

THE OAKLANDSIDE

Jobs for teens and young adults at East Bay parks

Lifeguarding, interning, and aiding naturalists are just some of the opportunities available at the East Bay Regional Park District's Youth Job Fair.

by [Callie Rhoades](#) Feb. 16, 2024, 2:00 p.m.



The East Bay Regional Park District has around 370 seasonal jobs available for teens and young adults. Credit: Kelly Sullivan

The East Bay's renowned park district is welcoming young people to learn about potential career opportunities at its [upcoming annual Youth Job Fair](#).

The East Bay Regional Park District will be holding an in-person fair on Feb. 24 at Temescal Beach House in Oakland. They will also be hosting a virtual job fair on March 2.

The park district staffs around 370 [seasonal positions](#) each year that are available to young adults, including around 180 lifeguards positions, 60 gate attendant positions, 50 student laborer positions, 28 internship opportunities, 25 positions as recreation leaders, 20 opportunities to be an interpretive student aid, and six public safety student aid positions.

The majority of these seasonal positions are designed for student workers, including those enrolled in high school, community college, and vocational schools. However, lifeguards and recreation leaders do not need to be students.

Age ranges for jobs vary, but jobs are available for folks starting as young as 15. The Youth Job Fair is specifically targeted to prospective employees aged 15 to 24.

The park district lays out several “pathways” for young people looking to start a long-term career in outdoor recreation and park systems: the interpretive pathway, the recreation pathway, two park operations pathways, and the lifeguard pathway.

The [interpretive pathway](#) sets employees out on a path that could lead to a career as a park naturalist. Naturalists perform several key functions at the parks, including leading tours, providing educational content, and assisting in animal care.

The [recreation pathway](#) is for people interested in positions that could lead to future careers in outdoor recreation and education. These positions include camp leadership and outdoor guiding.

The [park operations pathways](#) are great for students hoping to pursue a future career as a park ranger or park supervisor. Several internships are available for college students working towards degrees. The park district also partners with several local community colleges to staff these roles.

For those interested in a potential career as an aquatic manager, [the lifeguard pathway](#) is available for both students and non-students. Aquatics managers help the park district staff supervise aquatic activities and safety, conduct training programs, and create promotional materials such as flyers and posters.

The park district highlights several [tips for those looking to apply](#). Prospective employees should reflect on their personal interests to find the right position for them, get involved in appropriate volunteer or early-career opportunities to boost their resumes, and build their portfolios to help present themselves in the best way possible.

The in-person Youth Job Fair will be held on Feb. 24 at Temescal Beach House in Oakland from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A shuttle from Rockridge Bart Station will be available, running every 30 minutes from 9:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The virtual session will be held on March 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Explore the hidden history of Black Diamond Mines in Antioch, California

By Chris Bollini
Monday, February 5, 2024

Black Diamond Mines in Antioch, California gives visitors a chance to go underground and learn about the area's rich mining history.

Underground tours allow visitors to explore the hidden world of the Black Diamond Mines. Black Diamond Mines in Antioch, California gives visitors a chance to go underground and learn about the ar...[Show more](#)

ANTIOCH, Calif. -- Antioch's Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve offers visitors a unique opportunity to learn about California's rich mining history.

"It's not often that you get to go to a park and go underground in a mine that used to be an operational mine," East Bay Regional Parks naturalist Jessica Kauzer says.

"Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is definitely one of the Bay Area's hidden gems because it's something most people haven't seen before," East Bay Regional Parks naturalist Jaclyn Caldwell adds.

Underground tours allow visitors to step back in time to explore how coal miners lived and worked.

"Being a coal miner here was definitely a difficult job and labor-intensive job," Caldwell shares.

"When you come and see the rails on the ground, the carts, the shifters office, everything you see here is of the time period," Kauzer explains, "getting to experience what someone almost a hundred years ago would have experienced."

Aside from coal, Black Diamond Mines Preserve also shares the area's extensive sand mining history.

In 1920, Marvin Greathouse, president of G. and M. Gravel company, opened the Hazel Atlas Mine and started mining silica sand for use in glassmaking.

"The sand here is a high quality silica sand that is not found in the common beach sand in the Bay Area," Kauzer says.

Whether it's the coal or sand history, Black Diamond Mines provides visitors with an immersive experience. According to Caldwell, the mines still have more history to be discovered.

"One of the exciting things about this place is we're always learning more and unearthing more history and sharing that with the public, I think that's a really exciting thing we get to do here," expressed Caldwell.



Park District Uses Carbonator To Dispose Of Dead, Dying Trees

The machine cuts down on emissions produced by burning piles of waste or transporting them long distances using diesel trucks.

Bea Karnes, Patch Staff

Posted Thu, Feb 1, 2024 at 3:14 pm PT



The carbonator has been working in Anthony Chabot Regional Park. (East Bay Regional Park District)

CASTRO VALLEY, CA — The East Bay Regional Park District has a big problem: over 1,500 acres of dead and dying trees due to the recent multi-year drought.

Traditionally, dead trees were cut down, piled up and wither burned in place or hauled away in diesel fueled trucks.

The park district went in search of a more environmentally-friendly method of dealing with the issue and came up with the carbonator, a new machine that burns organic matter at extremely high temperatures — about 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit — which results in very low greenhouse gas emissions.

In December, it was being used at Anthony Chabot Regional Park to dispose of vegetation from a 365-acre fuels reduction project. "The

project at Anthony Chabot Regional Park is a first-of-its-kind project in the Bay Area," said Park District General Manager Sabrina Landreth. "As the largest regional park district in the nation and a local leader in wildfire prevention, we knew we needed to find an innovative solution for disposing of the vegetation from our fuels reduction projects."

The burned material is reduced to biochar, which is used within the Park District as a soil enhancer. One current use of the biochar is at Ardenwood Historic Farm in Fremont where it is used to enhance soil health and crop productivity.

"The carbonator is an innovative fuels reduction tool to address wildfire risks and combat climate change," said Chief Aileen Theile. "We are always looking for innovative ways to address wildfire dangers and reduce wildfire risks for the community."

The Park District encompasses both Alameda and Contra Costa counties and manages 73 parks, 1,330 miles of trails, and over 125,000 acres. The District has its own fire department and fuels management crew.