Naturalists conduct a variety of programs related to the Preserve’s natural and historic resources. The Sidney flat and Great-house visitor centers will provide more information, and house photographs, videos, displays, and artifacts from the parkland’s nineteenth- and twentieth-century past.

VEGETATION  The Preserve’s 60+ miles of trails traverse areas of grassland, foothill woodland, mixed evergreen forest, chaparral, stream vegetation, and exotic plantings. Notable among the latter are several tree species introduced by the coal miners, including black locust, pepper tree, almond, eucalyptus, and tree of heaven.

Black Diamond is noted as the northernmost location of Coulter pine, black sage, desert olive, and dudleya. In addition, several species that are restricted to the Mount Diablo area occur here, including the Mount Diablo globe lily, Mount Diablo helianthella, and Mount Diablo manzanita. The hills are covered with stunning springtime wildflower displays.

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

ROSE HILL CEMETERY  A historic cemetery serves as a monument to the lives of the 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 residents. Buried here are children who died in epidemics, women who died in childbirth, and men who died in mining disasters.

WON’T YOU HELP US? Over the years, vandalism has taken its toll on the cemetery, which the Park District is attempting to restore. If you have information concerning a person buried here, or the locations of missing gravestones, please call the Black Diamond office at 1-888-EBPARKS, option 3, ext. 4506.