

# Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Winter 2002 Vol. 5 No. 1

*Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a grassroots volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. BPWA hopes to accomplish this goal through volunteer-led path walks, identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's complete path network, and eventual restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured.*

**Meetings** Live Oak Park Rec. Center  
7-9 pm 1200 Shattuck Ave.

## Feb. 28 NEW DATE! General Meeting

Implementation of the General Plan and its impact on the Path Network  
Andrew Thomas, Berkeley Planning Department

March 21 Board Meeting

April 18 General Meeting

BPWA Into the Future  
The Path Map

## Path Walks

 RAIN OR SHINE

Saturdays at 10 am (allow 2-3 hours)

Feb. 16 Claremont Triangle  
Helen Wynne 843-5738

Meet at Ashby and Domingo

March 16 Nut Hill

Mardi Sinclair Martens 849-1142  
Marilyn Seagel 549-2908

Meet at west end of Rose Walk

April 20 Boundary Walk

Paul Grunland 526-8001

Meet at Grizzly Peak and Spruce, at the reservoir

May 11 Past Legacies and Future Hopes

Mark Liolios 549-0818

Meet at traffic circle at south end of Aquatic Park Pot Luck to follow.

June 1 Eastshore State Park

Susan Schwartz 848-9358

Meet at Sea Breeze Market, University and I-80 Frontage Rd.

## General Plan Discussed at Feb. 28 Meeting - NEW DATE!

Andrew Thomas, project manager for the city of Berkeley General Plan, will speak at the Feb. 28 (NOTE NEW DATE!) BPWA meeting on citizen and community participation in implementing the new plan, which will guide the city's growth and development in coming decades. He will address the

role of BPWA — and others interested in the restoration and preservation of Berkeley's pathways — in public decision-making, specifically regarding resource allocation, priorities, and general plan policy implementation. Questions from the audience will be welcome.

## Status Report on the BPWA Map



Over the past months, the BPWA map committee has worked hard to research and compile a comprehensive map of the Berkeley paths. Considering that Berkeley has 136 paths officially numbered by the city, not to mention those without city numbers, the project involved consolidating a large amount of data from disparate sources. Starting from a road map created by Hedberg (the mapmaker), with references to additional maps and

documents, the committee members each adopted portions of the map to personally investigate and cross-check. Key factors included verifying correct locations of paths, passability, and naming. The map is now nearing publication and data has been sent to the mapmaker; finished maps will include Berkeley and portions of Albany, Kensington, and Oakland, a comprehensive index, a descriptive history of Berkeley paths, and original artwork by Karen Kemp. The map, which is due in April 2002, will be an excellent guide for anyone interested in wandering the Berkeley paths.

### Spring Cleaning

Spring is not too far around the corner. Clean up your neighborhood's path! Spend an hour or two sweeping, weeding, and clearing overgrowth from a pathway, and see what a difference you can make! Let us know about your efforts.

### BPWA

1442 Walnut St., # 269  
Berkeley, CA 94709

### Board Members

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## New Pathway Possible on Santa Fe Right of Way

Due to some good luck and changed circumstances, it is much more likely that a pedestrian/bicycle greenway may be created along the Santa Fe Right of Way, from Strawberry Creek Park to Ohlone Greenway. The Santa Fe Right of Way, a former railroad line that runs from Sacramento and Oregon streets (near Ashby) to North Berkeley and the Ohlone Greenway, has been mostly abandoned and fenced off to the public for decades.

However, after purchasing the property currently leased by the Santa Fe Bar and Grill (on University Avenue), Berkeley Montessori School wrote to Berkeley Partners for Parks (BPFP) to



This section of the Santa Fe Right of Way could be transformed into a beautiful bike path/pedestrian greenway if the city decide to spend a \$1 million HIP grant to develop the path. Please contact the mayor and your councilmembers to support the expenditure.

express interest in creating a path through their property connecting the school to the Santa Fe Right of Way.

At the same time, the city of Berkeley has received a \$1 million HIP grant to fund pedestrian-related improvements as they see fit. Spending this money to fund a Santa Fe greenway would create a well-used bicycle/pedestrian trail, open up a greenway of open space, and provide links to central Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, and Richmond via the Ohlone Greenway. A well-designed and adequately funded greenway would become a treasured resource for all of Berkeley.

The greenway would be planned as part of a Parks and Recreation Commission process, with the participation of neighbors and others. Crosswalks, a pedestrian-activated traffic signal across University Avenue, curb cuts and paved trails would be needed.

Eleven organizations, including BPWA, sent a letter on Dec. 17 supporting a new path. You can help by writing a letter or e-mailing the council and mayor at [clerk@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:clerk@ci.berkeley.ca.us) or Mayor and Council, 2180 Milvia St., Berkeley CA 94704. Phone calls and e-mails to your individual councilmember would also be helpful.

Go to [www.bpfp.org](http://www.bpfp.org) or call 649-9874 for more information.

## Unimproved Paths Committee Formed

BPWA has begun work aimed at opening up the 40+ paths that are currently overgrown, not built, obstructed by fences, or otherwise impassable. Right now we are gathering detailed information about each of these paths. Then we will categorize and roughly prioritize them in terms of difficulty to build and importance for evacuation and access to parks, schools, and bus stops. After that, we will improve some of the easier paths ourselves with community participation,

and work with the city to improve steeper paths that need more sophisticated engineering. BPWA already has a track record of opening up several previously marginal paths, and installing wood-tie steps, mulch and wood chips, and we will soon install our first-ever bench. If you're interested in helping with the information-gathering phase, please contact Charlie Bowen at 540-7223. We would also love to receive any information you have about unbuilt paths.

## Path Improvements

In recent months, the city has made improvements to several of the paths on BPWA's "Ten Easy Fixes" list. Our thanks to Ken Emezium and the Public Works Department for making these paths safer and more beautiful.



Geneva's Path - new sign marks way to community gardens



Martinez Path - new handrails and repaired steps improve safety



Easter Way - repairs of cracks and tilting improve walking



Billie Jean Walk - new handrails improve safety on steep steps

If you have any questions about path issues, please call Jacque at 524-4715.

Annual membership in Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is \$5.00 per household due January 1st of each year. Additional donations are always welcome. Benefits include newsletter and BPWA mailings. Mail form with check or money order, payable to:

BPWA, Berkeley Partners for Parks  
1442A Walnut St., #269  
Berkeley, CA 94709

(BPWA is member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

Time to renew your dues!

## BPWA Membership Form Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is an additional contribution to help carry on your work: \$ \_\_\_\_\_