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MEET JOHN FORD, PATH PAL



John Ford tidies up Upton Lane once a month

After several spills, BPWA paths coordinator John Ford adopts Upton Lane

By Janet Byron

It took falling down twice on Upton Lane — once on wet leaves and another on dry — for John Ford to choose the path for adoption.

“I was looking for a path to adopt. I thought about some of the longer ones, but I didn’t want to get into construction,” says Ford, a board member of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association. “But I can sweep pretty well.”

Ford brings his broom to Upton Lane, a short path between San Diego and San Luis roads next to John Hinkel Park, every month. The path starts with a gentle incline then 3 sets of concrete stairs to the top. Eucalyptus and bay laurel trees lining the path drop lots of debris on the stairs.

“After the recent storm, quite a bit of dirt and rocks had washed onto the path,” says Ford, who coordinates walks for BPWA. “It takes me 2 to 3 hours to do a complete cleaning.”

Path wanderers often eagerly express their gratitude. “People who come down the path while I’m cleaning generally say thank you,” Ford says, “and some of them are more effusive than that.”

[Read more](#)

BPWA ANNUAL MEETING - NOV. 14



Following our annual meeting, the South walk will visit Hilgard Path, Berkeley's newest

Join us for our annual meeting at Live Oak Park, with 2 walks

Join us for our annual meeting, to be held outdoors, at Live Oak Park. Meet our board members, hear the latest path news, and get your [paths swag](#). After the meeting, you'll have the option of joining a walk, North or South.

The South walk is about 2 miles, going to see [Hilgard Path](#), Berkeley’s newest path completed in September. The North walk is about 3.5 miles and will head to [Lower Halkin Lane](#), completed in December 2020.

The meeting rain date is Nov. 21; please check your email and our website if rain is threatening. [Learn more.](#)

INVITE OUR BANDANAS TO THANKSGIVING



BPWA member Jen Bilik's Thanksgiving table features our new paths bandana

Our new Berkeley paths map bandana is a napkin, and a party favor!

BPWA member Jen Bilik shared this wonderful way to express your gratitude for Berkeley's paths this Thanksgiving. Set your table with our stylish, 22-inch, 100% cotton paths bandana for a napkin, and a party favor (also makes a great holiday gift)! Your guests will thank you all the way to the paths.

The first order of path bandanas sold out quickly, but more are on the way; orders placed by Nov. 15 will be filled before Thanksgiving. **All proceeds go to maintain, upgrade, and build new paths.** [Order yours now!](#)

FALL WALKS

Note: Unvaccinated persons must wear masks. We are monitoring mask guidance and will update our website with additional

requirements if needed.



[Sunrise Hike in Tilden Park](#)

When: Saturday, November 6, 6:15 to 9:30 a.m.

Leader: Alina Constantinescu

Where: [Inspiration Point](#)

Calling all the early risers for a sunrise hike in Tilden Park! We start off in the dark and hike to Wildcat Peak for sunrise and a coffee break. [Learn more](#)

[North Berkeley Parks](#)

When: Saturday, November 13, 3:30 p.m.

Leader: Petra Biddle-Gottesman

Where: [Bay View Place and Euclid Avenue](#)

Beginning at Codornices Park, we will go to La Loma, Terrace View, Grizzly Peak, Remillard, and Cragmont Rock parks, taking as many paths as we can! The 3- to 4-mile walk will go through staircases and some uneven terrain on the roads, as well as in the parks. [Learn more](#)



[Annual Meeting with 2 Walks](#)

When: Sunday, November 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: [Live Oak Park Picnic Area 2](#), right across the creek from the Berkeley Art Center at 1275 Walnut St.

Join us for our annual meeting, to be held outdoors at Live Oak Park! Meet our board members, hear the latest path news, and get your [path swag](#). After the meeting, you have the option of joining a walk!

We will lead two walks: South and North. [Learn more](#)



[Pooches on Paths Returns: Hidden Gems of Park Hills and Northwest Berkeley](#)

When: Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m.

Leader: Lynn Deregowski

Where: [Glendale-La Loma Park, upper parking lot on Glendale Avenue](#)

This walk is almost 3 miles with some steep stairways, but the pace is leisurely and you'll be rewarded with 5 green spaces. Well-behaved four-footed friends on leash are welcome, and we will have a cookie and dog biscuit break halfway through. [Learn more](#)



[King Tides Walk: History and Rising Seas](#)

When: Sunday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.

Leader: Susan Schwartz

Where: [Sea Breeze Market, 598 University Ave.](#)

During one of winter's highest tides, enjoy a relaxed loop around Berkeley's restored "meadow," with short spurs. We will walk rain or shine. Dress in layers for quick-changing weather, and expect puddles, muddy or even flooded paths, and crossing a construction site. Sorry, no dogs allowed in part of the area we will cross. [Learn more](#)

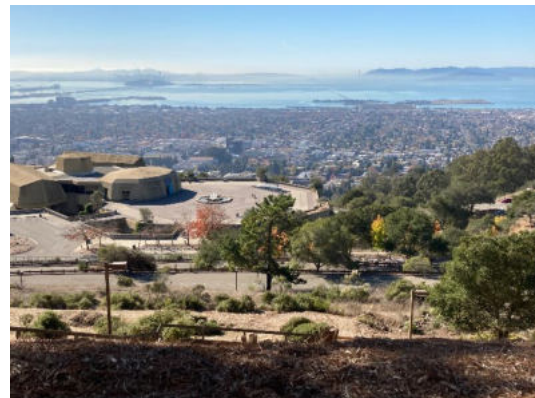
[Up the Stairs and Down the Jordan Trail](#)

When: Sunday, December 12, 9 a.m.

Leader: John Ford

Where: [Corner of Vine and Walnut](#)

This brisk walk of about 10 miles will take between 4 and 5 hours. We will climb some steep steps up to the highest residential street in Berkeley, the aptly named Summit Road, then traverse over to the Lawrence Hall of Science and up the stairs to the beginning of the Jordan Trail, aka the Strawberry Canyon fire trail. No dogs please. [Learn more](#)



PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES

Path maintenance work parties

Path maintenance work parties are back! The work is mostly weeding, sweeping, raking, and clipping. We will have gloves and tools available, but feel free to bring your own. Please bring your own water; we won't be offering water or refreshments. To RSVP and receive an email with the time, date, and meeting place, write to Mary Lynch at path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org.



Right, Upton Lane before sweeping by John Ford



Reporting path problems

BPWA now has an [online form](#) for reporting problems that you come across on the paths. Please let us know about missing signs, broken steps, overgrown weeds, graffiti, and anything else you come across. We can't solve every problem by ourselves, but we will keep track of problems and concerns, and route them to the right city departments. The form is under the "Get Involved" tab at berkeleypaths.org.

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

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

The BPWA board generally meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

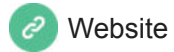
Guests are welcome! Please contact



info@berkeleypaths.com for more information.

To support our path-building efforts, go to www.berkeleypaths.org/your-donations-help.

All donations go toward building new paths, repairing and clearing paths, and purchasing handrails. *Above, Hilgard Path, Berkeley's newest.*



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