

Hidden Histories

Uncovering Untold Stories

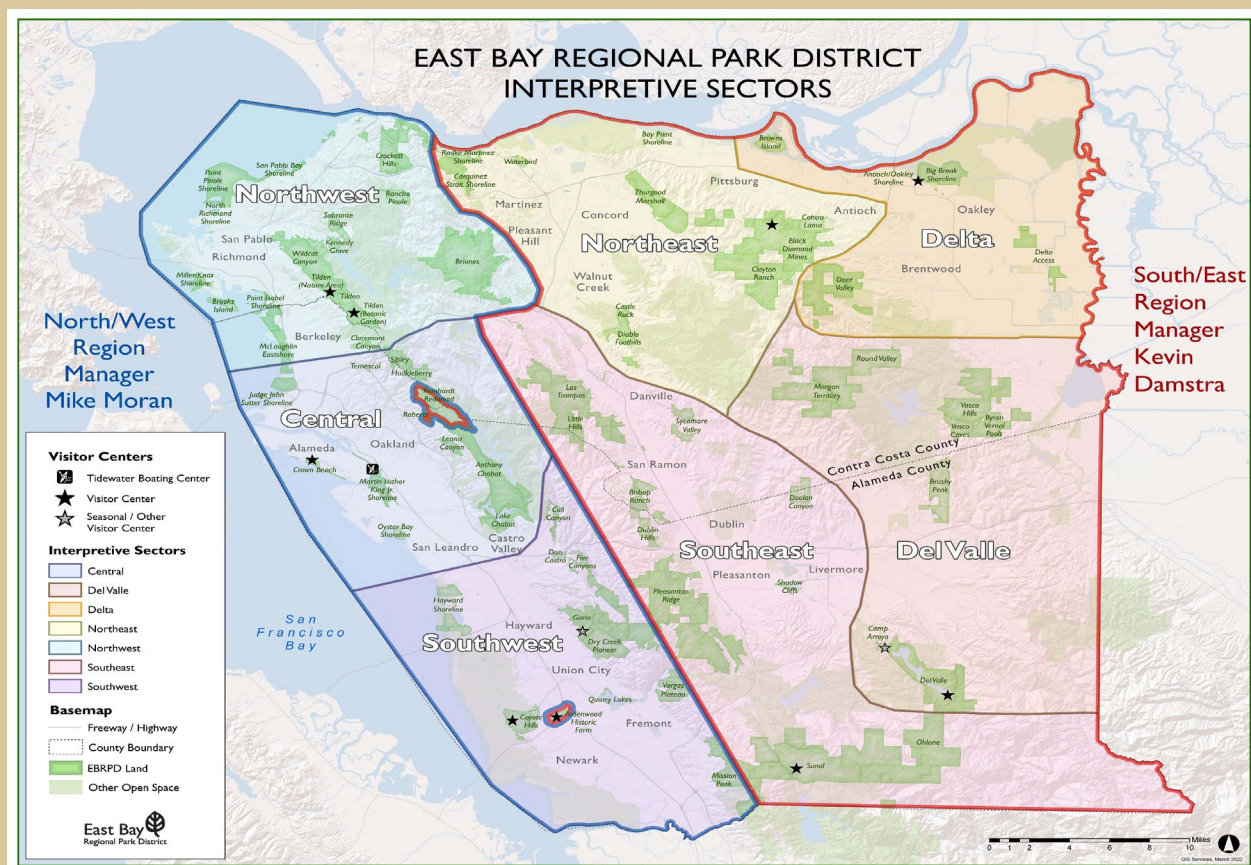


Board Operations Committee Meeting

April 16, 2025

Kevin Damstra, Interpretive and Recreation Services Manager

Programs Across the District (2024)



Public Programs

- 1809 programs
- 83,986 people

Field Trips (Schools)

- 1866 classes
- 55,596 students

Community Programs and Events

- 289 programs
- 44,937 people

Thurgood Marshall Regional Park Home of the Port Chicago 50

The complex history of the future Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 is rooted in stories of civil rights, social injustice, and reconciliation.

Programming at this park seeks to directly address how this history impacts us today.





Public Program

Community Conversations

These programs focus on dialogue between the participants to gain great understanding of how we are impacted by history and nature.





Field Trip

Uncovering Local History: Stories of Social Justice and the Port Chicago 50

This High School age field trip focuses on stories of civil rights and social injustice that took place on this land by exploring how these events led to the eventual desegregation of the U.S. military. Students learn about the Port Chicago Disaster, Port Chicago 50, and various key figures.





Community Program

Thurgood Marshall Youth Development

This weeklong, summer partnership with the group “People Who Care” focuses on connecting youth with the parks through the lens of civil rights and social justice.





“We had the unique opportunity to explore the park, learn about its history and stories, and understand its connection to social justice. This experience has not only broadened our knowledge but also inspired us to create meaningful [social media] content that connects local communities to these valuable natural resources.”



Black Birders Week

A nation-wide week to counter the narrative that the outdoors are not a place Black people should be.

Our event visits 7 parks in 7 days, to educate, encourage, and support participants to feel safe and welcome year-round.



Black Birders Week

Public Programs

- Entering its 4th year
- Supported by staff across the District
- Black Birders Week 2025
May 25 – May 29



Hidden by Hate

Our parks contain stories that have been erased from history due to prejudice and hatred. Two of our parks that have connections to the Chinese history of the Bay Area are Ardenwood and Black Diamond Mines.

These parks highlight how these stories were lost to time.





Public Programs

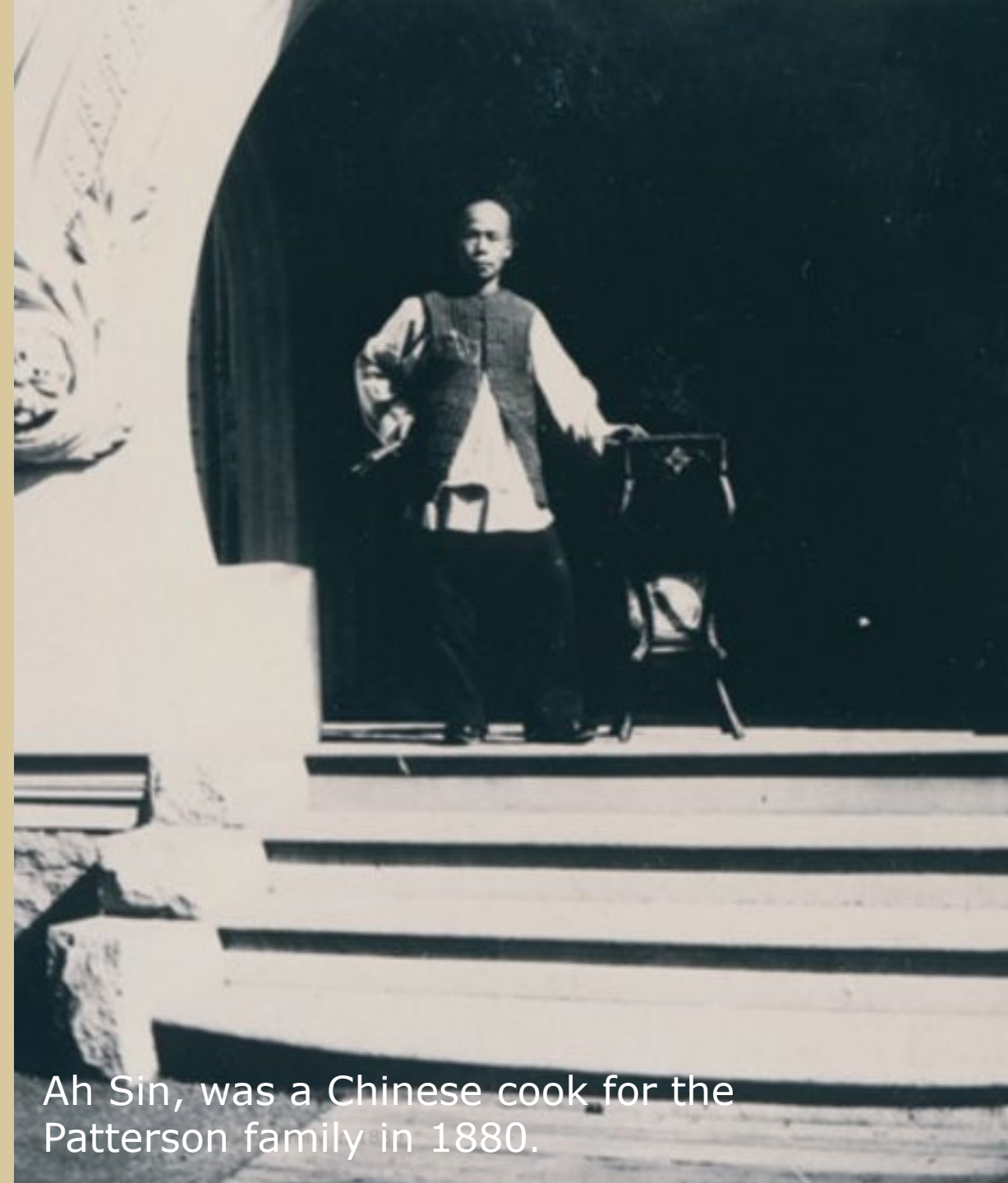
Black Diamond Mines – Chinese Miner History

- Research began during the pandemic
- Specific programming has become standard offerings
- General information is woven into tours and field trips

Field Trips

Wheat Harvest Ardenwood Historic Farm

Using journals and census data staff have uncovered the history of specific individuals who worked for the Patterson family.



Ah Sin, was a Chinese cook for the Patterson family in 1880.

Evolving Indigenous Work

We have a long history of working with local tribal members to provide programming and staff training. This work is ever evolving and growing across the Park District.

The Ohlone Curriculum and current programs across the District provide a solid starting place for future discussions.



A long-exposure photograph of a waterfall cascading over mossy rocks, with a large piece of driftwood in the foreground. The water is blurred, creating a sense of motion. The rocks are covered in green moss and lichen. The word "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

QUESTIONS?

East Bay Regional Parks