

# The Great Spirit Path Sculpture Guide



Bayfront Park

Marsh Road at the Bay

City of Menlo Park, California

Welcome to "The Great Spirit Path" Sculpture. The rock clusters ahead of you - of raw, unhewn stone - have been assembled into a stone poem.

These rock clusters were inspired by American Indian Pictographs - a visual language system designed and used by various Native American tribes to record events in their daily lives. A selection of pictographs have been assembled here into a poetic statement.

This stone poem fuses together both literature and sculpture - it can be read, yet retains a purely visual format. The sculpture as a whole is also intended to portray a conceptual fusing of man and nature: using rock in a manmade setting while retaining proper respect for nature in its raw form. This concept is illustrated by the sculpture's faithful use of an ancient language using unhewn stone as the medium of conveying its message. It is the artist's intention here to illustrate a reverence for the evolutionary methods of both man and nature in combination with a message of hope.

This project was conceived by Menlo Park artist S.C. Dunlap. Like other City residents, Ms. Dunlap was intrigued when she saw the plans for the development of Bayfront Park in 1981. It occurred to her that a stone sculpture would give the park character while respecting its wind-swept conditions.

Although she studied rock configurations in numerous parks and gardens, the seed idea for this project came from her own back yard where she had clustered a group of stones into the shape of an arrow. Convinced a visual language system must exist, she renewed her search and ultimately located numerous books illustrating pictograph languages. A few of those images have been used here.

The poem was written by Ms. Dunlap. Rock clusters were installed in two phases between 1981 and 1985. The rocks brought to the site were from a quarry in Sonoma and a meadow near the Stanford Linear Accelerator.

Each rock was carefully chosen to support the original pictograph and translate it into sculptural form. Working with unhewn stone compounded the difficulty of achieving clear images. This obstacle was overcome by compiling an inventory of all the rocks and then narrowing the choice to those which conformed to the pictograph image. These rocks were then numbered and transported to the appropriate site using flatbed trucks and bulldozers.

The four stanzas of the poem are spread over a 3/4-mile trail. In all, 892 rocks were used, weighing over 505 tons. It is the largest sculpture of its kind in the world.

The poem begins at the west edge of the park and progresses to the east.

It reads as follows:

*Evening good  
weather clear with stars.  
I walk with the wind behind me  
inspired, with glad heart.*

*Come,  
discover many animals,  
grass, sun, canyons, and earth.  
No hunger, war, no fear,  
making peace and strong brothers.*

*Climb this way,  
over mountain or hill.  
Go in four directions -  
up, down, close or far away,  
to places hidden or bright,  
under rain or cloud, night or day,  
reaching to see  
birds, plants, water and trees,  
as you walk this trail and cross this path.*

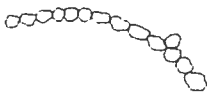
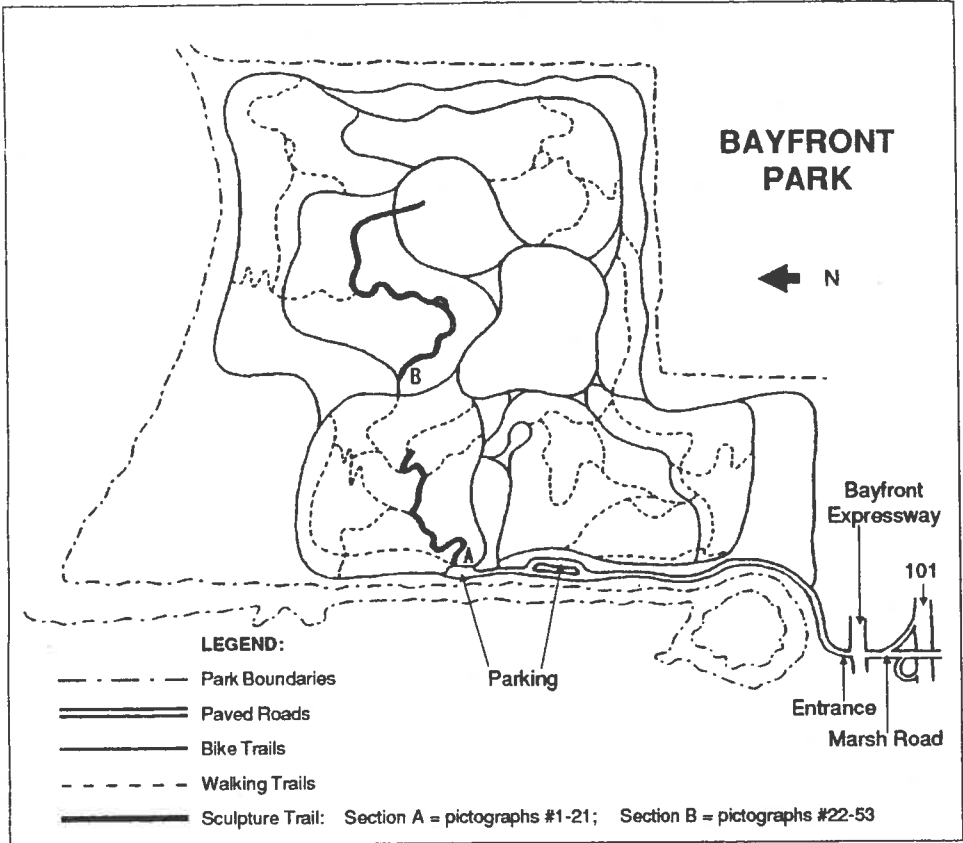
*Rest here.  
Talk here.  
Flee your troubles to the sky  
holding firm to harmony, virtue and peace,  
barring evil,  
strong with wisdom and healing,  
reaching out with supplication  
to the Great Spirit everywhere.*

© S.C. Dunlap  
1985

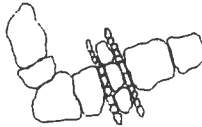
Information on the following pages is intended to assist you in reading the sculpture. The numbers adjacent to the illustrations correspond with numbered posts installed at each pictograph site.

For your convenience additional brochure boxes have been installed along the path. This brochure can be re-used by other park visitors simply by leaving it in any of these boxes.

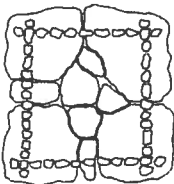
The Park is open daily and closes approximately one hour before sunset. We do hope you have enjoyed both the Park and this sculpture.



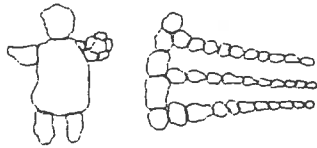
1. evening



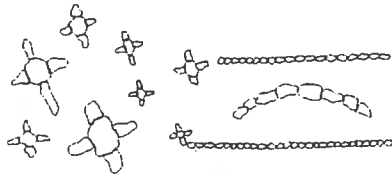
4. I walk



2. good



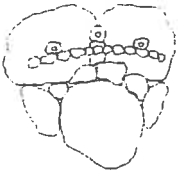
5. with the wind behind me



3. weather clear with stars



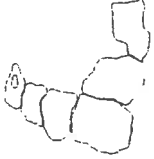
6. inspired



7. with glad heart



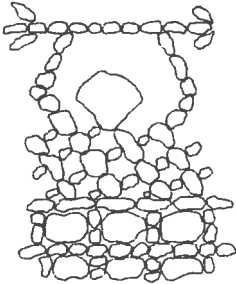
13. sun



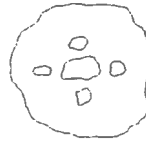
8. come



14. canyons



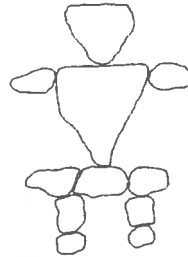
9. discover



15. and earth



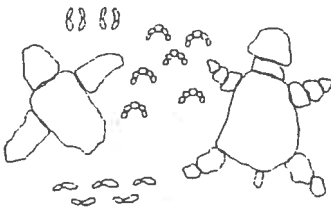
16. no



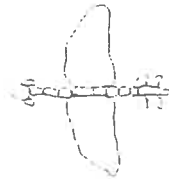
17. hunger



10. many



11. animals



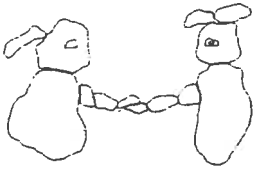
18. war



12. grass



19. no fear



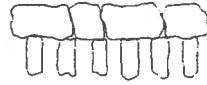
20. making peace



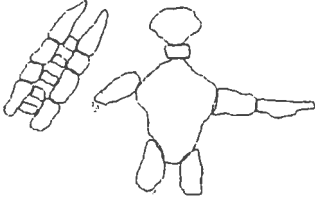
26. up



21. and strong brothers



27. down



22. climb this way



28. close



29. or far away



23. over mountain



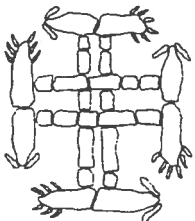
30. to places hidden



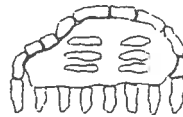
24. or hill



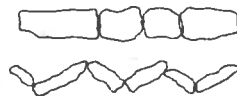
31. or bright



25. go in four directions



32. under rain



33. or cloud



34. night



41. as you walk this trail and cross this path



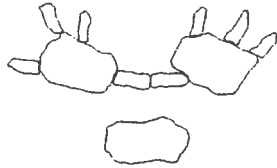
35. or day



42. rest here



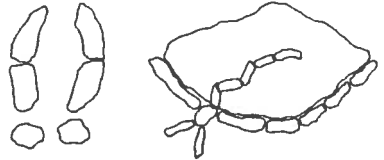
36. reaching to see



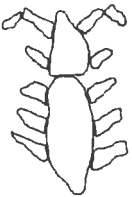
43. talk here



37. birds



44. flee your troubles



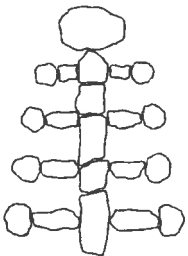
38. plants



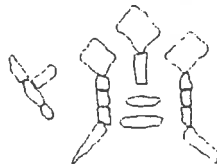
39. water



45. to the sky



40. and trees



46. holding firm to harmony



47. virtue



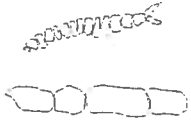
51. and healing



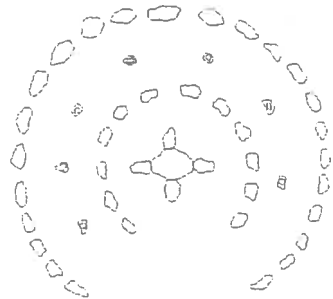
48. and peace



52. reaching out with supplication



49. barring  
evil



53. to the Great Spirit everywhere



50. strong with  
wisdom

This project was developed and installed by artist S.C. Dunlap working in collaboration with the Environmental Beautification Commission with funding from the City of Menlo Park.