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PATH UPGRADES



Berkeley repairs 3 paths with T1 bond funds

By Janet Byron

With voter-approved bond funds, the Berkeley public works department has made substantial repairs to the cement steps on Visalia Walk, Tunbridge Lane (above), and Florida Walk in northeast Berkeley.

“The path network provides critical evacuation routes in the case of emergency,” says Alina Constantinescu, former BPWA president. “We’re grateful to our partners in the city for

making these paths easier and safer for walkers to traverse.”

Most of the funding for these repairs was provided by Berkeley's [T1 bond measure](#). Voters passed the \$100 million measure in 2016 by an 86.5% margin, with the funds allocated to repair, renovate, replace, or reconstruct the city's aging infrastructure and facilities. Phase 2 of the bond spending allocated about \$200,000 for path upgrades and repairs.

[Read more](#)

EXPLORE ALBANY HILL



Circumambulating the little hill

By Janet Byron

From the 338-foot summit of Albany Hill, Margot Cunningham surveys sweeping vistas of the Golden Gate, Oakland, the East Bay hills, Mt. Tamalpais, and beyond.

“So many people don’t know about this place,” says Cunningham, the city of Albany’s natural areas coordinator since 2017. “You look up while driving by and see this green thing, and don’t realize that there’s a park here.”

Located between busy San Pablo Avenue and the El Cerrito Plaza mall to the east and even busier Interstate 80 and Pacific East Mall to the west, Albany Hill is an ecological island amid urbanity at the edge of the San Francisco Bay. More than 100 native plants, 150 moths and butterflies, and 100 bird species have been spotted here, as well as a native scorpion. Willows grow along the banks of Cerrito Creek to the north and a mature forest of coast live oaks flanks its east side. The summit is crowned by some 1,000 non-native eucalyptus. [Read more](#)

This article originally appeared in the [Bay Area Monitor](#).

DESIGN A NEW LOGO FOR BPWA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!



In 2023, Berkeley Path Wanderers Association will celebrate 25 years of building, walking, advocating, and enjoying Berkeley's paths. Artists of all ages, please help us design a new logo commemorating BPWA's first quarter-century of paths-love!

All submissions will receive a T-shirt with the new 25th-anniversary logo. The winning designer(s) will receive 3 T-shirts and \$100 in swag on the BPWA online store. All entries will be displayed on the BPWA

website.

Submit your entries by June 15 to info@berkeleypaths.org

BAHA SPRING GARDEN TOUR



Featuring 11 gardens on the banks of Harwood Creek, May 15, 1 to 5 p.m.

It's springtime on Claremont's Harwood Creek. Flowering buckeyes bow to meet the flowing water; rhododendrons and fragrant azaleas flourish in the dappled sunlight; robins and squirrels are playfully at home in the canopy of coast live oaks. Enhancing the idyllic setting are residences of varied and imaginative architectural designs, artfully set among the trees and along the brook.

Join the [Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association](#) (BAHA) for a stroll through the Claremont creekside gardens. Several homeowners will be on hand to tell you about their gardens. In the background, you'll see the exteriors of architecturally significant houses. The ground is mostly level and easy to navigate on this self-guided tour. Go at your own pace. An informational tour handout with a map will be provided.

Tickets available on [Eventbrite](#) and at the intersection of Encina, Parkside, and The Uplands. General admission \$30, BAHA members \$25.

Be sure to visit us at the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association table!

EL CERRITO HILLSIDE FESTIVAL, MAY 14–15



Join El Cerrito Trail Trekkers at the 8th annual El Cerrito Hillside Festival, May 14–15

The festival features something for everyone:

- Walks and informative hikes about the geology, flora, and fauna in the 100-acre Hillside Natural Area
- Nature scavenger hunt for young people
- Talk on early California Indian life by Berkeley historian Richard Schwartz
- Poetry by the winners of the Hillside haiku contest
- Girl Scouts teaching hikers to Leave No Trace
- Meditation in nature, and more!

Hikes range from strenuous to easy.

Location: Hillside Natural Area, [7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito](http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org).

See the full schedule at <http://www.ectrailtrekkers.org>. Sponsored by El Cerrito Trail Trekkers and El Cerrito's Environmental Quality Committee. Free.

JOIN OUR BOARD!



BPWA seeks new board members

Join our fun and effective all-volunteer board! We meet monthly. Members serve 2-year terms with the option of renewing once. Interested in one of these board positions? Write to BPWA president Janet Byron at info@berkeleypaths.org.

Map coordinator: BPWA volunteers have sold some 40,000 units in 9 editions of our best-selling "Berkeley and Its Paths" map. Board member oversees retail sales, marketing, and inventory, and helps with revisions for the upcoming 25th anniversary/10th edition.

Emergency services liaison: Berkeley's path network serves a key role in evacuation planning for natural disasters such as earthquake and fire. Board member represents the interests of Berkeley paths in citywide emergency services efforts, CERT, and streetlight planning.

UPCOMING WALKS

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



[I-Spy Bingo Walk](#)

When: Sunday, May 15, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Leader: Sandy Friedland

Where: Bus shelter on the SE corner of [Claremont Avenue and The Uplands](#)

RSVP required by May 12: Send child's first name and age to [Sandy](#)

Accessibility: Fully accessible on mostly flat sidewalks; no dogs, please

Your 4- to 7-year-olds will love this family-friendly adventure in the Claremont and Elmwood neighborhoods. As they walk our mostly flat 1.8-mile route on sidewalks, players will look for yard art, window decorations, and other eye candy that match the photos on their Bingo cards. Everyone wins! Each child needs a pen or pencil. [Read more](#)

[Long Walk 2022: Circling Mt. Tam](#)

When: Saturday May 21, 8:30 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Leaders: Alina Constantinescu and John Ford

Where: [Parking lot](#) across from Mountain Home Inn at 810 Panoramic Hwy, Mill Valley.

Carpool from Berkeley: See [full description](#) for more information.

Accessibility: Challenging trails, many of them with stairs. Sorry, no dogs allowed.

It's time for the Wanderers' annual Long Walk! This year's adventure takes us to Marin County where we will circumnavigate Mount Tamalpais on a 15-mile route with wondrous trails, historic points, and unbeatable views. [Read more](#)





[Slow Walk Around Strawberry Creek Park - Again](#)

When: Sunday, May 29, 10 to 11:30 a.m

Leader: Janet Byron

Where: Hidden Cafe @ Strawberry Creek Park, [1250 Addison St.](#)

Accessibility: Fully accessible, with no stairs; dogs on leash welcome

Walk leader Janet Byron deeply apologizes for being a no-show at her own walk! Please join her—for real—for a leisurely walk around Strawberry Creek Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

[Read more](#)

[San Francisco's 16th Avenue Tiled Steps](#)

When: June 5, 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

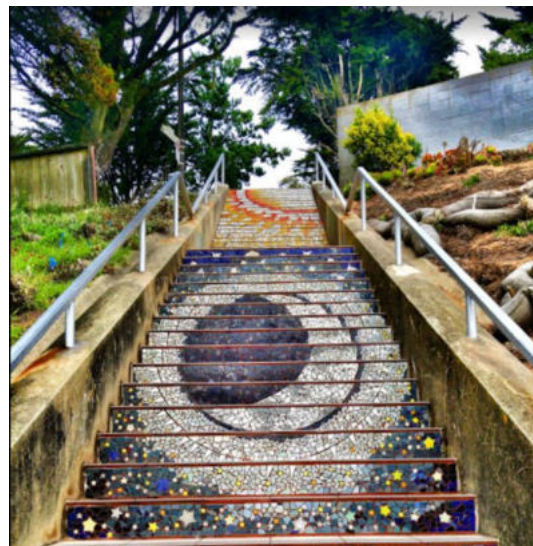
Leaders: Tamara Gurin and Janet Byron

Meeting place: Downtown Berkeley
BART, main entrance

Distance and duration: 8 miles

Accessibility: 163 stairs; kids and dogs that can keep up are welcome

The 16th Avenue Tiled Steps are a little-known gem in San Francisco's Golden Gate Heights neighborhood. Joining us will be one of the lead artists, Aileen Barr, who will inspire us to make stairway art a reality on the Berkeley paths. [Read more](#)





2/3 of the San Francisco Crosstown Trail

Date and Time: June 19, 9 am

Leader: John Ford

Starting location: Glen Park BART Station, San Francisco (If traveling by BART, catch the 8:17 a.m. Richmond-SF train at North Berkeley. It is expected to arrive at Glen Park at 8:54 a.m.)

Ending location: Lands End, San Francisco

Accessibility: Many stairs and some narrow trails. Very well-behaved dogs on leash are permitted.

The Crosstown Trail was inaugurated in 2019. The entire trail is 17 miles long, but we will tackle the northwestern two-thirds of it. We'll walk through parks and neighborhoods and see parts of San Francisco that are only known to locals. There are a number of hills—it's San Francisco, after all. Dress in layers, and bring water and a lunch. [Read more](#)

PATH MAINTENANCE WORK PARTIES



Join a path maintenance work party!

Tuesday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Sunday, May 22, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

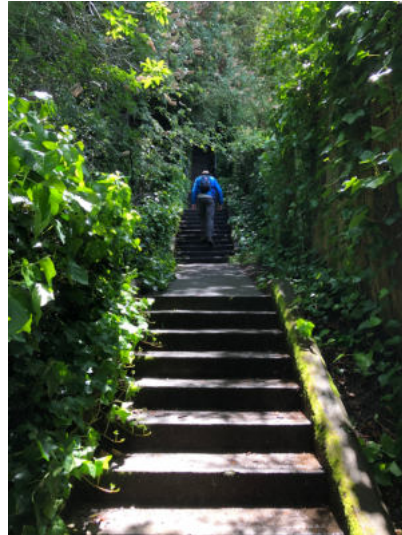
Path maintenance work parties are back! The work is mostly weeding, sweeping, raking, and clipping. We will have gloves and tools available, but feel free to bring your own. Please bring your own water; we won't be offering water or refreshments.

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

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 May 22 at 12:30 p.m. in Cragmont Park. 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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