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## NEW HANDRAILS



*BPWA board members use the new handrail on Lower Halkin Walk.*

**Adding handrails to steep paths: A BPWA priority**

*By Sandy Friedland*

Handrails make steep paths more accessible for people with stability or balance issues. But in case of a fire or earthquake, handrails could be essential for residents of hilly neighborhoods, of all ages and fitness levels, to safely use the paths as escape routes — possibly in the dark.

Thanks to your generous donations and the proceeds from [sales of our maps and merchandise](#), BPWA has been paying for handrails to be installed on some of the 35 or so new, wood-timber stairways that our volunteers have built since our organization began in 1998.

It cost us \$24,800 to install one in January on 260-foot-long Lower Halkin Walk, our newest path. Our most recent handrail, added along all 335 feet of Poppy Path in June, had a pricetag of \$23,800. [Learn more](#)

**Please [donate to BPWA](#) so we all can enjoy the paths more safely. We are 100% volunteer organization, and all donations go to path improvements.**

**Join us for a [New paths and handrails walk](#) on Sept. 12, showcasing two paths and three handrails (details below).**

**JOIN US FOR A WALK!**

Unvaccinated persons must wear masks. We are monitoring public health mask guidance and will notify our membership of any additional requirements.



*Above, the new handrail installed by Berkeley Path Wanderers Association on Columbia Path.*

**FEATURED WALK:** [New Paths and Handrails](#)

**When:** Sunday, September 12, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Leader:** Alina Constantinescu

**Where:** Glendale-La Loma Park, upper parking lot, [1310 Glendale Ave](#)

This 4-mile route in the upper Berkeley hills is designed to showcase our work in the past couple of years: two new paths and three handrails. Expect steep paths (with handrails!) along with the usual wonders that our walks entail: parks, views, scenic neighborhoods, and fun company. [Learn more](#)

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## [Berkeley Hills Sunset Hike](#) — RESCHEDULED!

**When:** Friday, September 3, 5:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Leader:** Alina Constantinescu

**Where:** East side of Euclid Ave, across from end of Eunice Street at [Codornices Park](#)



Grab a flashlight and let's kick-off the weekend with a nice evening hike! The route is 4 miles, with hills and staircases. Estimated duration is 3 hours. [Learn more](#)



## [Berkeley Long Walk: From Shore to Summit and Back Again](#)

**When:** Saturday, September 18, 8:30 a.m. to late afternoon

**Leaders:** John Ford, Alina Constantinescu

**Where:** Berkeley Marina by Dock C/D

**Bathrooms:** [3 Spinnaker Way](#)

Join us for a 15-mile trek across our hometown: Berkeley! We'll start at the Marina and head to the highest point within city limits on appropriately named Summit Road. From there we'll hop into nearby Tilden Park for a picnic lunch and then loop our way back to the Marina on a different downhill route. [Learn more](#)

## [Dedication of Founders Paths + Walk](#)

**When:** Sunday, September 19

**Walk:** 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Dedication:** 12 to 1 p.m.

**Walk leaders:** Alina Constantinescu, Janet Byron

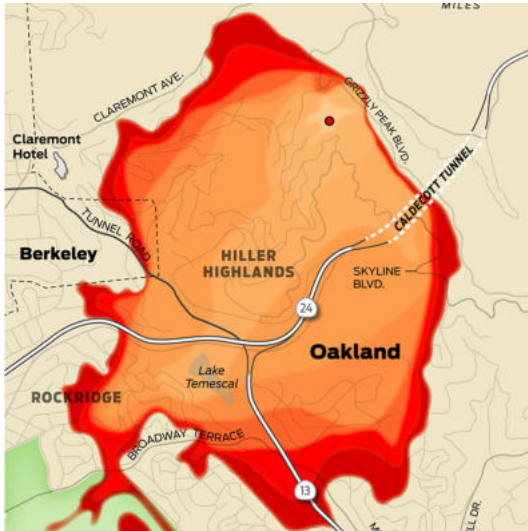
**Where:** Los Angeles Avenue, west of Marin Circle at [Jacque Ensign Way](#)



Please join us for the dedication of the newly renamed paths that honor the four BPWA founders: Pat DeVito, Jacque Ensign, Ruth Armstrong, and Eleanor Hall Gibson. Refreshments will be served.

Please also join us for a walk starting at the top of Jacque Ensign Way at 10 a.m.,

returning in time for the dedication event  
by ~ 11:30 a.m.



## Escape from the Hills Walks

**When:** Sunday, October 17

**Walk:** 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Walk leaders:** John Ford, Petra Biddle-Gottesman, Alina Constantinescu

**Where:** Details to come in October newsletter

On the 30th anniversary of the disastrous Oakland-Berkeley Hills fire — which killed 25 people and destroyed 3,500 homes — BPWA will lead a series of walks featuring evacuation routes in the Berkeley Hills. We will meet at various points and walk downhill using paths and staircases, and some streets.

## Tilden Park: From Canyon to Creek to Ridge

**When:** Sunday, October 30

**Walk:** 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Walk leader:** Bonnie Forer

**Where:** Codornices Park, [east corner of Euclid Avenue and Eunice Street](#)

Come see all that Tilden Park has to offer — from canyon to creek to ridge. On this 10- to 12-mile, moderate to challenging hike, we'll travel at about 2.5 miles an hour. Bring water and lunch. [Learn more](#)



## ANNUAL MEETING - SAVE THE DATE

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association's annual meeting this year will be on October 31 at 10 a.m., starting in the amphitheater at John Hinkel Park. We'll have a short business meeting and then walk some paths. Costumes welcome! More details to follow in the October newsletter.

## PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES

## Path maintenance work parties

Path maintenance work parties are back! The work is mostly weeding, sweeping, raking, and clipping. We will have gloves and tools available, but feel free to bring your own. Please bring your own water; we won't be offering water or refreshments. To RSVP and receive an email with the time, date, and meeting place, write to Mary Lynch at [path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org](mailto:path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org).



## Reporting path problems

BPWA now has an [online form](#) for reporting problems that you come across on the paths. Please let us know about missing signs, broken steps, overgrown weeds, graffiti, and anything else you come across. We can't solve every problem by ourselves, but we will keep track of problems and concerns, and route them to the right city departments. The form is under the "Get Involved" tab at [berkeleypaths.org](http://berkeleypaths.org).

## Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

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

The BPWA board generally meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Guests are welcome! Please contact [info@berkeleypaths.com](mailto:info@berkeleypaths.com) for more information.



To support our path-building efforts, go to [www.berkeleypaths.org/your-donations-help](http://www.berkeleypaths.org/your-donations-help).  
All donations go toward building new paths, repairing and clearing paths, and purchasing handrails.



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