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Elsa Tranter cleans up at the Berkeley Marina. Photo by Colleen Neff.

Go, Elsa, Go! BPWA Board Member Embarks on a Year of Beach Cleanups

Inspired by a Facebook post that she saw in January about an [English grandmother](#) who cleaned up 52 beaches in 2018, Elsa Tranter embarked on a mission to

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Your generosity enables us to build more paths and continue

make Bay Area beaches better, one beach a week and one soda can at a time.

“I thought, *What a great thing to do,*” says Tranter, a long-time board member of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association. “I’ve always loved trash cleanups.”

Tranter, a grandmother of three herself, is posting weekly cleanup reports on her Facebook page. So far she has cleaned up Albany Beach and Bulb (Albany), Ocean Beach and the Embarcadero (San Francisco), Aquatic Park and Berkeley Marina (Berkeley), Sandpiper Spit (Richmond), Emeryville Beach, and Pt. Reyes (Marin County).

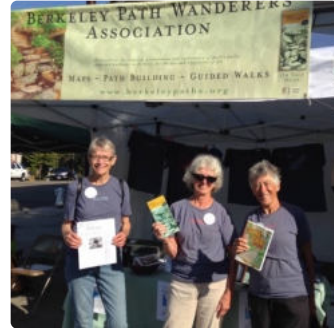
Most of the trash she finds is bottles, cans, bottle tops, straws, plastic bags, and candy wrappers. “You get obsessive and pick up smaller and smaller pieces,” Tranter says.

“I find things like shoes. I can’t quite figure that out.”

[READ MORE about Elsa Tranter and her year of beach cleanups.](#)

to offer our path-oriented events. [Join now.](#)

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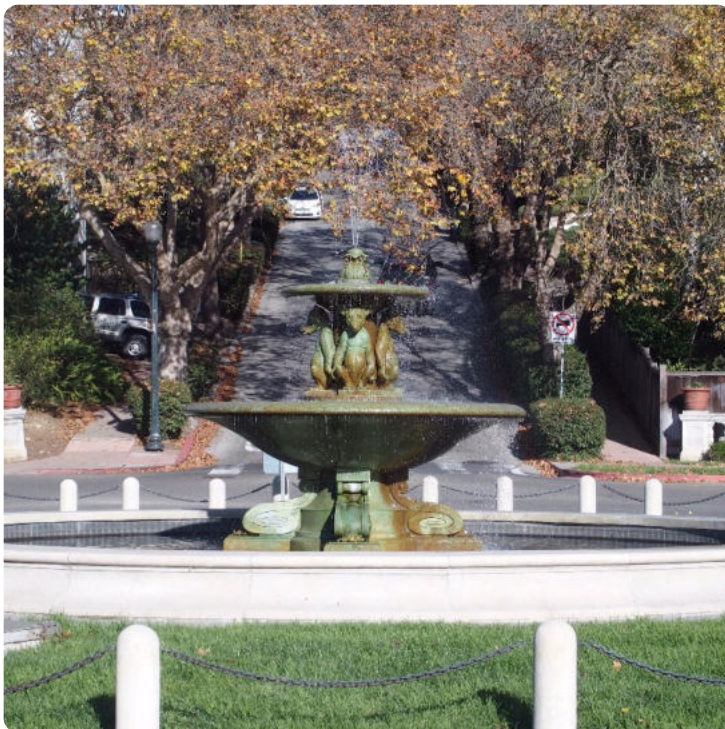


Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a grassroots organization of people who treasure the public pathways that crisscross our city. [Read more.](#)

Meet Our Friends

You’ll find links to many other organizations that promote walking, pedestrian safety, protecting the environment, and more on our [website.](#)

Upcoming Events



Fountain Walk and Northbrae Talk at Hillside Club on June 3

Members of Friends of the Fountain and Walk will present

an illustrated talk about the Northbrae neighborhood, its history, and the origins and restoration of the Fountain at The Circle and Fountain Walk. All are welcome at the Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St. at Arch Street, on the evening of Monday, June 3, for an illuminating look a neighborhood that's been declared one of America's best and the neighbors who help care for one of Berkeley's most beloved civic treasures.

The meeting begins with club business at 7 p.m., and the talk is at 7:30. There is a 150-guest maximum capacity, with unreserved seating. The event is free for Hillside Club members. Others are asked to make a \$10 donation if possible; no one will be turned away. Refreshments are included.

For more information or to contact the Hillside Club, go online to <http://bhcweb.wixsite.com/hillsideclub>. Phone: 510-848-3227.

Walk With Us

Join us on our terrific guided walks, which are free and open to all. Unless otherwise noted, they last 2 to 3 hours and proceed at a moderate, conversational pace. We're sorry, but we can't accommodate your dogs except on walks specified as dog-friendly. Please check our [home page](#) for last-minute weather cancellations. Questions about a walk? Write walks@berkeleypaths.org.



Path wanderers admire soap root and other natives in the Skyline Gardens.

Long Walk: Berkeley to Orinda Hike

Sunday, June 23 @ 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Leaders: Alina Constantinescu and Jacob Lehmann-Duke

Start: At the bottom of the [UC Campus, at Oxford and Center](#), on the sidewalk near [Arnaldo Pomodoro's](#) metal sculpture [Sphere within Sphere](#).

Our 9th annual long walk is a wonderful 15-mile route from downtown Berkeley to Orinda BART. We'll start off through the Cal campus, climb up the new Derby Canyon staircase [trails](#) to Panoramic Hill, and then take the fire trails to Grizzly Peak Blvd and cross into Tilden Park. We'll follow Redwood Trail to the South Padre Picnic Area (mile 7: lunch, restrooms, water refill) and then the Arroyo Trail to the steam trains, where we'll pick up a short but lovely segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

The best is yet to come as we meet naturalist and volunteer extraordinaire Glen Schneider for a tour of [Skyline Gardens](#), an expansive area restored with native flora at the top of the Siesta Valley. Glen will also take us off the grid to Barberry Peak, for amazing views from a very special place. After this tour, we'll head to the De Laveaga Trail for the last 3.5 miles down into Orinda, where we'll walk to the BART station and head home to Berkeley. Depending on the group, we estimate to be at Orinda BART around 5 p.m. and back in downtown Berkeley about 5:30 p.m.

Please bring 2L of water, snacks, lunch, layers, sunblock, hat, hiking poles if you use them, and money or your Clipper card for the ride back on BART.



Join BPWA and the Ecology Center to clean up Berkeley's shoreline.

West Berkeley and Aquatic Park Litter Pick-up Walk

Saturday: June 29 @10 a.m.

Leader: Alina Constantinescu

Start: Ecology Center, [2530 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley](#)

Wow! That sidewalk looks really clean. Have you been plogging there lately?

Haven't heard of [plogging](#)? How about trashercizing?

These are different names for the practice of jogging while picking up trash off sidewalks and trails. The

Path Wanderers' version of plogging is more tame: we plan to walk, not jog, while picking up trash on a 2.5-mile route starting and ending at the Ecology Center.

Afterward, Ecology Center program manager Minna Toloui will give a brief presentation on the basics of zero waste, the problems with plastics, and solutions for today. There will be time for questions, as well as 15%-off, same-day coupons at the Ecology Center store.

BPWA and the Ecology Center will provide buckets, gloves, and trash pickers, but please bring your own if you have any.



Albany Hill from El Cerrito Plaza.

The Mysteries of Albany Hill

Saturday, July 14 @ 10 a.m.

Leader: Janet Byron

Start: El Cerrito Plaza BART: [Ohlone Greenway at corner of Richmond St. and Fairmont Ave. \(new green benches\)](#)

What's that mysterious hill between El Cerrito and the San Francisco Bay? Why is El Cerrito named after Albany Hill? What did indigenous Ohlone call Albany Hill? Which came first, Albany Hill or the Berkeley Hills? What is Albany Hill made of? Why is Albany Hill so poorly maintained? Why is a large cross displayed on Albany Hill? We'll explore Albany Hill from top to bottom, walk along Cerrito Creek from Ohlone Greenway to the bay, and learn a bit about the history and mysteries of Albany Hill.



The Path-a-thon includes stop for sheep on the longest walk from Codornices Park to Tilden, and back.

Summer 2019 Path-a-thon

Sunday: July 21, 10:00 am, 11:00am, or 12:00pm - 1:00 pm walks, party to follow

Leaders: Jacob Lehmann Duke, Steve Barr, and Colleen Neff

Start: [Codornices Park](#)

The Path-a-thon is back! Mark your calendars for our 14th Path-a-thon on Sunday, July 21. We will offer three guided events that leave at staggered start times and vary in distance and difficulty. Join us at 10 a.m. for a 6.5-mile hilly loop led by Jacob Lehmann Duke, come at 11 a.m. for a run with Boston-marathon-veteran Steve Barr, or sleep in and join Colleen Neff for a family-friendly, dog-inclusive 2-mile stroll at noon. All will start at Codornices Park and return there at 1 p.m. for communal cake and refreshments. Look for walk descriptions in more detail on the website or in the July newsletter. Don't miss out on this BPWA summer classic!



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