

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include path walks, identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's path network, and the restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured.

Path Walks

10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours) Walks are free and all are invited to attend. For additional information on walks please see our web site, www.berkeleypaths.org

Saturday Walks

October 8 • 100th Anniversary of 1905 Berkeley Fire

Steve Finacom stuart60@pacbell.net

• Meet on Gayley Road, just below the entrance to the Hearst Greek Theatre on the eastern edge of the UCB campus. Steve is a local historian and author.

November 12 • Upper Rockridge

Sandy Friedland ssf@comcast.net

• Meet at intersection of Rockridge Blvd. and Broadway, SE corner by white pillared entrance and bench.

December 17 • John Muir Historic Site in Martinez

Marilyn Siegel - (510) 549-2908

• Meet at Visitor's Center, 4202 Alhambra Ave, corner of Alhambra and State Highway 4. From Hwy. 80 take 4 eastbound to Stockton/Martinez. Take Alhambra exit, go left under freeway and left again into the Visitor's Center parking lot.

First Wednesday Walks

October 5 • Old and New Paths

Jacque Ensign (510) 524-4715

• Meet at Live Oak Park on Walnut Street.

November 2 • Tilden Nature Area

Emma Morris - emmakathrynmorris@yahoo.com

• Meet at the front entrance to the Environmental Education Center next to the Little Farm. A stroller-friendly, easy walk, no hills. Rain cancels.

December 7 • Urban-Wildlife Interface

Paul Grunland (510) 526-8001

• Third in a series of walks on this topic. Meet at the Park Hills fountain just east of intersection of Shasta Rd. and Grizzly Pk. Blvd. Moderate pace, on dirt trails and sidewalks. Rain cancels.

Meetings

September 15 - 7:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting

Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar Street, Berkeley

• General meeting open to BPWA members. See notice on page 2.

October 20 - 7:00 p.m. - Board Meeting

Live Oak Recreation Center

• Business meeting open to BPWA members.

Berkeley's PATHS

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association Fall 2005 Vol. 8 No. 3

New Edition of the Map of Berkeley's Pathways



The Path Wanderers Association is pleased to announce the release of the third edition of its path map. The map shows all of the city-owned paths that provide pedestrian access to various parts of Berkeley as well as other trails.

We are very proud of the fact that close to 12,000 maps have already been sold. The first edition appeared in 2002 and quickly made it to the local Top Ten List for Nonfiction Bestsellers, with a second edition in 2003.

The new map is the result of diligent work by BPWA's Map Committee, who researched the mapped area to improve accuracy. It includes numerous changes that clarify features and correct known errors.

The new map shows ten newly completed paths, reflecting the extensive path-building efforts of the Path Wanderers in the last two years. Construction of new paths has been managed by the Berkeley Department of Public Works with the help of BPWA volunteers, local Boy Scout troops, and other civic groups.

The ten new paths are among approximately forty city-owned rights-of-way that, when neighborhoods were developed in the north and east parts of Berkeley, were set aside for paths but were never completed. As more and more residents

became car owners, the momentum to finish the planned paths waned and these walkways became increasingly difficult to find as weeds and brambles took over and encroachments from neighboring properties became common.

BPWA's coordinator for path-building, Charlie Bowen, observed that "the Wilson Walk right-of-way, near the Lawrence Hall of Science, was so steep and overgrown, you couldn't see the bottom from the top". Bowen organizes frequent work parties for volunteers who help to clear overgrown paths and install steps. The City also participates by installing concrete stairways on the steep sections of paths that volunteers can't manage.

Emma Morris, president of the group, says that volunteer initiatives have accomplished "near-miracles" on the paths. "We hope that one day all the paths will be finished so residents and visitors can use them for recreation and as short cuts to schools, shops, and public transportation. They are important evacuation routes in emergencies, as we learned during the Oakland-Berkeley Firestorm in 1991."

The ten newly completed paths make it safer and more enjoyable to walk from the lower parts of Berkeley to Tilden Park.

An example is Stevenson Path which, together with Stoddard Path, extends well up into the hills.

Continued on reverse side...

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

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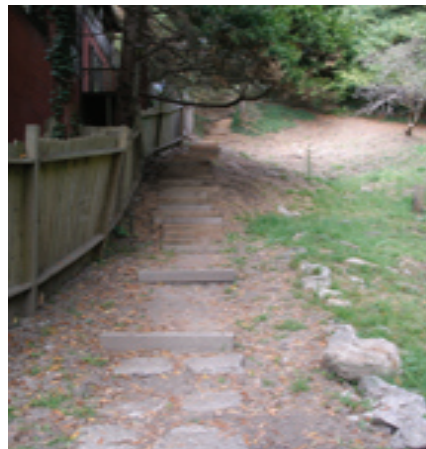
New BPWA Map of the Paths (continued)

The three parts of Glendale Path (see story, below) connect the top of Glendale Avenue with the Selby Trail in Tilden. Also new are Wilson Walk, Shasta Path, Columbia Walk, and Acacia Steps.

The new edition has all of the official Berkeley paths clearly marked (there are over 136). All paths are identified by name as well as city-assigned number. Printed on durable, water- and stain-resistant paper, the new map also serves as an

easy-to-read street map.

Maps continue to sell for \$4.95 and are available directly from BPWA by mail or on our walks. They are also sold at bookstores around the city and other shops that sell maps and outdoor gear. Members of the Path Wanderers get a \$1.00 discount if they buy their maps directly from the Association (see our web site for ordering information). We will also have the new map at our Solano Stroll booth.



Glendale Path

Glendale Path: A Solid Accomplishment!

Glendale Path appears as a solid line on the third edition of the BPWA Paths Map just published, indicating that it is now a passable path. Remarkable, considering its length and difficulty.

This long path consists of the three distinct sections. It extends from the intersection of Glendale Avenue and Campus Drive up to the intersection of Fairlawn Drive and Arcade Avenue. Although the elevation rise is 160 feet, it seems only moderately steep because of the length of the path.

At its lower end, the path's initial 33-step cement stairway with hand rail was constructed by the City of Berkeley last year. At the top of this stair is a fairly gentle grade with several sets of wooden steps and stepping stones, constructed as part of two Eagle Scout projects. The top third of Lower Glendale presented quite a challenge because of its steepness. Nevertheless, over several work parties, BPWA volunteers laid 63 wooden steps. This Lower Glendale section is the longest and the most easily navigated.

Continuing across Queens Road brings one to the bottom of Middle Glendale. A short steep section at the very bottom requires a scramble up (grading and steps to be added soon). The rest of this section is gradual and can easily be walked to the top at Fairlawn Drive.

Crossing Fairlawn Drive brings one to a set of stairs (under con-

struction at press time) that mark the bottom of Upper Glendale. These stairs, going steeply up and over a rocky outcrop, required professional design and construction. As one ascends to the top of the newly built stairway, the grade is again gradual, and leads to the top of the path where one finds a set of older cement stairs.

The most difficult part of Glendale Path, its upper segment, represents a joint effort of BPWA which funded the survey and design, and the city of Berkeley. A grant from FEMA to the City was given to improve the access and egress in the Berkeley Hills in case of another fire or emergency (like the Oakland Berkeley Hills fire of 1991).

Glendale Path was selected because it is a fairly straight route, and would thus serve as an excellent escape in the case of a fire or other emergency, as well as providing a way for fire-fighting personnel to move fire hoses up or down the hill.

Quite apart from these very practical reasons for the improvement and completion of Glendale Path is the prospect of recreational use. Walking the full extent of Glendale Path from La Loma Glendale Park brings the walker to within a block of Grizzly Peak Blvd, and then it is only a short walk (via Atlas Path) into Tilden Park and the wealth of recreational opportunities that it offers.

-- Mary Lynch, BPWA Board

BPWA Annual Meeting

The featured speaker at this year's annual meeting will be Jonathan Chester, local photographer and author of "Berkeley Rocks - Building with Nature", a fascinating new book that highlights Berkeley's prominent rock outcroppings. This should be a truly enjoyable presentation. Thursday, September 15 - 7:00 p.m. Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar Street

Come Ye Walkers, to the Stroll

The Path Wanderers will again have a booth at the Solano Stroll that takes place on Sunday, September 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Come and see us; we will have copies of our new map and our notecards. They can be purchased from our volunteers. The BPWA Booth location is at 1742 Solano Avenue - right in front of Pharmaca.

A Donation for a Faithful Friend

A big thank you to Des and Marian Simpson of Berkeley who made a very generous donation to BPWA in memory of their curly-coated retriever, Jake, who died in April of this year. In his last year he could only walk on his favorite path -- nearby Stoddard Path -- instead of his more ambitious wanderings in the hills with his devoted owners.

For more information about our activities, please see our web site at: www.berkeleypaths.org

If you have any concerns about path issues, please e-mail us at info@berkeleypaths.org

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

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

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442A Walnut St., #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

BPWA Donation/Membership Form Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

E-mail _____ Telephone number _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ for path-building

My check includes \$5.00 for a new membership renewal membership