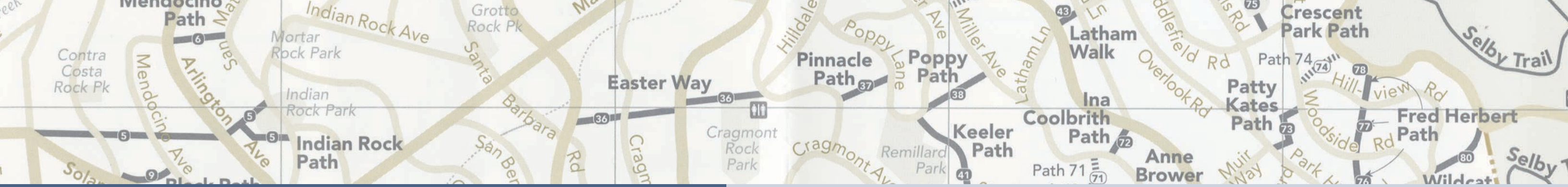


# Path Forward

*Berkeley Path Wanderers  
Association*

2030  
Plan





Our vision:  
 In 2030, Berkeley's pedestrian path network will be a thriving civic resource that promotes public safety, health, recreation, and cultural expression.

# Introduction

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA), an affiliate of Berkeley Partners for Parks, is dedicated to the creation and preservation of Berkeley's public paths, steps and walkways for the enjoyment of all.

*Mission of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association*

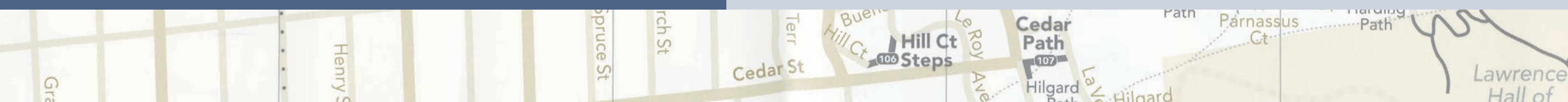
Berkeley is unusually blessed with an extensive network of 136 pedestrian pathways. When the city was developed in the early 1900s, streets were built along contours of the hills, resulting in the creation of some very long blocks, and the typical resident owned neither a horse nor a car.

Purchasers of lots in the new subdivisions needed good pedestrian access to rail lines, so a wide network of pathways was built to provide shortcuts. In later years, as the City of Berkeley incorporated the new housing developments into the city limits, the pathways became part of the public infrastructure.

The pathways remain a reminder of Berkeley's early days. To the harried urban resident, they offer leafy garden corridors to quiet. The pathways continue to provide shortcuts to public transportation, shopping districts, and schools. In an emergency, they serve as critical evacuation routes as well as a means for rescue personnel to deliver aid.

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a community of volunteers who work to increase awareness of Berkeley's pathways through our programs and activities. For more than 20 years, we have offered free guided walks, published a popular map of Berkeley's path network, and built and maintained new paths on previously inaccessible city-owned rights-of-way.

With an eye toward our third decade, our board and volunteers engaged in a visioning process for 2020 and beyond. This document is the expression of BPWA's goals and aspirations for the next 10 years.



# Path Building

We work to complete Berkeley's path network as it was originally envisioned. With dedicated leadership and volunteer labor, we construct pathways on challenging terrain to make all of Berkeley's 136 paths the accessible and functional public rights-of-way that they were intended to be.



Path Building Priority:




## 1 Build new paths.

2030 Goal: Complete 10 new paths.

### 2020 Objectives:

- ▶ Finish Columbia Path, which includes a 50-foot retaining wall and over 200 steps.
- ▶ Prioritize which paths to build based on 2018 path survey and their strategic importance to the path network.
- ▶ Once the prioritization is established, begin building the next new path.

### Required resources:

-  Volunteer labor on path building work teams.
-  Funds to purchase steps and other building supplies.
-  Subcommittee determination of path prioritization.

# Path Improvements

We continually work to upgrade Berkeley's path network. Based on comprehensive surveys conducted by volunteers, we improve accessibility via path improvements, including signage, handrails, lighting, and public art.



Path Improvements Priorities:

## 1 Create a network of showcase paths.

2030 Goal: Showcase paths boast art, lighting, wayfinding, and handrails.

### 2020 Objective:

- ▶ Plan and initiate one showcase path.

**Art:** Engage the community and professional artist to design permanent artwork with mosaic/paint.

**Lighting:** Complete testing, pilot phase, and installation of path lighting on showcase path.

**Handrails:** Install handrails as needed.

### Required resources:

- Community input and volunteer labor to complete community art project.
- Volunteer labor to install lighting.
- Funds to commission permanent path artwork.
- Funds to implement path lighting and install additional handrails.

## 2 Improve safety and accessibility of paths for disaster preparedness.

2030 Goal: Berkeley's paths provide a safe and accessible network of evacuation routes in the event of wildfire, earthquake, or other disaster.

### 2020 Objectives:

- ▶ Install handrails and lighting per 2018 path survey.
- ▶ Continue to partner with public works, fire department, and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) on evacuation-related improvements.
- ▶ Attend city council and other commission meetings with agenda items related to the paths.

### Required resources:

- New board member to liaise with City and CERT.

# Path Maintenance

On an ongoing basis, our volunteers gather to manage vegetation on existing paths and ensure safe access to walkways and steps.



Path Maintenance Priorities:

## 1 Continue work parties for path maintenance.

### 2020 Objectives:

- ▶ Increase work party frequency from once to twice per month.
- ▶ Promote work parties in monthly newsletter to attract additional volunteers.
- ▶ Regularly host work parties on weekends, as well as week days.

### Required resources:

- 👤 Volunteer labor on path maintenance work teams.
- 👤 Identify second volunteer facilitator for work parties.

## 2 Collaborate with City on vegetation maintenance.

### 2020 Objectives:

- ▶ Meet with the fire department and CERT teams to identify paths for maintenance.

### Required resources:

- 🏢 New board position for City liaison.

## 3 Maintain database of path conditions.

2030 Goal: Database has been kept up-to-date since initial 2017 inventory with two to three additional comprehensive path inventories.

# Outreach and Communications

Via our newsletter, website, and social media, we share information about our work on the paths. We provide regular opportunities for community participation in walks, special events, and work parties.



**PATH NEWS**

In January, we thanked four board members for their outstanding volunteer service for Berkeley paths: Mary Lynch, Heather Schooler, Elisa Tranter, and Daphne White; and welcomed four new board members. This month, we introduce you to Chris Oullander and Karen Ebad; next month, you'll meet John Ford and Erika Wilson. Welcome, new board members!

**Get BPWA's New Emergency Separation Liaison: Chris Oullander**

Meet us a little bit about yourself. Chris was born 3 score and 11 years ago, and



Outreach and Communications Priorities:

## 1 Inform members and the community of events and volunteer opportunities.

2030 Goal: Membership is engaged and presented with volunteer opportunities suiting their interest and availability.

### 2020 Objectives:

- ▶ Continue monthly electronic newsletter.
- ▶ Improve event communications, including reminder emails for volunteer opportunities.
- ▶ Enliven social media presence.

### Required resources:

- Continued board positions to produce newsletter.
- Designated board member to oversee social media engagement.

## 2 Gain publicity in local media.

2030 Goal: We raise our visibility and recognition in the community and increase appreciation for the paths.

### 2020 Objective:

- ▶ Secure article in Berkeleyside or similar local publication.

### Required resources:

- Board member engagement with media outlets.

# Revenue and Governance

In addition to strong support from a large number of community donors, we seek to diversify our funding sources, including by applying for grants. Our work each year is guided monthly board meetings and an annual budget.



Revenue and Governance Priorities:

## 1 Maintain annual objectives and resource plan.

2030 Goal: Arrive in 2030 with all goals met and within budget.

**2020 Objectives:**

- ▶ Develop 2021 objectives and resource plan.

**Required resources:**

- Board subcommittee to develop recommendations.

## 2 Refine board and governance structure.

2030 Goal: Board members are effective and thriving in all necessary board positions.

**2020 Objectives:**

- ▶ Convene subcommittee to develop recommendations and present to board. Ideas for consideration include: fundraising position on board, developing new revenue streams, reconsidering membership structure, and adjusting meeting structure.

**Required resources:**

- Board subcommittee to develop recommendations.



# The Path Forward

In late 2019, we reviewed our accomplishments, and achieved consensus on overarching goals for the next year, and the next decade.

Our recent achievements include:

- ▶ Rebuilding Mosswood Lane in the Panoramic Hill neighborhood.
- ▶ Building Lower Columbia path; when finished, it will include a 50-foot retaining wall and over 200 steps.
- ▶ Informing the City of improvements needed, based on our 2018 all-paths survey. The City subsequently moved forward on replacing over 170 missing signs, fixing broken handrails, and making limited structural repairs on historic concrete paths.
- ▶ Increasing our efforts to work with public safety staff and neighborhood volunteers, to assist with wildfire evacuation drills and community safety fairs.

In 2020, Berkeley Path Wanderers Association plans to complete the construction of Lower Columbia Path and begin developing new paths; we have 22 paths to go toward our goal of completing Berkeley's path network. We will work to designate a showcase path with improved signage, lighting, and artwork. Finally, we will share our *Path Forward* vision with the Berkeley community, stakeholders, and our members and donors.

**With the ongoing support of our volunteers and donors, we are confident that our 2030 vision will become a reality.**



