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### FAMILY FUN ON THE PATHS





# Parks and Paths Challenge July 25: A Fun-Filled Fundraiser Perfect for Socially-Distant Times

On Saturday, July 25, from 10 am to 1:30 pm, you are invited to our third Parks and Paths Challenge, a creative combination of scavenger hunt, mapping session, and workout — a fun activity for socially distant times. **You can participate individually or as a team with your immediate household members.** The event is set up as a self-guided scavenger hunt where teams make their way to a series of paths, search for clues, and record findings. It provides a great way to enjoy the paths while respecting social distancing and supporting two great local organizations.

The event begins and ends in Greatstone Face Park (1930 Thousand Oaks Blvd). Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 per child, with a family cap of \$25. Proceeds will be split between Bay Area Wilderness Training — a local organization whose mission is to provide equitable

access to outdoor experiences for youth of color and low-income youth — and our own handrail fund, which works in a different way to broaden access to trails. Additional contributions are appreciated. Please register on <u>Eventbrite.</u>

Designed to accommodate people with various interests and fitness levels, the Parks and Paths Challenge features three self-guided walks that vary in length — approximately 2, 4, and 6 miles — and in difficulty. You choose which one is right for your team, and we'll give you a map and a list of questions to answer at checkpoints along the way.

There is an option to take the challenge on your own time. Either way, we appreciate your support and participation. <u>*Read more.*</u>

We won't turn away walk-ups, but prefer that you register in advance on Eventbrite



This eucalyptus tree had to come down before volunteers could start working on Lower Halkin Walk. Photo looks uphill on the future path route.

The new path will provide a pedestrian corridor between Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Cragmont Ave. Photo looks downhill on the future path route.

### Lower Halkin Walk: Berkeley's Newest Path is Now Underway

Path Wanderers volunteers have started clearing the way for a new path: Lower Halkin Walk. This path connects the 700 block of Euclid Ave. (top) with the 700 block of Cragmont Ave. (bottom). It's the missing pedestrian connector between Upper Halkin Walk, which was built in 2014, and Halkin Lane.

Once completed, the new path will provide a continuous pedestrian corridor from Grizzly Peak Boulevard to Spruce Street via Hilldale Avenue, Upper and Lower Halkin Walk, and Halkin Lane.

A big eucalyptus tree, several feet wide at the base, has been a major challenge in building

### **PATH NEWS**

this new path. The tree was located toward the halfway point. The City deemed the tree a hazard and removed it over several days at the end of June. Our volunteers cleared brush on the path to make the tree removal easier.

With the tree out, we will start building the trail and laying down steps. Volunteers will be working every Monday and Wednesday morning over the next several months. If you'd like to lend a hand, please email <u>pathbuildersteve@att.net</u>.





A particularly treacherous section of Redwood Terrace before repairs.

Blanche the Dog climbing up the same section of Redwood Terrace following recent repairs.

#### Enjoy Newly Repaired Redwood Terrace and Bret Harte Way Paths!

We are excited to share that this past month contractors with the City of Berkeley Public Works Department completed much-needed repairs on two paths: Redwood Terrace and Bret Harte Way. These paths had been problematic for years: slanted walkways, heaved steps, and broken handrails made walking on them quite dangerous. Sterling Path, another long-time offender, was also repaired in October 2019. Many thanks to Public Works for their efforts!

Unfortunately, there is still a backlog of repairs needed on the older concrete steps. We have documented these issues in our Path Condition <u>Report</u> (updated in June 2020). Our volunteers don't work with these types of projects; only the City does this type of structural work. We will continue advocating for these repairs and are hopeful that one or two of these paths can be repaired each year. Please stay tuned.



Repairs underway on a Bret Harte Way.



New steps and landings on Bret Harte Way.

## **TAKE A SELF-GUIDED WALK**

STEP IT UP: An Adventurer's Guide to Forty Walks on the Paths,

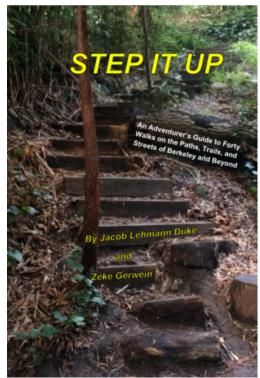
Trails, and Streets of Berkeley and Beyond

#### by Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association has the honor of publishing this exciting new book of 40 walks in Berkeley and Beyond. We'll be posting 5 new installments each month until the whole book is posted.

NEW IN JULY:

- <u>Through the Forest and Around</u>
  <u>Jewel Lake</u>
- The Oak St. Path Loop
- A Walk in the Park(s)
- Every Path in Berkeley, Part 2
- <u>The Skyline Sampler</u>





#### **Recording of Virtual Tour of Panoramic Hill**

On June 27, 90 people (from as far as Europe!) attended our first virtual walk, presented by Robert Johnson and Janet Byron on Zoom. The 1-hour tour included architecture by Julia Morgan, Bernard Maybeck and Frank Lloyd Wright; historic Piedmont Way, designed by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead; historic paths on Panoramic Hill; a hidden treehouse; and lots more. To view a recording of the tour, please click on this <u>link</u>.

To contact Bob and Janet, write to info@berkeleywalks.com.

#### Other Online Resources for Self-guided Berkeley Walks

Many folks are walking closer to home these days and our <u>self-guided walks</u> page is getting lots of traffic. We are happy these resources are useful and hope you are enjoying your solo explorations. With that in mind, if you exhausted our walks, we recommend two more Berkeley-focused websites from long-time guides and friends of the paths:

Bob Johnson and Janet Byron made available 15 new itineraries on their <u>Berkeley</u> <u>Walks</u> website, in addition to those in the <u>book</u> by the same name.

Another long-time walk leader for BPWA, Ron Sipherd, let us know that he recently updated his walks <u>website</u> with up-to-date descriptions, maps, and photos.

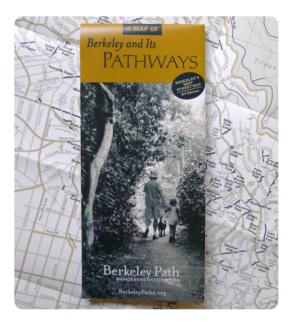
Many thanks to Bob, Janet, Ron, and of course, Jacob and Zeke, for their generosity and continued support of Berkeley's walking community. Have fun exploring, everyone!

### **BUY OUR MAP**

#### Simply the Best Map of Berkeley

With proper social distancing and maskwearing, walking is one of the best ways to ease the anxiety and "cooped-up-ness" of sheltering in place. Not surprisingly, our map has been flying off the shelves during the coronavirus pandemic.

If you want to get out of the house and explore Berkeley on foot, *Berkeley and Its Pathways* is, hands-down, simply best map of Berkeley. This sturdy, detailed and beautiful map features the entire city -including neighborhoods without a lot of paths -- plus all 136 of the picturesque public stairways, ramps, and footpaths that make walking in our city so engaging. Buy Our Map





### **Berkeley Path Wanderers Association**

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a community organization of people who treasure the public pathways that crisscross our city. <u>Learn</u> More

The BPWA board meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:30 to 9 p.m., virtually until further notice. Guests are welcome! Please contact info@berkeleypaths.com for more information.

Your generosity enables us to build more paths and to hold fun events on the paths. Donate Now

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