

November 2019 Naturalist Programs

Black Diamond, Vasco Caves, Carquinez Strait, Contra Loma

Due to construction, **Greathouse Visitor Center will be closed until further notice.**
During this time, Sidney Flat Visitor Center will be open on weekends from 10am to 4:30pm.

Information: (510) 544-2750 or bdvisit@ebparks.org. Black Diamond programs meet near upper parking lot at southernmost end of Somersville Road unless otherwise noted. Weekend parking fee: \$5.

NATURE DISCOVERIES

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Interpretive Staff

Every Saturday in November, 10am-11am. Learn what's flying, crawling, or blooming in the park this season as we examine a different nature subject each week. This is a drop-in program; all ages plus parent participation required.

MEET A SNAKE

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Interpretive Staff

Every Saturday in November, 1:30pm-2pm. Sidney Flat Visitor Center - Gopher snake, kingsnake, rattlesnake, oh my! Let us introduce you to our not-so-furry friends and learn how snakes support our communities. This is a drop-in program; all ages plus parent participation required.

HISTORIC SOMERSVILLE

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Interpretive Staff

Every Sunday in November, 1pm-2pm. Find local history in these hills, get to know miners' tools, or go on a short walk to learn about life in a 19th-century mining town. Topics change weekly. This is a drop-in program; all ages plus parent participation required.

MAPS AND METAPHOR

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Jake Wright

Saturday, November 2, 8:30am-10:30pm. Many maps have been made of this place. Whether physical or mental, maps help us plot our course. On this morning hike, let's ponder together how we organize our understanding. Two-mile hike, somewhat strenuous, over steep and uneven terrain. Rain cancels. (8+yrs).

VASCO CAVES REGIONAL PRESERVE TOUR

Vasco Caves Regional Preserve

Interpretive Staff

Sundays: November 3 #27095; November 10 #27116; November 24 #27142

Saturdays: November 16 #27125; November 23 #27138

9am-2pm. Hike 2-3 miles through this windswept land which is sacred to local California Indian communities and a refuge for golden eagles, fairy shrimp, and tiger salamanders. The Preserve is accessible only through guided tours staging at Round Valley (Nov 16, 23, & 24) or Brushy Peak (Nov 3, & 10). 10+ years.

Registration is required. Fee: \$35 (non-resident \$40)

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FULL FALL HIKE

Morgan Territory Regional Preserve

Kevin Dixon

Sunday, November 10 #27148, 9am-1:30pm. Morgan Territory Road Staging Area - As fall unfolds to full fairness, let's explore a land of oaks, grasses and stone together as we contemplate the signs of the season on a steep and beautiful hike. Somewhat strenuous, over steep and uneven terrain. Please bring lunch and water. 10+ years plus parent participation. Registration is required.

POWERING PROGRESS

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Jake Wright

Saturday, November 16, 8:30am-10:30am. Fact: energy fuels our lives. Looking back toward these historic coalfields, forward to... wind? On this meandering hike, we'll consider the past, the future, and the myth of progress. (8+ yrs). Two-mile, moderate hike with some steep and uneven terrain. Rain cancels.

SCENIC CARQUINEZ

Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline

Kevin Dixon

Sunday, November 17, 9:30am-12noon. Port Costa Staging Area - Join us for an easy rolling out-and-back paved walk on one of the most accessible but least-known scenic trails in the whole Park District. Stunning views! All ages plus parent participation required.

MOUNTAINS AND MEMOIR

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Jake Wright

Saturday, November 23, 9am-11am. What can the park's past reveal about our own lives? Can we walk into our best thoughts? Connect body and brain in this vigorous hike into the nuances of memory. All ages plus parent participation required. A 2.5-mile out-and-back with elevation gain. Rain cancels.

GIVE THANKS IN NATURE

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Jake Wright

Friday, November 29, 10am-12noon. With full hearts and full bellies, say thank you to the air, trees, soil, and water. These are only a few of the things we could not live without. All ages plus parent participation required.

FALLING FOR FALL NATURE WALK

Contra Loma Regional Park

Virginia Delgado-Martinez

Saturday, November 30, 10:30am-12noon. Boat Launch - On a 3-mile walk on even terrain, fall in love with fall all over again around the lake looking for early migrating birds and the turning of the leaves. 5+ years plus parent participation required.

INVASIVES? TREES, AND OTHER SPECIES

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Jake Wright

Saturday, November 30, 11am-12:30pm. Who brought what, when? Can invasive species be beautiful? Let's take another look at these recent arrivals and discuss their impact on the land. 1-mile with slight incline, on paved road and unpaved trail terrain. All ages plus parent participation required. Rain cancels.

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