

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.

Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Fall 2002 Vol. 5 No. 4

Meetings

September 19 Annual Meeting

Learn about the history of the East Bay waterfront and exciting restoration plans. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., 7-9 pm (see article, right)

October 17 Board Meeting

(All members welcome!)

Note location: South Berkeley library branch, 1901 Russell St., 7-9 pm

November 14 General Meeting

Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., 7-9 pm, subject TBA

Path Walks RAIN OR SHINE

Saturdays at 10 am (allow 2-3 hours)

September 21 More Unimproved Paths
Charlie Bowen 540-7223

Meet at La Loma Park. This is a difficult walk, with some very steep parts. Bring walking sticks. (difficult)

October 19 Naturalist's History Walk
Alan Kaplan 525-2233

Meet at Tilden Nature Area Visitor's Center (easy)

November 16 Some Favorite Paths
Pat De Vito 527-2693

NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE: Marin and Spruce (moderate)

December 7 The Albany Bulb
Susan Schwartz 848-9358

Meet at end of Buchanan Street (moderate)

BPWA has received a number of generous donations in memory of Jan Feldman. We offer our grateful thanks, as well as condolences to Jan's friends and family.

Annual meeting at Hillside Club features East Bay waterfront

Please join BPWA for our annual meeting, in conjunction with the historic Hillside Club, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, at 2286 Cedar St. in Berkeley. In addition to BPWA board elections, a panel of thoughtful experts will discuss "The East Bay Waterfront: Visions for the Future." Sylvia McLaughlin, founder of Save the Bay, will introduce the following speakers:

- Hydrologist Jeff Haltiner, Philip Williams and Associates, on how physical factors like climate, currents, erosion, and siltation will change our waterfront.
- Paul Kamen, Berkeley Waterfront Commission, on exciting new opportunities for water-related and

waterfront recreation, including a possible kayak trail.

- Dave Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay, on what we have achieved and next steps for protecting and restoring the Bay's natural habitat.

Speakers will also discuss upcoming completion of Berkeley's section of the Bay Trail, and final plans for 8.5 miles of bayfront in the new Eastshore State Park (see article below).

There will be time for audience questions, and refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Jacque Ensign at 524-4715, or go to www.berkeleypaths.org.

"Flatlands" trails in the works

BPWA has concentrated its efforts primarily on preserving and protecting Berkeley's historic hillside paths and steps. But we walkers seek to expand "flatland" paths as well.

A number of exciting flatland trail projects have recently been completed or are currently under construction or being planned. The most visible change is the beautiful

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Path wanderers explore Codornices Creek, in Albany Village.

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

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Please visit us at our Solano Stroll booth, 1685 Solano Ave., on Sept. 8, and march with us in the "How Berkeley Can You Be" parade on Sept. 29! Call Helen at 843-5738 for more info.

Visit our Web site: www.berkeleypaths.org

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 new pedestrian bridge over the freeway, from Aquatic Park to the new Eastshore State Park. Landscaping and connections from the plazas on both sides of the bridge are being planned.

Completion of Berkeley's 1.8-mile gap in the Bay Trail itself is expected by the end of the year. Work on the segment from University Avenue north toward Gilman Street is well along, but the segment south of University has been delayed by design changes. When the segment is complete, walkers and bike riders will be able to easily travel from Powell Street in Emeryville to the Richmond Marina. (Although there is no official trail through Golden Gate Fields, it's easy and permissible to walk or cycle through the racetrack parking area.)

Berkeley has Coastal Conservancy and Bay Trail grants for a spur trail linking the future Bay Trail to the Berkeley Marina, and along the Marina's west shore from Hs Lordships restaurant to the Berkeley Yacht Club. The trail is expected to run along the south side of University, bridging the mouth of Strawberry Creek — now an ugly culvert. The first design workshop may be scheduled as early as September.

The preliminary general plan for the Eastshore State Park, scheduled to go to the State Parks Board in November, has trail plans that are proving controversial. The plan envisions a concrete, railed "urban promenade" above engineered bluffs along the entire west frontage of the Brickyard Peninsula, North Basin Strip, and Point Isabel/Battery Point. This plan is open for comment now: go to www.eastshorestatepark.com for more information.

Berkeley's new General Plan includes the goal of a greenway along the Santa Fe Right of Way from North Berkeley BART to Strawberry Creek Park and farther

south. The city has set aside grant moneys for the segment from University Avenue to the Berkeley Way mini-park, including a safe crossing at University. Talks with Berkeley Montessori School, which plans to move to the old Santa Fe railroad station, are likely to result in an agreement for pedestrian access from University through to Strawberry Creek Park. Planning for more of the old rail right-of-way, under city ownership for some 30 years, may begin late this year.

To the north, trails are a requirement in proposals UC Berkeley has requested from several developers for University Village and the Gill Tract, west of San Pablo Avenue from the Berkeley border to Marin/Buchanan Street. The idea is to replace the World War II "temporary" housing and recreation center with new facilities, including ballfields on the Gill Tract. This is to be financed with commercial development along San Pablo. The

university has told developers that it wants creek-oriented development, restoration, and trails along Codornices and Village creeks, as well as a safe north-south pedestrian and bicycle corridor.

Furthermore, Albany is nearing completion on plans for a pedestrian trail from San Pablo to Kains, along a restored Codornices Creek. Funding for the actual restoration and trail building still must be sought. This would be one link in the ridge-to-Bay "urban trail" along Codornices Creek envisioned by BPWA and Friends of Five Creeks.

Still farther north, on the Albany-El Cerrito border, public meetings to plan a trail along Cerrito Creek from the Ohlone Greenway (BART right of way) to the Bay Trail are expected to begin in late September or October. And up in Richmond, completion is expected soon on the Bay Trail connecting the Richmond Marina with Miller-Knox Regional Park.

Responding to overwhelming demand, BPWA prints 5,000 more maps

Thanks to strong public interest and the hard work of the BPWA Map Committee, the first 2,000 Berkeley Pathways maps sold out in just two months. Articles about the map appeared in the Berkeley Voice, the Contra Costa Times, and the Berkeley Daily Planet, culminating in the map's inclusion on the East Bay Express monthly best-seller list for July. Orders for maps have continued to roll in. In preparation for the Solano Stroll, BPWA printed an additional 5,000 maps. The new map, which includes some minor revisions and updates, is now available in retail stores and at the Solano Stroll on Sept. 8 (our booth is at 1685 Solano) for \$4.95, or \$3.95 for BPWA members. Or send your check and a SASE (business-sized) with \$0.60 for postage to BPWA, 1442A Walnut St., #269, Berkeley, CA 94709.

Volunteers open another path

BPWA volunteers Jacquie Ensign and Ron Ross helped neighbor Maria Sakovich to remove flammable leaves and clear a walkway on upper Columbia Path (#88) in August. Path wanderers can now walk downhill from the end of Columbia Circle, west of Fairlawn, and then use Maria's driveway down to Queens, avoiding the path's steep drop-off on the path right-of-way. In addition, a neighborhood group has met to discuss improvements to Vistamont Trail.



If you have any questions about path issues, please call Jacquie 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 _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

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