Coal Mine Experience
Saturdays & Sundays
10:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 2:00pm (30-min. tour)
In the late 19th century, people from around the world arrived here in search of a new life and new opportunities. Deep beneath the surface was a rock that would power the young state of California. Discover the toils, triumphs, and tragedies embedded in these hills as we explore a replica coal mine. Age 7+. $3 each per tour.
Registration Required (50051)

Winter Bird Migration Hike
Saturday, November 4, 2023
9:00am – 11:00am
Some birds summer here, others winter, and some are here year-round. We will hike to different habitats in the preserve to find those birds only seen during migration. Wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather and bring water for this 2-2 ½ mile hike. Age 8+.
NO Registration – Drop-In Only

Adaptations for All!
Saturday, November 11, 2023
9:30am – 11:30am
Adaptations are qualities that help wildlife survive in their habitat. Stop by our table to learn about amazing adaptations here at Black Diamond and how they may relate to our own human adaptations!
NO Registration – Drop-In Only

History Hike ABOVE the Mines
Friday, November 24, 2023
10:00am - 12:00pm
Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve was once teeming with thriving communities. Join a Naturalist on a 2-3 mile hike to learn about the richness of the coal and sand mining history on a hike above the mines. No underground mine tour included. Age 7+.
NO Registration – Drop-In Only.

Traditional Plant Uses
Saturday, November 25, 2023
1:30pm – 3:00pm
The plants at Black Diamond aren’t just beautiful, they’re useful! In honor of Native American Heritage Month, come learn about some ways Native Americans traditionally use plants in their everyday lives. Since Black Diamond is a nature preserve, we will not be picking any plants or taking plants home. This table will be located near the Hazel Atlas portal.
NO Registration – Drop-In Only

Winter is Coming! Scavenger Hunt
Sunday, November 26, 2023
10:00am – 11:00am
The seasons are beginning to change! Come explore the natural winter beauty of Black Diamond and search for signs of the changing season in this fun self-guided scavenger hunt! Drop in to chat with a Naturalist and grab an activity sheet by the upper parking lot at any time during the program. Then come back to share what you found! Age 4+.
NO Registration – Drop-In Only

Winter Nature Craft
Saturday, December 23, 2023
10:00am – 11:30am
Winter is here! Gather inspiration from the winter season in this drop-in craft activity. What can you discover when you use your artistic side to explore the surrounding landscape?
NO Registration - Drop-In Only
Zoom in on Black Diamond
Sunday, December 10, 2023
2:00pm – 3:30pm
Join a Naturalist to discover Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve on a micro scale and spend time exploring all the little wonders that are often overlooked. Use hand magnifiers, binoculars, and microscopes to take a closer look at the natural world. Equipment provided. Join anytime during the program.
NO Registration – Drop-In Only

Mini Miners
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
10:00am - 10:45am
Bring your little gems out to Black Diamond Mines for a morning of learning, playing, and enjoying the great outdoors. Each month will be a different theme where children ages 2-5 will discover the joys of nature. Siblings welcome! NO Registration – Drop-In Only.

Winter Chaparral Hike
Sunday, December 17, 2023
10:00am – 12:00pm
Join us to explore the chaparral plants of Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve and learn what adaptations they have to survive in this unique ecosystem. Program will start at the upper parking lot and end at the Greathouse Visitor Center. Please bring water, sturdy shoes, layers, and rain gear. Age 10+.
NO Registration – Drop-In Only.

Vasco Caves Regional Preserve Tours
Sunday, November 5, 2023
Sunday, November 19, 2023
9:00am – 1:00pm
Join us in celebrating National Native American Heritage Month by hiking 2-3 miles through this wild and 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 Regional Preserve. Due to the sensitive and sacred nature of Vasco Caves Regional Preserve all tours will meet at Round Valley Regional Preserve and participants will take a bus into the park. Age 10+.
$35 Adults/Children
$40 Non-Residents
Registration Required (50045, 50046)

Veterans Day – The Port Chicago Disaster
Friday, November 10, 2023
10:00am – 11:30am
Concord Historical Society
1928 Clayton Rd.
Concord CA 94519
In honor of Veterans Day, join National Park Service and East Bay Regional Park District speakers as we explore the history and evolution of the surrounding public lands that were once home to the biggest World War II efforts on the West Coast. Together, we will discover the rich military history of the area, uncover the disasters that led to the desegregation of the military, and look to the future of the Thurgood Marshall Regional Park: Home of the Port Chicago 50.
NO Registration – Drop-In Only
Winter Bird Count
Thurgood Marshall Regional Park-
Home of the Port Chicago 50
South of Bailey Road Entrance
Saturday, December 16, 2023
8:00am – 11:00am

Winter is for the birds! Join us to look for our feathered friends as part of the nation’s longest-running community science bird project. Staff will accompany 2 teams of people, with up to 15 people per team. Learn local species, record data, and we’ll send our findings to the National Audubon Society. Each team will walk 2 to 5 miles to document our local bird populations. Please be careful pulling into the park from Bailey Road. Age 8+.

Registration Required (50033)

Spotting Peregrine Falcons
Diablo Foothills
Castle Rock Road Staging Area
Saturday December 30, 2023
10:00am - 12:00pm

The Diablo Foothills serve as an important habitat for peregrine falcons. At Castle Rock, certain areas are even closed to the public due to nesting season. Head up the Stage Road Trail about a 1 ¼ mile to the open meadow. Meet staff at the Peregrine Falcon Panel. There is fantastic falcon viewing where staff will be stationed with a spotting scope to talk about peregrines and (hopefully) view them in action!

NO Registration - Drop-In Only

Last Hike of the Year
Contra Loma Regional Park
End of Fredrickson Lane
Sunday, December 31, 2023
10:00am – 12:00pm

Join us for the last hike of the year! Enjoy a peaceful 3-mile hike as we look for signs of the winter season and reflect on the past year while wandering around the water. Bring sturdy shoes, water, and snacks. Age 7+.

NO Registration - Drop-In Only