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Known as the Garber Oak, this century-old tree exemplifies the oak woodland in Garber Park.

Garber Park: A Natural Treasure Restored

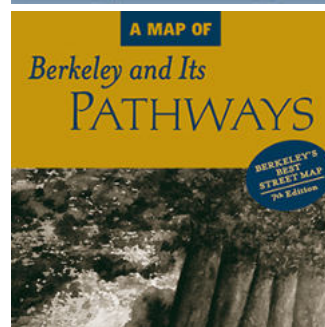
On the south slope of Claremont Canyon above the Claremont Hotel, lies one of the best-kept secrets in the Berkeley-Oakland Hills: Garber Park. This 13-acre City of Oakland wildland park has significant stands of big leaf maple, California buckeyes, regenerating coast live oak, and the typical understory found in woodland forests.

Join or Renew



Did you forget to pay your \$5 dues for 2018? We do not want to lose you. [Please renew today.](#)

Buy Our Map



The New York Times calls it ... " a terrific map of all the secret routes and corridors in Berkeley." It's also the best street map of the city you can buy! [Get your copy.](#)

Support BPWA

Harwood Creek meanders through it in winter and spring.

Thanks to new trail markers and an informative new brochure, more people soon may be exploring the one mile of trails in this small jewel of a preserve. The illustrated brochure features an easy-to-read map that highlights nine points of interest along a self-guided loop.

Those who prefer a guided introduction to the park and its surroundings may join BPWA and the [Garber Park Stewards](#) for a walk on Sunday, March 18, at 10 a.m. (See the description under **Walk with Us**.)

Visitors can access the park between dawn and dusk from [trailheads on Evergreen Lane, Alvarado Road, Rispin, and Claremont Avenue](#), the main entrance to the park and the only one with parking.

Garber Park is a perfect destination for a nature hike with young children. For older, more adventurous hikers, it can add a sylvan section to a more challenging route on nearby streets and stairways, including Eucalyptus Path with its 137 steep steps. [Read more.](#)

Walk With Us

Join us on our terrific guided walks, which are free and open to all. Unless otherwise noted, they last 2-3 hours and proceed at a moderate, conversational pace. We're sorry, but we can't accommodate your dogs except on walks specified as dog friendly. Please check our [home page](#) for last-minute weather cancellations. Questions about a walk? Write walks@berkeleypaths.org



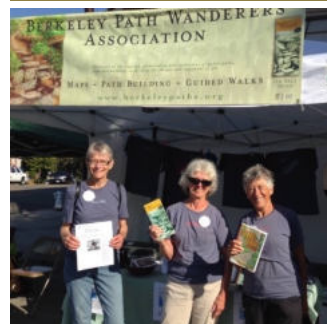
Your generosity enables us to build more paths and continue to offer our path-oriented events. [Donate now.](#)

Shop Online



We sell Path Wanderer shirts, hats, and tote bags as well as guidebooks, posters, and note cards. [Visit our store.](#)

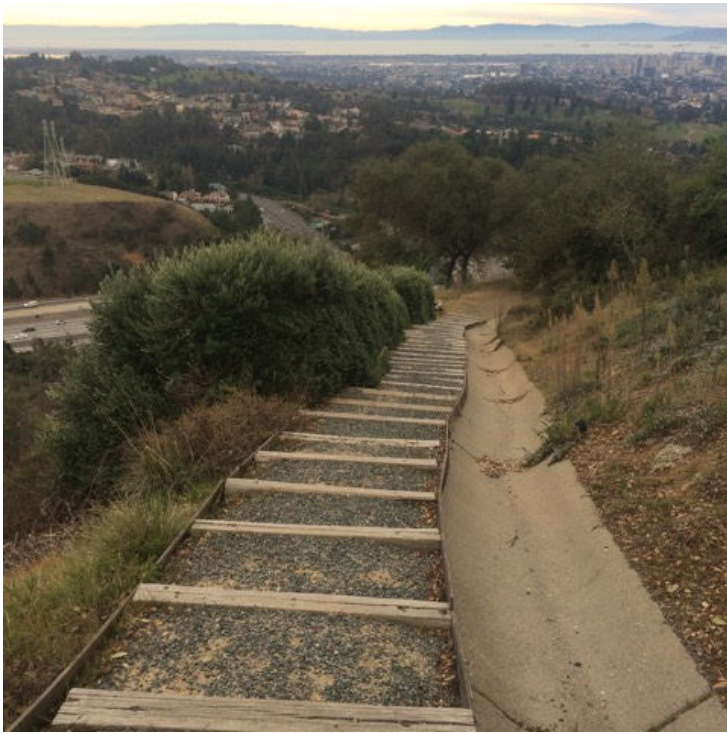
Get to Know Us



Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA) is a grassroots organization of people who treasure the public pathways that crisscross our city. [Read more.](#)

Meet Our Friends

You'll find links to many other organizations that promote walking, pedestrian safety, protecting the environment, and more on our [website](#).



This path will provide a welcome respite from steep Hiller Drive and a view of Mt. Tamalpais.

Claremont Canyon to Sibley: North Oakland's Hidden Trails

Sunday, February 4 @10 a.m.

Start: [Signpost 29 on Claremont Ave.](#) (1½ miles past Claremont and Ashby; .6 mile below Grizzly Peak)

Leaders: Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein

Although this 7.6-mile hike begins on busy Claremont Ave., we immediately leave it for the tranquility of Claremont Canyon. We'll start up leaf-padded Willow Trail, climbing through a small redwood grove to Grizzly Peak. After we crest the ridge, we'll descend on the Skyline Trail into Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve and then climb to Skyline Blvd, crossing bridges and a creek and passing an old wrecked car and a variety of trees. [Read more.](#)



We always stop for a treat break, for both people and pets, on our Pooches-on-the-Paths walks.

Pooches on the Paths: What's Not to Love?

Saturday, February 10 @ 10 a.m.

Start: [NE Corner of Solano and Peralta Avenues](#)

Leaders: Figgy & Wally

Love is in the air in February, so join the Pooches on the Paths crew as we explore what we “puppy love” most in Berkeley: its parks and paths! Starting on Solano Avenue, Figgy and Wally will lead you on a leisurely stroll to visit six paths and six parks. They are hoping to take you to a few places you might not know about but will quickly fall in love with. This easy route will be mostly on sidewalks with a few gentle hills. You'll get just enough exercise to whet your appetite for a biscuit-and-cookie break in lovely Live Oak Park. This walk is part of our All-the-Parks-in-Berkeley series, and everyone is welcome, with or without a four-footed friend.



A highlight of the Coffee Constitutional will be a tour of the Dona Spring Animal Shelter.

**Coffee Constitutional: A Walk on the West Side
Friday, February 16 @ 10:30 a.m.**

Leader: Jacque Ensign

Start: [Peet's Coffee](#) on Fourth Street

On this two-mile flat stroll, Jacque will share some of West Berkeley's past and the dramatic changes the neighborhood has undergone in recent decades. After a brief introduction, she'll highlight some of the new buildings on Fourth Street, including the Apple Store, and then move on to one of the oldest, [Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto](#), founded in 1890. She will discuss the concerns over the plans to develop the restaurant's parking lot, among them whether the site was Ohlone burial ground. From there, we'll head to the AmTrak Station, pausing along the way to see the murals commemorating the Ohlone's history in the area and local wildlife. Before returning to Peet's, we'll visit the new [Dona Spring Municipal Animal Shelter](#) at the south end of Aquatic Park, a LEED certified building completed in 2012.



This fountain marks the entrance to the Park Hills neighborhood, one of the last developments built in the North Berkeley Hills.

Park Hills and Hill Road

Sunday, March 4 @ 1 to 4:00 pm

Leaders: Bob Johnson and Janet Byron

Start: [NW corner of Grizzly Peak Blvd and Marin Avenue.](#)

This outing features one of the new walks from the recently updated and revised second edition of Bob's and Janet's [Berkeley Walks](#). They will lead us through one of the last subdivisions built in the Berkeley Hills, which the sons of Frederick Law Olmsted laid out. Highlights of the walk include grand views, several lesser-known paths, a Tilden Park trail with diverse native plants, and distinctive homes. Most of this almost four-mile walk will be on quiet streets without sidewalks. The route includes some gentle ups and downs and a few short, steep sections. The total elevation gain will be 760 feet. Street parking is available, but be sure to check the signs.



New signs in Garber Park make it easy to navigate its trails.

Garber Park, Grandview, and More

Sunday, March 18 @ 10 a.m.

Leaders: Shelagh Brodersen and Sandy Friedland

Start: [Peet's on Domingo](#)

Co-sponsored by the [Garber Park Stewards](#), this 3.5-mile walk will focus on the 13-acre woodland park on the south slope of Claremont Canyon as well as two nearby neighborhoods. In the first half of the walk, Shelagh, who leads volunteer work parties in Garber Park, will take us along the mile of trails in this gem of a park, including stairs that descend to Claremont Ave. She'll explain the park's history and significance and note recent improvements and interesting flora — including, we hope, trillium. Sandy, a BPWA board member, will lead the faster-paced second half of walk on the hilly streets and paths in the Upper Claremont and Grandview neighborhood. The route includes Sunset Trail, the one path that can be reached only from another path, and two historic stairways in the Grandview neighborhoods. Some stairs are steep, others have tricky footing, and the park trails could be muddy.



These cascades and the granite stairway next to them will be a highlight of our walk in Joaquin Miller Park.

Joaquin Miller Park: A Literary and History Tour
Saturday, March 24 @10:30 a.m.

Leader: Linda Brown

Start: [Ranger Station](#) inside park entrance (across the parking lot from the Community Center)

Linda Brown, past president of the Berkeley branch of the California Writers' Club, will share the history and literary heritage of this lovely 500-acre, heavily wooded park. The three-mile walk will proceed at an easy pace and include breaks for commentary at each of five monuments that honor Joaquin Miller, California's "Poet of the Sierras." The route includes the 2,000-seat Art Woodminster amphitheater and Cascades, which are dedicated to California Writers. Most of the walk will be on fairly flat terrain, often on old roads, although Woodminster does have 225 steps. Consider taking your own hike into the Park's interior following Linda's tour.

Join Our Work Parties



This young man is making great progress clearing the steps of LaLoma Path. (We love when pre-teens and teens pitch in!)

**Help us Keep our Paths Clear for Emergencies
Sunday, February 11 @ 11:00 a.m.**

Help us transform another weed-obscured path into a safe and lovely walkway. Please email [Mary Lynch](mailto:Mary.Lynch) if you can come, and she will send you the location of the next Path Maintenance Work Party. We'll supply refreshments and gloves and tools, but feel free to bring your own.

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