

Every Path in Berkeley, Part 3

Length: 7 miles

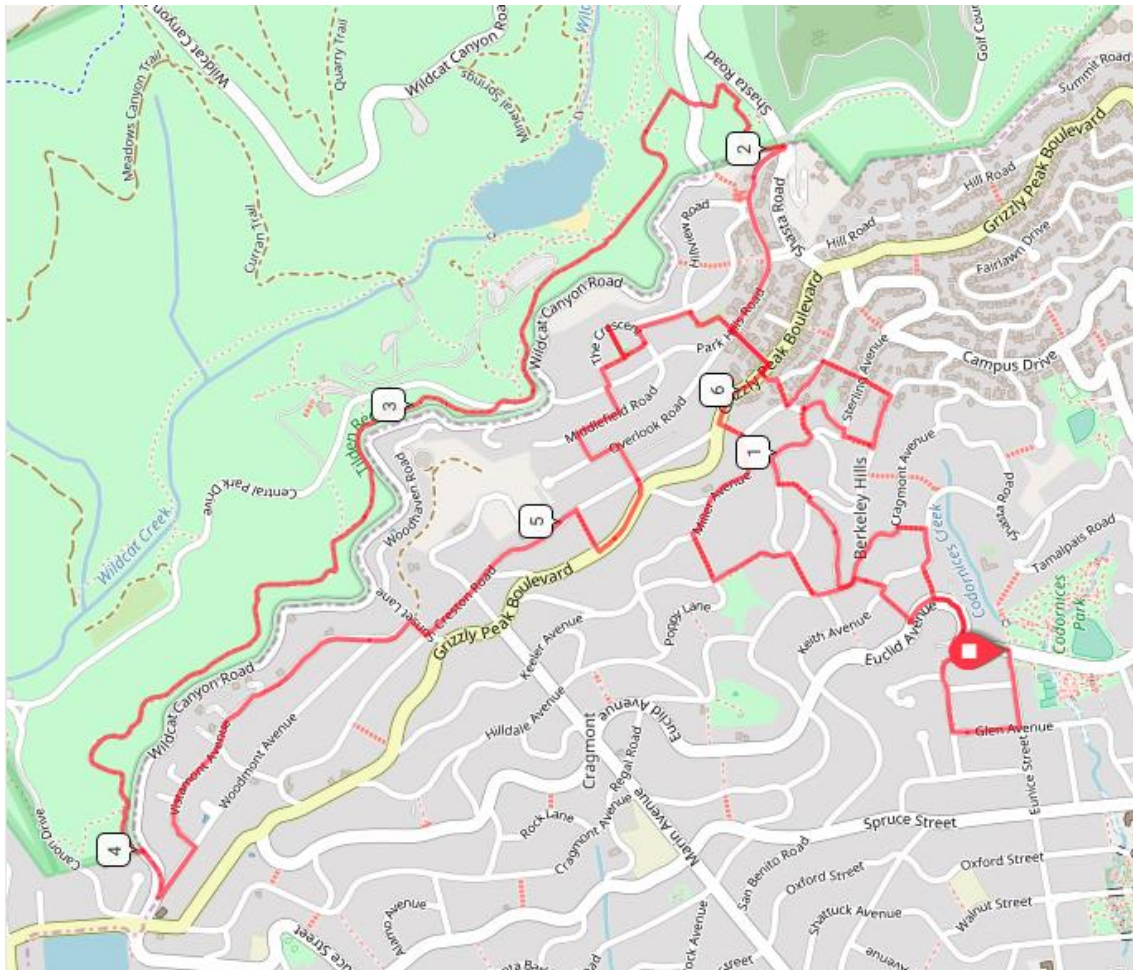
Time: 3 hours

Difficulty: 4

Elevation Gain: 1,200 feet

Starting Point: Euclid Ave. and Eunice St.

Transportation: AC Transit bus 65. Parking available south on Euclid or down Eunice



Overview:

This trek is perhaps the most difficult of the entire *Whole Berkeley Walk* series. It heads west to complete Oak Street Path and then quickly proceeds to climb up a series of steep paths to Grizzly Peak. After gaining the ridgeline, the walk descends to the woods to traverse the Selby Trail, climbs back up Vistamont Trail, passes through the quiet and scenic Crescent Park, and finally ends with an easy downhill back to Codornices Park.

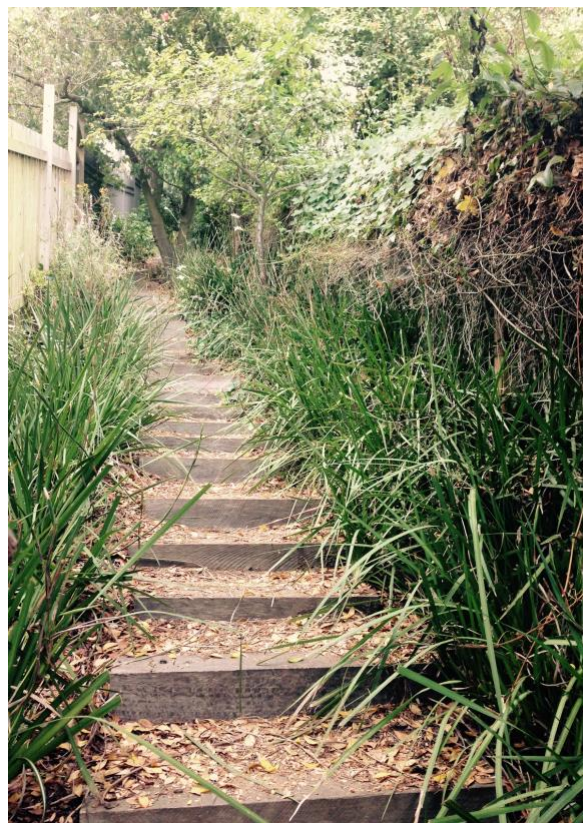
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Directions and pictures:

Starting at the intersection of Euclid and Eunice, the walk begins with a descent on Eunice, the last downhill that you'll be doing for a while! Turn right onto Arch after three short blocks to begin an extended climb to the crest of the Berkeley Hills. A right turn again onto Oak Street takes you into the lovely shaded glen bisected by Oak Street Path, which runs straight from the intersection of Oak and Glen. After the first block of the path, continue straight on to Oak St, which restarts, then make a slight right to descend the concrete stairs of the second block of the path to Euclid, where you should turn left. After passing an expansive mural depicting the Mayan Creation, cross Euclid and continue uphill, making your first right onto a steep set of concrete stairs, Redwood Terrace. Ascend, nearly vertically at times, to Keith, where you'll turn right. A left turn on lackluster concrete stairs of Martinez Path brings you a block up to Cragmont. Make a left here and then a right onto Bret Harte Rd. Jog right on Keeler and then turn left immediately to climb Bret Harte Path, whose even, concrete stairs give way to more scenic wood ones part way up. Turn right on Sterling at the top of the path, enjoying the views of the Bay beginning to appear below you. Turn left on Betty Olds Path opposite the intersection with Twain Way and then right onto Whitaker Rd. at the top. You're going downhill for now, but don't fool yourself into thinking that it will last! You'll pass Grizzly Peak Park, a potential water stop, on your left, then continue straight at the bottom of the street onto Whitaker Path.

Right: Whitaker Path descends from shady glens to open vistas on the quintessential wooden stairs of the hills

As you emerge from the trees toward the bottom of the path, you'll get a magnificent Bay view. Turn left on Keeler at the bottom and then left again shortly after up Stevenson Path, a lovely two-block shortcut up to Miller. The second block cuts practically through someone's backyard, with two gates marking the passage of the public easement. Turn left on Miller once you reach the top and then make a right onto Ann Brower Path, which runs from opposite the intersection with Whitaker up to Stevenson Avenue. Turn left here to reach Grizzly Peak, though not yet the walk's high point. Make a right, then an immediate left onto Muir Way. Turn right onto Park Hills Rd, which provides splendid views down into Wildcat Canyon, a preview of where you'll be walking soon. Park Hills goes down one of the hills for which it is named, then curves right and climbs back up to Shasta Rd. Make a sharp left at this intersection onto the narrow Selby Trail, and you'll (finally!) begin descending. The trail switchbacks downward through the trees, then hits Wildcat Canyon Rd. Cross and continue straight on unsigned Anza View Rd, turn left on any of the narrow trails or sets of stairs below—they all join with the main Selby Trail and descend to Lake Anza. Stay left where the offshoots join the main Selby Trail, then left again to stay on the Selby Trail where it intersects the Lake Anza Trail. Continue another 1.4 miles on the scenic Selby Trail, crossing Central Park Drive a third of a mile in, then Step It Up: An Adventurer's Guide to Forty Walks on the Paths, Trails, and Streets of Berkeley and Beyond© 2019 by Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein. All rights reserved.



stay left at the intersection with the Memory Trail to follow the Selby Trail for a last short stretch to where it ends.

Turn right here onto Wildcat Canyon Rd. and left soon after to ascend the steep Woodmont Ave, an unusually straight street for the Berkeley Hills. Turn left on Rosemont and then right on Vistamont Avenue, passing the famous My Way (which is the only alternative to the highway). Where the street dead-ends, continue onto the gravel Vistamont Trail, a flat, narrow path, which connects the two sides of Vistamont Ave. with stepping stones under the shade of huge trees. Continue straight at the end of the path on Vistamont again, and stay slightly left on Woodmont where the street ends. Turn right onto Sunset Ln. soon after, then left onto Creston after one exceedingly short block. Creston climbs gradually; at the top of the series of short hills, turn right down Miller Path East, a narrow cut-through to Grizzly Peak, the site of your next left turn. Make another left opposite the intersection with Latham Ln. up Latham Walk, then continue straight at the top of this short path, down the continuation of Latham Ln, a quiet road (not to be confused with the various paths ending "Lane"). Turn left on Overlook, which sadly overlooks nothing here. Turn right on either the Crossways, which used to bear a sign for "the Crossways," then make a right on Middlefield Rd, then a left down The Short Cut, also a street, though it sounds like a path. Continue straight at the bottom up The Crescent. Crescent Park Path, where you turn right, is a bit hard to find, so be on the lookout for a right turn after the intersection with Park Hills that looks like a path to someone's backyard. Part way up, open the gate to find yourself in Crescent Park. If you actually want to walk every path in Berkeley than you must head out and back the extension to your left, an eastern entrance to Crescent Park, before walking south, opposite where you came in, to continue along the main



route. Turn left onto The Crescent again once you have exited the park, then make a right very shortly after onto Woodside Rd. After one, block, turn right up Patty Kates Path.

Left: It isn't Muir Path anymore!

This path was formerly named Muir Path, then one day, very suddenly, the name was changed by the

Park Hills Neighborhood Association to honor Patty Kates, their longtime head. John Muir's loss was made up for by the fact that the Berkeley Path Wanderers renamed their newest path of the Step It Up: An Adventurer's Guide to Forty Walks on the Paths, Trails, and Streets of Berkeley and Beyond© 2019 by Jacob Lehmann Duke and Zeke Gerwein. All rights reserved.

time, previously called Keeler Walk, John Muir Path. Continue left through a meadow and right up some more steps to Muir Way, which could any day become Patty Kates Way. Turn right on Grizzly Peak at the end of this short street, then left down Ina Coolbrith Path, opposite the intersection with Creston. Ina Coolbrith Path, named for California poet laureate Ina Donna Coolbrith, had a handrail built on it in 2018 by the Berkeley Path Wanderers' Association, completing the "handrail corridor," a route up through the hills from Euclid to Grizzly Peak entirely on paths with handrails. Turn right onto Miller Avenue at the bottom of the short path, then left a bit after the intersection with Latham Ln. to descend lovely Poppy Path, running through a small redwood grove. A left turn at the bottom through Remillard Park takes you across Keeler Path past some excellent blackberry bushes. Turn right at the end of the path onto Keeler Ave, then immediately right again down Sterling Path, which opens onto a lovely view of the Bay. Turn left at the bottom, then right soon after the intersection with Bret Harte Rd. onto El Mirador Path, which descends past more redwoods to Keith, then jogs left and continues down another block, this one with concrete stairs, to Euclid. This path is first in the handrail corridor, when taken upwards, so you have now gotten to see both the beginning and the end of this BPWA accomplishment. Turn left on Euclid, which brings you back to the beginning of the walk in one lengthy block. If you're trying to walk every path in Berkeley, then you are now half way done, and the harder half at that!