Native American Past
Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is the ancestral homeland of three Bay Miwok speaking tribes: Ompin, Volvon, and Julpun. Since time immemorial, the Bay Miwok people have maintained a strong connection to these lands.

Ranching History
Before the discovery of coal, cattle ranching was the major industry in this area. After the mines closed, some miners turned to ranching. Abandoned buildings became barns; railroad ties were used as fence posts; and boilers were converted into water troughs.

Coal Mining History
From the 1850s to the early 1900s, small coal mining towns (Hortonville, Somerville, Stewartville, West Hartley, and Judsonville) thrived in the Black Diamond area. Nearly 4 million tons of coal, “black diamonds,” were mined by over 900 men in the Black Diamond area. The sand mines supplied sand to the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company in Oakland and the Columbia Steel Works in Pittsburgh. Competition from Belgian glass sand and the closing of the steel foundry ended sand mining in the late 1940s.

Vegetation
The Preserve’s vegetation includes grassland, foothill woodland, mixed evergreen forest, and chaparral. Stream vegetation, and exotic plantings are still found today, including black locust, pepper tree, almond, eucalyptus, and tree of heaven. Wildflower in the spring. Additionally, several non-native tree species were introduced by miners and foresters. Over 100 species of birds have been observed, including the white-tailed kite, the Alameda striped racer, the red-legged frog, and the California tiger salamander.

Wildlife
Observant hikers may see the tracks of raccoons, skunks, opossums, rabbits, and deer, while birds of prey soar overhead. Mountain lions, bobcats, foxes, and coyotes are also occasionally spotted. Over 100 species of birds have been observed, including the white-tailed kite, the Alameda striped racer, the red-legged frog, and the California tiger salamander.

Sand Mining History
In the 1920s, underground sand mining began near the deserted coal mining townsites. The sand mines supplied sand to the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company in Oakland and the Columbia Steel Works in Pittsburgh. Competition from Belgian glass sand and the closing of the steel foundry ended sand mining in the late 1940s.

Ours to Explore, Enjoy and Protect
Please enjoy the Regional Parks safely and help protect and preserve the parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

Safety
• Stay on trails. Shortcuts are dangerous and damage natural resources.
• Bring plenty of water to prevent dehydration.
• Be prepared for sudden changes in weather conditions.
• Keep parks clean. Pack out what you pack in.
• Inform someone where you are going and when you will return.
• Save our 24/7 Dispatch Center number on your cell phone: Emergency (510) 881-1121, Non-emergency (510) 881-1833.

Rules
• Dogs must be leashed in parking lots, within 200 feet of any trail or park entrance or as posted, in picnic areas, developed areas. Dogs must be under voice control at all times. Clean up after your pet: bag it, bin it.
• Bicycles are permitted on designated trails only. Bicyclists yield to pedestrians.
• State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 wear an approved helmet while riding on trails and roadways. All bicyclists are also encouraged to wear helmets at all times.

The following are prohibited:
• Wading and/or swimming in undesignated areas
• Consuming alcohol in non-designated areas/parks
• Feeding or approaching wildlife
• Releasing animals into parklands
• Causing damage to plants, geological, or archaeological features
• Smoking/vaping
• Skateboarding
• Drones

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules (Ordinance 28). See ebparks.org/rgulues.
Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

Year Opened: 1976
Acres: 8,349

Highlights:
- GreatHouse Visitor Center (Mining Museum)
- Mine Tours
- Rose Hill Cemetery
- Hiking
- Wildflowers

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is a unique nature preserve with numerous historical sites. It is an ideal location for hiking, picnicking, observing nature, and learning about local history. Naturalists conduct a variety of programs related to the Preserve’s natural and historic resources.

Visitors are responsible for knowing and complying with park rules and regulations. Protect and preserve the parklands by complying with park rules and regulations.

- Keep pets on leashes: 200 feet from any trail or parking lot.
- Dogs must be leashed 200 feet from any trail or parking lot.
- Drones are prohibited.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear an approved helmet while riding on trails.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky and steep. Proceed with caution.
- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and may harm the watershed.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Keep pets on leashes: 200 feet from any trail or parking lot.
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**Highlights:**
- Rose Hill Cemetery
- Mine Tours

**A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

**MINING FEATURES as numbered on map:**
1. **AIR SHAFT:** This air shaft (once 150 feet deep) and reached here by a short tunnel was used to keep a coal mine ventilated and free from dangerous gases. The marks left by miners' picks are still evident on the entrance shaft.
2. **"JIM'S PLACE":** This little underground dwelling is of unknown origin. Notice the square skylight, round stovetop hole, and shaft opening.
3. **GREATHOUSE VISITOR CENTER:** This portal was the original opening into the sand mine.
4. **EUREKA SLOPE:** This inclined shaft was the entrance to the Eureka Coal Mine. Between 1860 and 1885, more than 100,000 tons of coal were hoisted to the surface. The slope is 290 feet long and descends at a pitch of 12 degrees.
5. **HAZED, ATLAS PORTAL:** This mine supplied sand used for glass making in the 1920s through the 1940s.
6. **STOP:** This huge chamber was blasted out of sandstone by miners extracting coal for glass making.
7. **POWDER MAGAZINE:** This small excavation was used to store explosives during the sand mining era.
8. **PROSPECT TUNNEL:** This tunnel was driven in the 1860s by miners in search of commercial-quality coal. The 40-foot tunnel are open for exploration. Bring a light.
9. **STAR MINE:** This barrel shaft once served as the entrance to the Star Mine, one of the last active coal mines in the area.

**Special Note:**
- For further information, visit the GreatHouse Visitor Center. Entry is free!
- Visitors are strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- Four mineral claims have been staked in the area.
- The entrance to the Eureka Coal Mine is marked by a concrete slab.
- Many of the old mining states were constructed of wood.
- The GreatHouse Visitor Center, Antioch Community Trail, and the Contra Loma Slope are closed on Wednesdays.
- The area is steep, rocky, and potentially slippery. Proceed with caution.
- Swimming is not permitted in the lagoon or in the lagoon area.
- Stand on trails in order to protect the parkland's natural and historic resources.
- Pets must be leashed at all times and must be kept at least 200 feet away from any trail or parking area.
- Trespassing is illegal.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky, and steep. Proceed with caution.
- Keep pets on leashes: 200 feet from any trail or parking lot.
- Dogs must be leashed 200 feet from any trail or parking lot.
- Drones are prohibited.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear an approved helmet while riding on trails.
- State law requires that all bicyclists under age 18 strongly encouraged to wear helmets at all times.
- Trails can be slippery, rocky, and steep. Proceed with caution.
- Stay on trails. Taking shortcuts can be dangerous and may harm the watershed.