



**Berkeley
Partners
for Parks**

Working Together for 23 Years

Building vibrant, healthy, ecologically sound communities by providing structure needed to engage volunteers in work for public open space and recreation.

www.BFPF.org PO Box 12521 Berkeley, CA 94712

October 2018 Report from our Partner Groups

What is a BFPF Partner Group? Berkeley Partners for Parks brings together citizens working as volunteers to enhance public open space, nature, and recreation. These citizens work on myriad local projects, in groups large and small. Varied as they are, these projects all spring from:

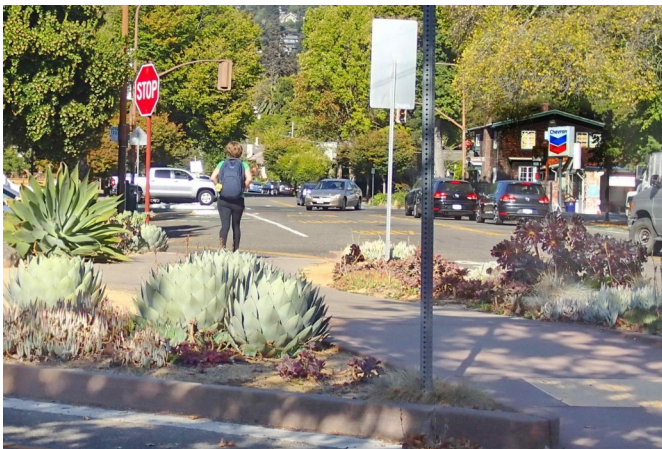
- people with an idea or dream for outdoor spaces or recreation
- people willing to volunteer their time or give money
- organizations with know-how and experience.

BFPF manages the finances, providing essential services including insurance, accounting, and tax deductibility. We also provide collegiality, inspiration, a wide range of experience, advice on funding sources, suggestions for partnerships, and encouragement when needed. We make it all hang together! To support us, click on the DONATE tab on our website, or send us a check.

Here is a sampler of what our partner groups achieved in 2018:

United Pool Council

The United Pool Council (UPC) took more than two dozen Tibetan kids, ages 5 to 16, to parks across the East Bay in 2018. The Summer Swim & Tennis Camp visited Cedar Rose tennis courts, King tennis courts and pool, El Cerrito and Richmond pools, and Lake Anza in Tilden Regional Park. The program culminated on June 25, “Olympic Day 2018,” with certificates of participation from the International Olympic Committee, thanks to UPC Coordinator Charles Altekruze, a former Olympian. Many thanks to certified athletic trainers who provided sports skill instruction, as well as Tibetan parents who provided extra chaperoning and snacks. For info or to help email caltekruse@caconsult.org.



Triangle Mini-Park

The lovely drought-tolerant triangle that helps provide safe crossing next to the North Berkeley Library is recovering from damage when a runaway vehicle mowed down plantings on Hopkins. With time, the new succulents will fill in again. Meanwhile, the group – also known as Friends of the 1800 Block Sonoma Neighborhood Mini Park – has improved the protective and beautiful rocks, placing a new two-ton boulder near the south end and moving one of the smaller existing boulders toward the northeast. Next up: installing the long-planned Analematic sundial, where your shadow cast on stones will show the time. Contact dsnpn28@gmail.com to help.

El Cerrito Community Garden Network

The El Cerrito Community Garden Network continued to grow and give away flowers, vegetables, and fruit despite a challenging transition: In spring 2018, volunteers took down our 400 square feet of beds for renovation of Fairmount Park, salvaging as many plants and planters as we could. We look forward to putting the garden back together in 2019, with permanent space in a renovated park (conceptual design below)! We also provided more than 1000 seed-



lings and starts to pre-school and senior food gardens as part of the UC Extension Cal Fresh Nutrition Education Program, stocked our seed libraries at the El Cerrito Recycling Center and Library, held neighborhood crop swaps and gleaning evenings, provided major stewardship on city-owned land above the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area as well as local gardening advice. For info or to get involved: <https://sites.google.com/site/elcerritocommunitygarden/>

Greens at Work

Now in our 13th year, Greens at Work has almost finished replacing tangles of tall invasive weeds with colorful and varied natives along the Bay Trail from Central Avenue and Rydin Road to the Pt. Isabel dog park, in Richmond. We also have adopted what was a trash-strewn city-owned lot at the trail entrance and are converting it to a native plant garden. Many thanks are due to the East Bay Regional Park District and Contra Costa Fish and Wildlife Committee for providing plants, the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and most of all to our hundreds of recent volunteers. All are welcome to help out, 9:30 – 2 PM on first and third Saturdays. Info: tkelly@kyotousa.org.



Schoolhouse Creek Common

The community-built park on the grounds of Berkeley Adult School has a beautiful new "Welcome to the Garden" mosaic at its Curtis/Virginia entrance, thanks to artist and neighbor Lynn Jones, and about \$1000 donated for materials. It should help make clear that all are welcome at the park! All also welcome at work parties, 10 AM – noon on second Saturdays. Jamie Day, coordinator and main gardener, is stepping away from physical labor. If you'd like to help care for this drought-tolerant, mostly native garden with facilities for respite and play, contact day7715@gmail.com.

Pacific Oaks Community Garden

Our community garden on the bare spot that was the middle school across from Cerrito Vista Park, in El Cerrito, remains small, but it's growing. In May, a local Boy Scout constructed four planting beds and a teaching area. We planted pollinator plants and now have a lovely flower garden to brighten our area. We look forward to partnering with other gardening groups and schools to benefit many El Cerrito residents and neighbors. Information on getting involved, including upcoming work days, at <https://www.pacificoakscg.org/>.





Take To The Hills

Take To The Hills, now in its third season, has nearly completed renovating the Derby Creek Canyon trail above UC Berkeley's Clark Kerr Campus, and trail use has increased dramatically. Almost 300 treads have been installed, and the trail is now three feet wide along its entire length. The old erosion scars are almost entirely healed, and young oaks that volunteers protected from browsers are growing at fantastic rates. Large swaths of French broom and Italian thistles have been removed. We excitedly look forward to planting native seedlings when rains return. For info or to volunteer go to www.TakeToTheHills.net.

Thousand Oaks Neighborhood Urns Project (TONA Urns)

We are thrilled with the installation of two more concrete urns replicating the monumental Maxfield-Parrish-style urns that marked the 1909 opening of the subdivision. The new urns grace the median at Thousand Oaks and Arlington and Frederick Mini-Park at Yosemite Rd. and Arlington. They join the two installed in 2011 (at Yosemite and The Alameda and in Great Stoneface Park) and the one remaining original (at Indian Trail and The Alameda). With completion of Phase II of the Thousand Oaks Urn Project, Co-Chairs Trish Hawthorne and Elizabeth Sklut are ready to hand the effort over to new leadership – with molds used to produce the new urns, some start-up funds, and personal guidance ready! Information at <http://www.tona.org/urns>.



Friends of Five Creeks



Friends of Five Creeks' 22nd year saw a successful year of transfer of mature projects and emphasis on new ones. The cities of Albany and El Cerrito are now caring for most public areas along Cerrito Creek, while volunteer Steve Hegarty has "adopted" the segment at Adams Street. Fire-prone French broom is under much better control at the El Cerrito Hillside Natural Area and Tilden Regional Park. Now our volunteers are tackling other habitat-destroyers such as cape ivy. On the Berkeley shoreline, years of diligence have paid off: We have time to help ready the "Berkeley Brickyard" segment of East Shore State Park for opening to the public. Most exciting, we discovered a forgotten \$450,000 set aside for lower Codornices Creek, and are working with Albany, Berkeley, and UC Berkeley to create a permanent maintenance fund as well as bringing volunteers and needed stewardship back to our area's only trout stream. Join us in volunteering, walks, talks, and more. Info at www.fivecreeks.org or f5creeks@gmail.com.

Friends of Halcyon Commons / Halcyon Neighborhood Assn.

We hosted three neighborhood work parties so far this year at our public park that neighbors built and have maintained for more than 20 years. It's hard to remember the bare parking area it replaced. Over 100 neighbors attended our annual Ice Cream Social for National Night Out in the park in August. Our reinvigorated neighborhood Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) included a drill: neighbors left green signs on their windows or doors (to signal everyone okay) and then gathered at the park to sign in. We plan more drills. Contact halcyon92@gmail.com to help with park stewardship.



Aquatic Park EGRET

The egrets and herons that roost in the trees surrounding Aquatic Park can be grateful to 7th graders from Head-Royce School! On service learning days, these students use rakes, shovels, and buckets to transfer mountains of fresh wood chips, smothering invasive plants and keeping the soil moist for the trees. The 7th graders' enthusiasm and speed is matched by outstanding ability to work as a team!

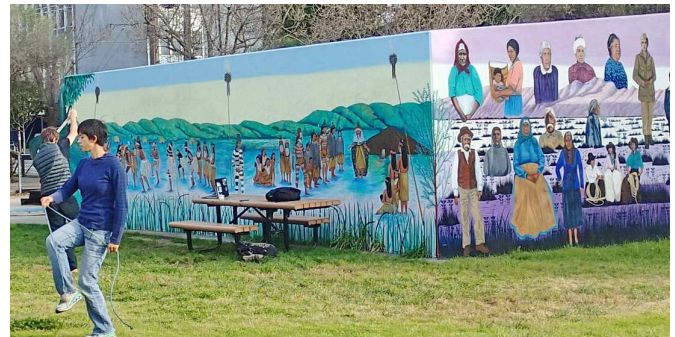


Berkeley Path Wanderers Association (BPWA)

In July, 75 volunteers fanned out to report on condition of steps, vegetation, handrails, and signage on all of Berkeley's paths. This year's updated Eighth Edition of our popular map, "Berkeley and its Pathways," shows the huge improvement from our first survey two decades ago! Over the past year, new handrails went in on Upper Covert, Whitaker, and Ina Coolbrith Paths, so in August we celebrated completion of an almost-mile-long corridor of paths with handrails in the hills. Our volunteers finished building Keeler Walk, now renamed John Muir Path. Find out about bi-monthly walks or get involved with ongoing volunteering at www.berkeleypaths.org.

Friends of Ohlone Park (FOOP)

Friends of Ohlone Park (FOOP) continues to renovate to serve not only neighbors, dog owners, and ball players, but also residents of new high rises in and near downtown Berkeley. Our park will be their closest green space! We surveyed lighting and advised the Parks Department on improvements, and are working with the North Berkeley Senior Center's Advisory Council to create an outdoor fitness center. UC Berkeley students from The Berkeley Project did clean-ups in several locations. A UC Berkeley Chancellor's Partnership Grant will let us enhance the Ohlone Mural on Hearst near the corner of Bonita, in ways envisioned by the artist and approved by members of the tribe. Info: www.ohlone.transbay.net/.



Hillside Club

The Hillside Club continues to improve the native-plant garden we established in 2010, in the spirit of our mission since 1898: "To cultivate a spirit of civic patriotism among the residents of Berkeley; to work for and encourage the making of parks and the planting of trees within the city limits; to beautify the streets, gardens and homes within said city; and to encourage all branches of art." We look forward to putting to good use a gift from Ellen and Jeffrey Cohen to honor club members Tim Hansen and Dianne Ayers. Info: www.hillsideclub.org or aracelihscc@gmail.com.

Citizens for Cesar Chavez Off Leash Area (CCCOLA)

Citizens for Cesar Chavez Off Leash Area (CCCOLA) is always busiest in spring, beating back the foxtail-bearing grasses that irritate and endanger our dogs. In spring 2018, a joint work day with the City of Berkeley also filled holes, picked up trash, and rebuilt the entry kiosk. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/504181773023667/>.



Our mission: Berkeley Partners for Parks builds vibrant, healthy, ecologically sound communities by providing structure needed to engage volunteers in work for public open space and recreation, in and around Berkeley, California.

Berkeley Partners for Parks is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. To donate, click on the DONATE tab on our website, or send us a check.

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