

Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Summer 2003 Vol. 6 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 7-9 pm

- Sept. 18 Annual Meeting**
AT THE HILLSIDE CLUB
2286 Cedar Street
Hidden Walks
by author Steven Altschuler
- Oct 16 Board Meeting**
Location TBD
- Nov 20 General Meeting**

Path Walks RAIN OR SHINE Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

- Aug 9** A Garden Among the Shorebirds
Mark Liolios 549-0818
Meet at the south end of Aquatic Park at the traffic circle (northern terminus of Shellmound Street)
- Sept 13** Historic Pathway up Charter Hill
Steve Finacom stuart60@pacbell.net
Meet on campus outside Wurster Hall
- Oct 25** Paths of Northern Most Berkeley
Marilyn Siegel 549-2906
Mardi Mertens 849-1142
Meet at Ensenada and Portland Avenues

Aug. 5 Tues. Night Walk

National Night Out Walk
7:00-9:00 pm
Jacque Ensign 524-4715
Meet at Walnut Street at Live Oak Park

Aug. 6 Wednesday Walk

Celebrating Everyone Walks in Berkeley
9:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)
Meet at Walnut Street at Live Oak Park

Envisioning the Next Five Years

Looking into the future, the board set down goals and a wish list in May at our first planning retreat. Thanks to all those who responded to our web survey. Your comments added interesting topics to the discussion. See a summary of your feedback in "Survey Results." The ideas discussed fall into three categories: Maintenance, Education/Documentation, and Collaboration.

Maintenance and Improvements

■ We are on the right track. Good collaboration with the City has meant dilapidated paths are getting fixed, signs are being restored, and homeowners are getting involved with the Unimproved Paths committee.

■ Focus on building concrete steps. With our Greenfields list in hand, we can transform some impassable paths to something to enjoy all year around. See Greensfield story on back.

■ We will look to remedying a lack of a maintenance plan for the newly improved stairs.

Education and Outreach

■ Consider alternate Path Walks. We will explore the possibility of publishing Self-Guided Walks to be distributed via websites and throughout libraries and other neighborhood centers. Alternative Walks are a possibility, from Moonlight Walks, Destination Walks, an Aerobic Walk to an AC Transit + Stairs Walk (though not entirely new for some).

■ Document the paths and their history, and BPWA's accomplishment for presentations to other groups. We would like to involve a broader level of community storytelling about the paths and begin compiling a photographic record of the paths. Perhaps a newsletter issue could be entirely devoted to community members recounting path tales.



Neighbors and Berkeley Path Wanderers Association members added steps to the middle section of Stoddard Path on July 19th. This followed three earlier work parties over the last couple of months. Transformation has been amazing. When CalCorps students arrived for the first work party they looked uphill at a mess of ivy, weeds and tangled berry bushes.

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

Board Members

JACQUE ENSIGN, chair
PAT DE VITO, co-chair
ELEANOR GIBSON, recording secretary
SUE FERSTROM, treasurer
KAREN KEMP, newsletter
JAY CROSS, webmaster
CHARLIE BOWEN
TOM EDWARDS
LISA FRIEDAN
ALAN KAPLAN
EMMA MORRIS
SUSAN SCHWARTZ
HELEN WYNNNE

Greenfields List

The three Glendale Paths were recommended as prime candidates for improvement in the 1992 Luk Milani Study. The paths were defined as an important escape route as well as a key pedestrian corridor to community parks, the regional park, and the University. Together they make for a quick descent from Fairlawn Drive (a block below Grizzly Peak Blvd.) to the Glendale-La Loma Park.

Now as the City is actively studying the bottom portion of Glendale Path #84, in prepara-

tion to build stairs, we appreciate the insights provided by the 1992 study, and extend our thanks to all the path supporters.

The term "greenfields" refers to new construction; Glendale (#84) tops this list which BPWA provided to the City recently. The list includes seven of our historic impassable paths for the City to study improving. Others on the list are:

**Please Take
Care while
enjoying the
impassable
Paths.**

- Glendale Paths #83, & #82
- Summit Path #92
- Stevenson Path #61 (lower)
- Wilson Walk #96
- Shasta Path #64



Five Year Plan *continued*

Collaborations

■ We would like to collaborate with teachers, school kids and organizations. Possibilities include encouraging a teacher to build an in-the-field learning curriculum along the paths; organize one new event with other groups in the next year — a "sustainability" day with a bicycle or pedestrian group perhaps; Plan a benefit stair walk to raise funds for a charity; work more closely with groups like Santa Fe Right of Way (SFROW).

*No sound but our feet
scuffing pebbles in the road
and wind in our ears.*

—Virginia K. Anderson

■ We should explore the possibilities of public art for paths and landscaping path parkways. This might include a collaboration with a garden club, or collaboration with school children to create artwork

Path Signs & Hand Railings

The City has done a fantastic job lately installing signs on 12 pathways. Many thanks to Ken, Adrian and Vincent in the City Public Works Department.

Upton Lane meanwhile has some new, attractive black handrailings which blend nicely into the surrounding foliage.

September 14th — Solano Stroll

Please volunteer for BPWA at the Solano Stroll. Call Emma Morris at 525-4894 for more information.

September 28th — How Berkeley Can You Be?

Please contact Helen Wynne, 843-5738, to join in the fun of showing off the paths while marching in the parade.

Sadly, Mr. Ronald Ross passed away on June 25th. Physics professor at Cal, he also loved hiking, and walked all over Berkeley. He walked to church, to campus, and was an active member of BPWA. His wife Lee requested that memorial contributions be sent to BPWA. Several generous donations have been received which will be used for the unimproved pathways.

Survey Results

In March 2003, seventy-one members of BPWA responded to a 12-question survey on the web. More than half of the respondents have been members for several years. You shared thoughts on our Saturday walks, on volunteering, and you offered suggestions for improving the paths and creating new path-centered events.

Seventy percent of you prefer to be reminded of upcoming walks and events by email, the remainder by the newsletter.

Saturday Path Walks

One third of you have been on several Saturday walks, while two thirds have been on one or no walks. Members love the walks but favor having fewer participants. Others of you would partake if the day and time differed. One third would prefer Sunday afternoon. About a third think a dozen walkers is the right number, and another third would limit walks to two dozen people.

Volunteerism

More than half of you volunteered to work on path maintenance. A third offered to help restore unimproved paths. A quarter have volunteered to do research and document items for the newsletter and website—expect to be taken up on your offer soon.

Thank you for responding. Your wealth of suggestions provided great input for the Board retreat in May.



www.berkeleypaths.org

If you have any concerns 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. 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 a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

BPWA Membership Form **Please print**

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

City _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____