

Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Spring 2002 Vol. 5 No. 2

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.

April 18 General Meeting

BPWA Into the Future
The Path Map

June 6 Board Meeting

Pot Luck Lunch

Noon, May 11, following the path walk (see below). Bring something good to share. Meet at Aquatic Park, south of Dreamland for Kids. Come see and buy the new map.

Path Walks

RAIN OR SHINE

Saturdays at 10 am (allow 2-3 hours)

April 20 walk was held April 13. Enjoy Earth Day activities.

May 11 Past Legacies and Future Hopes
Mark Liolis 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.

July 27 Santa Fe Right of Way: New Path Opportunity

Steve Swanson 649-9874

Janet Byron 848-4008

Meet at Cedar/Rose Park, Ohlone greenway tennis courts at Cedar St.

August 24 Rose Walk Step by Step
John Underhill 236-4807

Meet at Euclid end of Rose Walk

Path dedicated to Anne Brower

On Saturday, April 6, 70 people joined Berkeley City Councilmember Betty Olds in dedicating a path commemorating the memory of avid path wanderer Anne Brower. Brower's children reminisced about how Anne inspired her husband David, a leading environmentalist of the 20th century.

"She was the conscience and editor of my father and played a big

unknown role in the environmental movement," son Ken Brower said. Anne died in 2001;

David passed away a year earlier.

Olds, Mayor Shirley Dean, BPWA members, the press and neighbors attended the celebration at the top of Stevenson Ave. north of Shasta Road, on a path formerly known as Twin Path (née Twain Path). Anne's 10-year-old granddaughter cut the ribbon on the renamed path.

Dean noted that BPWA is an inspiring aspect of life in Berkeley. "The paths are important for public

safety," she said. "They're also nice."

The Browsers lived in a simple wooden bungalow nearby. "This path was the one she would use for walking pleasure, rather than commuting on foot," daughter Barbara Brower said.

Anne Brower Path will be Path 70 on the city's pathway index and appear on BPWA's comprehensive

path map.

Local Boy Scouts played a major role in improving the sloping dirt path, which was dangerously

slippery during winter rains.

In fall 2001, Berkeley Troop 19 Eagle Scout Candidates Ian Saulsberg and Matt Seufferer regraded the path and installed simple wooden steps. The work was paid for with BPWA's Berkeley Parks Minigrant.

"Path Wanderers and Boy Scouts have done an amazing amount of work," Olds said.

"It shows you what positive things Berkeley residents can do."



BPWA

1442 Walnut St., # 269
Berkeley, CA 94709

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Long-awaited I-80 “overpath” opens

Twin steel arches over Interstate 80 indicate the location of Berkeley’s newest pathway, the long-anticipated link for walkers and cyclists between the city and the San Francisco Bay shoreline. The landmark structure at the city’s western gateway, dedicated Feb. 27 by the city with a community celebration March 2, connects Berkeley’s largest municipal park with Eastshore State Park.

The eastern entrance to the bridge is at the northern end of Aquatic Park, easily reached from the foot of Addison Street. Bolivar Drive becomes a trail, which splits into two — one side hugs the water and the other gradually ascends a new hillock. Visitors immediately notice the generous width and gentle slope of the wheel-chair accessible path, which exceeds ADA regulations. A distinctive feature is the raised sidewalk, which effortlessly separates slower travelers from cyclists in the two striped lanes.

The pathway rises in a curvilinear alignment and even cantilevers out over the lagoon. A spacious viewing platform at the top provides magnificent vistas of the park and city. Crossing the straight span on a clear day, walkers are struck by the fact that the span is centered on the Golden Gate Bridge.

The completion of the bridge was the result of years of community input and effort, including by Friends of Aquatic Park and Bicycle-Friendly Berkeley Coalition. Design coordinator for the city was Berkeley architect and engineer Steven Grover, whose firm specializes in bicycle/pedestrian facilities. The structural design was by OPAC, founded by famed bridge designer T. Y. Lin. Local engineer Mark Ketchum led the team. Landscaping, including welcoming plazas for each side, is now being designed by Berkeley’s Wolfe Mason Associates.

This new bridge is merely the first piece of a network of trails to appear



Before the bridge opened, pedestrians and bikers had to go under I-80 to visit the Berkeley Marina.

soon along Berkeley’s shoreline. By September, Berkeley’s final portion of the 400-mile Bay Trail is expected to be open, providing a dedicated trail from Powell Street in Emeryville to Gilman Street. Beyond the racetrack the trail resumes, going through Pt. Isabel and on to the Richmond Marina. A spur trail to link the bridge and the Berkeley Marina is now being designed and the plan for the Eastshore State Park will be adopted within the coming year.

Planning director speaks on general plan

Carol Barrett, Berkeley’s director of planning and development, spoke at BPWA’s general meeting Feb. 28 about community participation in implementing the new General Plan. Barrett graciously agreed to be a last-minute replacement for Andrew Thomas,

project director of the General Plan, who was ill and unable to attend.

Early in her remarks, Barrett commended BPWA for its “communitarian” goals to benefit all the people, as opposed to a specific “community” interest.

Barrett noted that although state law requires the city to develop a new General Plan, more importantly, it provides an opportunity for community input on the direction of city development and resource allocation for the next several decades. Also, groups such as BPWA can point to policies in the plan as support for implementing specific goals.

We are fortunate that the Planning Commission (primarily responsible for developing the General Plan) recog-

nized the value and importance of the pathways by specific reference in five elements: land use, transportation, disaster preparedness and safety, open space and recreation, and environmental management. The Planning Commission is directed to conduct a formal annual review to update, amend and track implementation of the plan; Barrett urged BPWA to “have a seat at the table” then. She also encouraged us to be involved with the Public Works Commission’s budget planning to ensure that capital improvement allocations include paths.

Volunteers needed!

Two upcoming “only in Berkeley” events provide a fun opportunity for volunteers to promote and share their love of Berkeley paths with city residents. Volunteers are needed to staff a table at the Solano Stroll on Sept. 6, and to march in the “How Berkeley Can You Be” parade on Sept. 29. We also need two “super” volunteers to coordinate BPWA’s participation in both events. Contact Jacque Ensign, 524-4715.

Unimproved paths

Anyone with information or questions about the paths should please contact Charlie Bowen at 540-7223.

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.)

BPWA Membership Form Please print

Name _____

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