

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Nortonville/Coal Canyon/Black Diamond/ Manhattan/Chaparral Loop

Length: 5.06-mile loop Elevation Gain: 1,463

Location: 5175 Somersville Road, Antioch

Intensity: Moderate



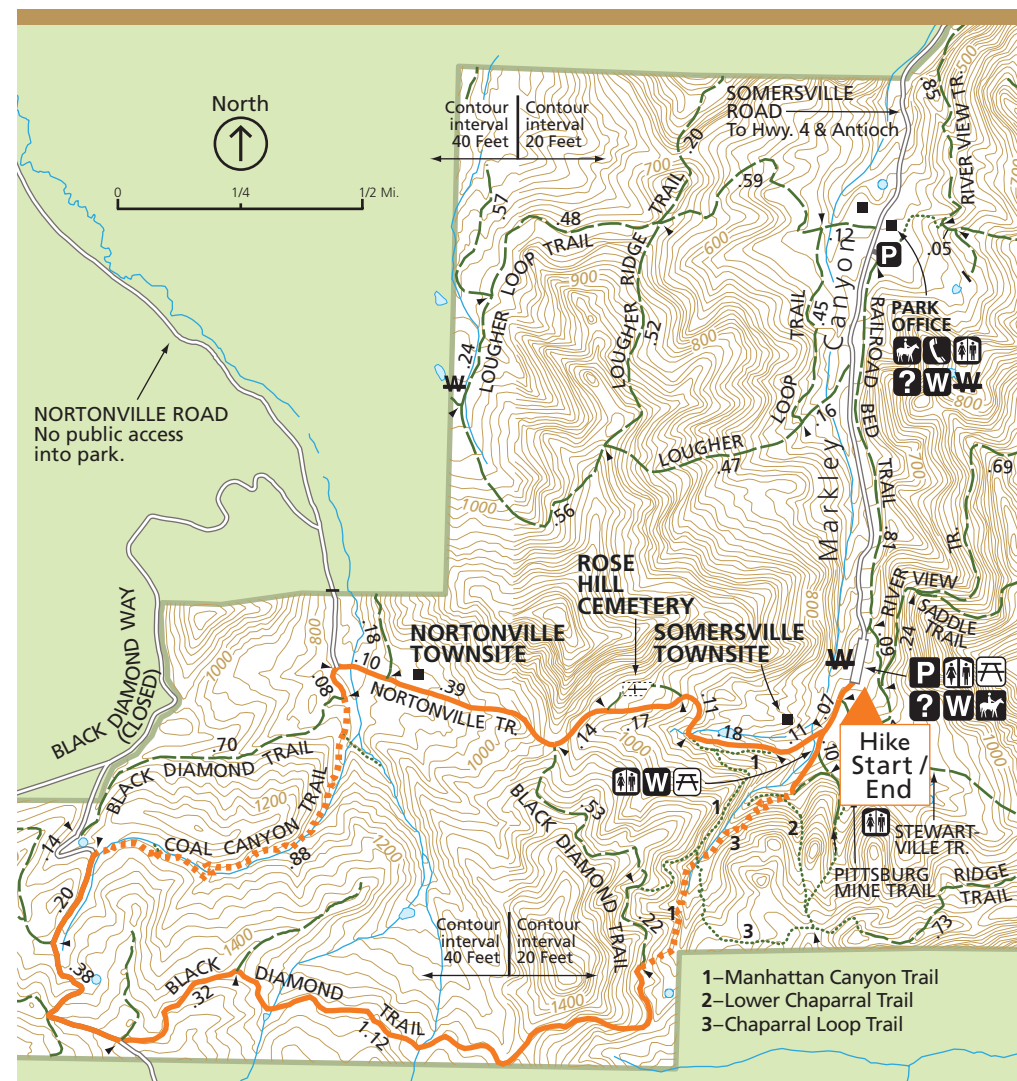
Park Features: Black Diamond is a former coal and silica-sand mining area. Five mining towns once thrived in the area. Past the Nortonville town site is Rose Hill Cemetery, a historic Protestant graveyard for Nortonville miners and their families, preserved by the Park District; an interpretive brochure with information on the cemetery is available at the Visitor Center when it is open. Restrooms and drinking fountains can be found at the parking lot, but be sure to bring your own water for this relatively long and seasonally hot route.

Trail Highlights: A few hundred feet past the parking lot you will see an interpretive panel which describes the features of Somersville, one of five towns in the Mt. Diablo Coal Field in the late 19th century. At the end of Coal Canyon Trail is a mysterious excavation dubbed Jim's Place, possibly occupied during the coal mining boom of the 1800s; no one knows for certain who made this sandstone room.

Trail Directions: Head southwest (right) from the parking lot to get on the multi-use Nortonville Trail toward Rose Hill Cemetery; hike past the cemetery and at the trail junction on top of the hill go straight, heading downhill to the Nortonville townsite. Go left through the hiker gate at Black Diamond Trail; continue straight at the next junction onto the single-track Coal Canyon Trail, tucked between large rock formations; continue until you reach the paved Black Diamond Trail and go left. Stay on Black Diamond Trail and veer left as it becomes unpaved again; go right at signs for Manhattan Canyon Trail. Keep going straight at the next junction and continue on Chaparral Loop Trail; go left at the foot bridge but do not cross it. After about .21 miles, at the next trail intersection, go left and head down the steps; when you come to the Eureka Slope mine entrance, take the stairs across the road leading to the Greathouse Visitor Center and then down to the parking lot where you began.

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 at the end of the road.

From Brentwood/Antioch: Take Lone Tree Way westbound toward Antioch and turn left on James Donlon; turn left on Somersville Rd. and follow two miles south into the park and continue to the parking lot at the end of the road.



- Featured Trail--Hiker, Horse, Bike
- - - - - Featured Trail--Hiker Only
- - - - - Hiker, Horse, Bicycle Trail
- Hiker Only Trail
- P** Parking
- E** Equestrian Parking
- W** Drinking Water
- W** Restrooms
- ?** Information
- ☎** Phone
- A** Picnic
- W** Horse Water
- Gate

Park Curfew/Hours: 8 a.m. – Varies

Fees: \$5 parking fee and a \$2 dog fee applies seasonally, weekends and holidays

Website: www.ebparks.org/parks/black_diamond

Health Tip: Hiking, walking, boating, or swimming – it's important to stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water or electrolytes with carbohydrates.