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PATH-A-THON A SUCCESS!



Story and photos by Colleen Neff

It was a beautiful day for the annual Path-a-Thon with over 65 walkers celebrating our city's public paths, trails, and green spaces! Originally called Pick a Path and started in 2005, this set of walks of varied lengths commemorates the summer birthday of the Berkeley Path Wanderers. After a pandemic pause since 2020, this year's gathering had a feeling of normalcy and renewal as we came together to walk, talk, and share cupcakes at the three walks' joint finish in Willard Park. Our thanks to walk leaders John Ford (current board member), Alina Constantinescu (past president), and Janet Byron (current president).

Next year, BPWA will mark its 25th year of path stewardship, and we're planning some special things to celebrate! Thank you all for supporting the public paths during a challenging couple of years. I know I couldn't have made it through without my daily walks on the paths, and I know many of you feel the same. To support our work on the paths, [click here](#).

UPCOMING WALKS

NOTE: Walk leaders request that all participants be vaccinated and boosted, or masked. Heavy rain cancels.



[Evening Hike: Cal Campus to Berkeley Rose Garden](#)

When: Friday, August 5, 6:30–8:45 p.m.

Leader: Alina Constantinescu

Start/End: SE [corner of Oxford St & Center St](#), by Adolfo Pomodoro sculpture *Sphere within Sphere*

Distance: 4 miles

Accessibility: Hilly with stairs and uneven trails. Well-behaved dogs on leash welcome, but must bypass Rose Garden

You asked, we listened: Join us on another Friday evening hike! This time, we'll be exploring the UC Berkeley campus and the scenic neighborhoods in the hills north of campus. This 4-mile hike takes us on winding trails through the campus, and then heads north into the hills on hidden paths and staircases. We'll make sure to explore the Rose Garden and take in the sunset views before heading back to the start. [Join us!](#)

[El Cerrito: Trails and Parks, from North to South](#)

When: Sunday, August 7, 9:15 a.m.–1 p.m.

Leader: Alina Constantinescu

Start: El Cerrito Del Norte BART Station. Meet by the Ohlone Greenway on the [east side of the station](#).

End: El Cerrito Plaza BART Station

Distance: 7 miles

Accessibility: This route has stairs and many uneven trails. Well-behaved dogs on leash are permitted.

Grab your Clipper card and your hiking boots and join us on a north-to-south, flats-to-hills, and back-to-flats El Cerrito ramble. Along the way, we'll discover



many parks (Arlington Park is pictured), hidden paths, and panoramic trails.

The hike is 7 strenuous miles—we'll climb from the flats to the highest points in the hills, with many ups and downs. [Read more](#)



[Tank House Tour: Discovering Berkeley's Forgotten Wind-Powered Wooden Water Towers](#)

When: Saturday, August 13, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Leader: Aaron Goldstein

Start/End: Corner of [Sixth St and Harrison St](#) in Berkeley

Distance: 2.75 miles

Accessibility: Flat. Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome.

Space is limited, so RSVP to [Aaron](#). Include your name and the number of people attending

This walk reconstructs a once ubiquitous but now largely forgotten piece of the circa-1900 Berkeley urban landscape. Back then, windmill-topped water towers stood on nearly every city block, pulling up water from wells into elevated water tanks and providing pressurized water for domestic use. Of the thousands of "tank houses" that once existed in Berkeley, only a handful remain. We'll visit 6 surviving examples in North and West Berkeley and learn about what people had to do to get water in the pre-EBMUD East Bay. [Read more](#)

[Piedmont Avenue to Panoramic Hill](#)

When: Saturday, August 27, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Leader: Bob Johnson

Start/End: Meet at the [northwest corner of Dwight Way and Piedmont Avenue](#). Be careful about parking limitation signs in the area.

Distance: 2 miles

Accessibility: A 500-foot elevation



gain. Well behaved dogs on leash are permitted.

Piedmont Way was laid out for grand homes south of campus by famed landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted. Several of the mansions were designed by Julia Morgan, and most of the homes later became fraternities and sororities. We will stop to note a few of these. International House and UC Memorial Stadium are also on our route.

[Read more](#)



[By the Bay, Berkeley and Albany](#)

When: Saturday, September 17,
9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Leader: John Ford

Start/End: SE corner of [4th St. and Hearst](#) in Berkeley

Distance: 6 miles

Accessibility: This is a relatively flat walk with no stairs, but there is gravel and/or uneven ground here and there throughout.

We'll start by crossing the pedestrian/bike bridge at the foot of Addison and check out the newest parkland in the Berkeley Marina, Brickyard Cove. From there, we'll walk through the meadow on the north side of University and then along the shoreline to the foot of Gilman where we'll meet the Bay Trail. We'll take the trail to the Albany Bulb and explore a bit there.

[Read more](#)

BPWA BUCKET HATS!

Support Berkeley paths with style!

Combine comfortable sun protection with a smart fashion statement — all while supporting BPWA's valuable work on our paths. Our hats are 100% garment-washed cotton twill in a goes-with-everything beige, and they feature BPWA embroidered in a cheerful green. \$33, sales tax and shipping/handling included. S/M and L/XL sizes. Click here to [buy now](#). Supplies are limited!

Below, former BPWA board member Elsa Tranter models our new bucket hat.



VISIT US AT SOLANO STROLL



Colleen Neff and her husband, Helmut, show off BPWA swag at the Solano Stroll.

Please stop by the BPWA booth this year at the Solano Stroll on September 11 to talk all things Berkeley paths. We'll have maps, books, hats, T-shirts, and more, so you can support our work and show your path pride. Find us on the north side of Solano, just east of the corner of Ensenada and Solano. See you there!

PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES



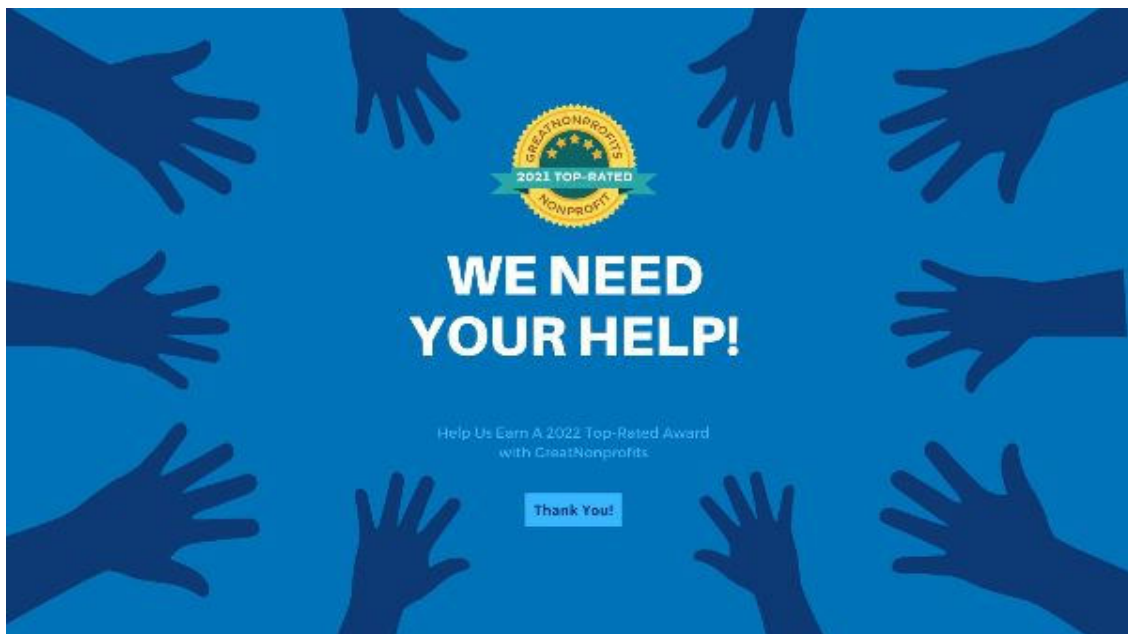
Join a path maintenance work party!

Saturday, August 6, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Thursday, August 18, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Help us keep our paths clear for all to enjoy by joining us at a path maintenance work party! 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.

Please RSVP to receive an email with the locations for this month's work parties:
path.maintenance@berkeleypaths.org.

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Review us on GreatNonprofits!

If you love Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, then tell the world! You have an opportunity to help us make even more of a difference in our community. GreatNonprofits, a review site like TripAdvisor, is honoring highly reviewed nonprofits with their 2022 Top-Rated Awards. Please help us raise visibility for our work by posting a review of your experience with us. All reviews will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and only takes 3 minutes!

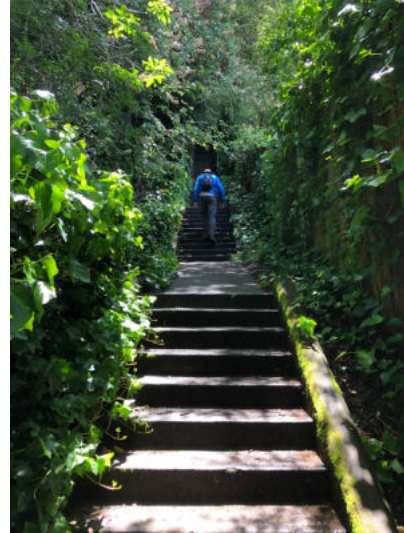
Go to greatnonprofits.org/org/berkeley-path-wanderers-association to get started! Scroll down and click on "Share experience with this nonprofit today."

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 monthly. Our next meeting is August 18, 7–8:30 pm on Zoom. Guests are welcome! Please contact info@berkeleypaths.com for more information.

To support our path-building efforts, you can [donate online](#). All donations go toward building new paths, repairing and clearing paths, purchasing handrails, and advocating for paths.



DONATE



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