Philosopher's Way

Legend:
- Paved paths
- Unpaved paths
- ♿ Accessible route
- ♿ Alternate route
- ○ Musing stations
- ★ Trailhead
- Street
- Other paved path
- Other unpaved trail
- Stairway
- P Parking
- MUNI lines
- Park Boundary
- ▲ Peak

John McLaren Park

Gleneagles Golf Course

Scale: 0.1 — 0.25 Mile / 500 Feet / 100 Meters

North ↑

Philosopher's Way *By Peter Richards and Susan Schwartzenberg*

JOHN MCLAREN PARK, SAN FRANCISCO

Incorporated into existing trail systems of McLaren Park, Philosopher's Way is a 2.7 mile loop around the park's perimeter and includes places to rest and view the landscape. Conducive to personal thought and contemplation, the route was chosen to highlight the interrelationships between the area's ecology, geography, history and the on-going experiences of the people who come here. As walkers, we become part of the landscape and our presence leaves traces.

> Thinking has its own laws. It functions of its own accord and does not follow our will. To merge with the object of thought—that is, to direct ones attention to it—is voluntary, but I think perception is the same in this respect: we are able to see what we want to see by freely turning our attention toward it. –*Kitaro Nishida*

Philosopher's walks exist in many cities. In the hills above Heidelberg are trails where scholars, students, and writers walk, ponder, and debate issues of the day. A path through the University of Toronto traces the route of an underground stream. A path along a canal in Kyoto is lined with cherry trees where Kitaro Nishida, an early 20th century philosopher, walked in meditation.

HISTORY

John McLaren Park is located in the southeast section of San Francisco. It's name memorializes the superintendent of Golden Gate Park (1887-1943). The park has a wide variety of paved trails and footpaths that travel through meadows and forests, pass by creeks and lakes and to the tops of peaks with spectacular views to the city, bay, ocean and beyond. Though it was created through extensive landscape planning and an aggressive planting program, it is home to many indigenous species of plant and animals.

LOCATOR MAP

The stonework for this project was done by George Gonzalez. Project team includes Leah Elamin & Ben Pease.