



Bidwell Park Pulse

Quarterly Newsletter of the City of Chico's Park Division

Bidwell Park Recognized as a Regional Treasure.



On February 22, 2013, Bidwell Park was inducted into the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS), District 2's Hall of Honor as "Regional Treasure." The Induction Ceremony took place during the CPRS

Awards and Installation Banquet at the Folsom Community Center. Council Members Ann Schwab and Randall Stone attended along with Bidwell Park and Playground Commissioner Janine Rood and City staff members Dan Efseaff, Parks and Natural Resource Manager, and Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator and retired Ranger Bob Donohue. The CPRS presented the City of Chico with a plaque that lists the visionaries, partners and stakeholders who have helped in Bidwell Park's care and a Certificate of Recognition from the California Legislature Assembly. Dan presented information about the Park and created a wonderful video tribute to Bidwell Park.

- Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator.



Chico was well-represented to receive the award, with (left to right): Tom Barrett (former BPPC Commissioner), Lise Smith-Peters (City of Chico), Rod Metzler (Empire Golf/Bidwell Park Golf Course), Marette Labov De Venuta (CAVE), Ann Schwab (City Council Member), Gerald Hughes (former CARD General Manager), Bob Donohue (former City of Chico Supervising Ranger), Susan Donohue, Randall Stone (City Council Member), and Dan Efseaff (City of Chico). Not Pictured: Janine Rood (BPPC Commissioner).

See the Bidwell Park 2013 Regional Treasure Video

On the City's Facebook page or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIkII5WY5V0>

Park Talk: Chico Avenues Walking Tour

What: Walking tour in Chico's Avenues. Brochure's available.
When: April 11, 2013. 3:00—4:30 PM.
Where: Meet at Oleander Avenue and Memorial Way
For more information: Call 530-896-7800.

The Park Division will host the next "Park Talk" at Oleander Avenue and Memorial Way on 4/11/13, 2013, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. Urban Forest Manager, Denice Britton, will lead the walk and answer questions about the trees featured on the tour, as well as any questions about the Street Tree and Urban Forest Management Program. Park Talk meetings provide an informal opportunity for the public to learn about management, outreach, and volunteer efforts in the City. A subsequent Park Talk is scheduled for June will cover trails in Middle and Upper Park. For more information, contact the Park Division at 530-896-7800.

Inside:



▶ HACKBERRY 3



▶ SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PET! 3



▶ HOOKER OAK..... 4

The Bidwell Park Pulse

The Bidwell Park Pulse is a quarterly newsletter of the City of Chico's Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways, and Preserves Division. The Parks Division is part of the General Services Department, and is responsible for maintaining and operating City parks, open space, and recreation areas including Bidwell Park, Children's Playground, Depot Park, City Plaza, Lindo Channel, Little Chico Creek Greenway, Teichert Ponds, and other preserves. Parks Division programs include: Maintenance, Ranger, Lifeguard, and Volunteer Programs.

City of Chico Mission

To protect and enhance our community's quality of life for present and future generations.

Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)

The BPPC is vested with the supervision, control and management of many public parks and playgrounds within the City. **Commissioners:** Mary Brentwood, Lisa Emmerich (Chair), Mark Herrera, Jim Moravec, Richard Ober, Janine Rood, and Drew Traulsen. **Staff Liaison:** Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator.

Contact

Questions, comments, or photo contributions? Contact us:

Parks Division
General Services Department
965 Fir Street | P.O. Box 3420
Chico, CA 95927-3420

Phone: (530) 896-7800 or (530) 894-4200

Fax: (530) 895-4731

Email: parkinfo@ci.chico.ca.us

About the banner photo: A bear cub rambles through the grass in an area upstream of Bear Hole.



Staff Spotlight:

Eric Willadsen

Five questions and answers with a new Seasonal Ranger staff member of the Chico Park Division.

Eric Willadsen started this year as the latest addition to the Parks Division.

Where did you grow up?

Eric is a Chico native born and raised. He attended Parkview Elementary school, Chico Junior, and Chico High School. From there he went on to attend Butte College and graduate from Chico State with a major in recreation and an emphasis on park and natural resources.

What are your favorite things about Bidwell Park?

Eric's favorite thing about Bidwell Park is that it is a multi use park and notes that "No matter what kinds of recreation you are looking for you will find it here". Eric's favorite area of the park is along the South Rim trail.

What skills or experiences do you bring to the park?

Eric's previous work experience brings him a wealth of knowledge to pass on to the many park users. After spending one season working for the Loomis Museum at Lassen Volcanic National Park, he spent two seasons working at the Fort Point National Historic Site in San Francisco below the Golden Gate Bridge. He has also worked for the City of Roseville in the Open Space division contributing to their Oak Tree mitigation project. In addition to all this work experience he was also an active volunteer specializing in trails and vegetation management.

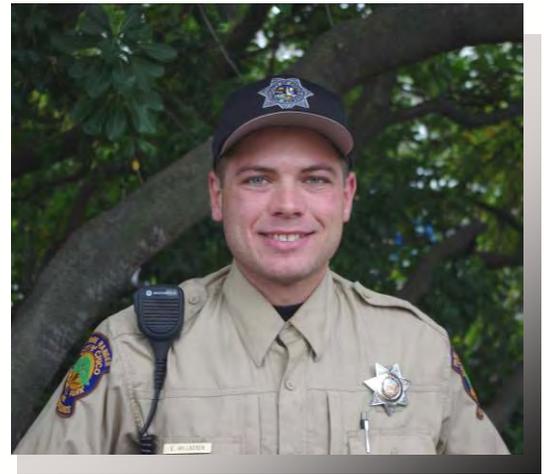
What is the best thing about being a Park Ranger so far?

Eric says the best thing about being a Park Ranger is interacting with the public. He also likes the wide variety of things he gets to do and working with different groups throughout the park such as volunteers and park maintenance staff.

What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

Eric is an avid mountain biker. He also likes Bass fishing, camping, kayaking, and basically anything to do with the outdoors. He has also recently taken up woodworking.

—Kyle Phillips, Senior Maintenance Worker.



Eric pauses between assignments somewhere in Chico.

The South Rim Trail is Eric's favorite part of the Park.

Celebrate Earth Day in Bidwell Park
Volunteer work-session at Cedar Grove
April 20, 2013, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Call 530-896-7831 to register or email:
lspeters@ci.chico.ca.us

Photo (left): Monkey flowers erupt in bloom in Upper Park (March 2013). Photo Jessica Erdahl.

Chico Animal Shelter:

Please Spay or Neuter Your Pet!

As the weather turns to spring, The City of Chico Animal Services would like to stress the importance of spaying and neutering your pets.

It is estimated that over 4 million animals are euthanized in shelters each year. Many of them are puppies and kittens who are euthanized simply because there are not enough homes for all of them. Just one cat can have

three litters a year, and in seven years, she and her offspring can produce a staggering 420,000 cats. One female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in that same time period. Spaying and neutering is a permanent, safe, and 100-percent effective

method of birth control.

Besides preventing the birth of unwanted litters, spaying or neutering can have physical and behavioral benefits. Females will no longer go into heat, or develop uterine infections or mammary tumors later in life. Males are less likely to fight, roam, and develop certain types of cancers. For male cats, neutering eliminates spraying, foul smelling urine, and noisy cat fights. Spaying/neutering reduces aggression, but does not decrease a dog's ability to be protective. An unneutered dog is 2.6 times more likely to bite than a dog that has been spayed or neutered.

If you've already had your pet spayed or neutered, help someone get their pet "fixed", or spay/neuter a neighborhood cat!

- Tracy Mohr, Animal Services Manager

For more information:

Chico Animal Shelter
2579 Fair St, Chico, CA 95928
(530) 894-5630

For help with spay/neuter costs:
PAWS of Chico (530) 895-8510 or
www.chicospayneuter.org

Pawprints Thrift Store (530) 895-1791

Low cost clinics:
Butte Humane Society (343-7917) and
PAWS in Oroville (534-0900).

Invasive Plant Profile:

European Hackberry

Common names: European Hackberry, European Nettle Tree

Scientific name: *Celtis australis* **Family:** Ulmaceae

Native To: Southern Europe

Means of Introduction: Ornamental. Edible seed

Current CA Distribution: USDA zones 7-9

Status/Weed Rating:

Statewide impact: *not listed* (CAL-IPC) CDFA Noxious Weed List: *not listed* [CDFA Weeds 2010]

What does it look like?

General: Tree, can grow to 80' or more, trunk is light grey, smooth in texture in youth, can have rough or 'warty' texture.

Overall silhouette is vase like and upright, tips of branches drooping. Moderate to fast growing.

Leaves: Dark green above lighter gray green below. 2 to 5" long and half as wide. Alternate. Sharply toothed margins; Deciduous.

Flowers: Not showy, green.

Fruit: ½" oblong to rounded, green, singular, red to purple when ripe. Hard seed.

Reproduction and Dispersal: Birds and wildlife enjoy the fruit and disperse the seed over a wide area.

Where is it found invading? Found naturalized in only three counties in California. *Celtis sinensis*, is shown to be reproducing outside of cultivation in a variety of habitats throughout California and in the District of Columbia.

Why worry? This species enjoys the climate and longer growing season of the Chico area and has become a nuisance in riparian areas. Seedlings have been found up to 300 m away from adult plants. We are concerned that many of the conditions found in Bidwell Park are found throughout riparian areas in California potentially posing a threat to this very diverse ecosystem.

How can it be managed? As with most invasive tree species removal by hand is the most efficient, pulling young seedlings and removing larger trees with direct application of herbicide to the stump to prevent sucker growth.

What is being done in Bidwell Park? Volunteers remove Hackberry trees by manually excavating and removing trunks and root balls.

Where do I go for more information?

USDA, NRCS. 2010. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 2 December 2010). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.

Image: Taxon name: [Celtis australis](#) - Family: Ulmaceae Otto Wilhelm Thomé: *Flora von Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz* (1885) -Permission granted to use under GFDL by Kurt Stueber. Source: www.biolib.de

Whittemore, Alan. 2008. Exotic Species of *Celtis* (Cannabaceae) in the Flora of North America. *Journal of Botanical Research Institute of Texas*.





Park Division
General Services Department

965 Fir Street | PO Box 3420
Chico, CA 95927

Bidwell Park History:

Goodbye, Hooker Oak?

The historical Hooker Oak Stump in Hooker Oak Recreation Area in Bidwell Park was damaged by a fire early on March 1, 2013. The stump was severely damaged with approximately one third of the remaining wood consumed in the fire.

Parks staff is exploring options to preserve the remaining portion of the stump. Staff took photographs and video today, and will be consulting with a local archaeologist and the City's Urban Forester to complete a more thorough documentation of the stump, and determine follow-up measures.

The Hooker Oak was named by Annie Bidwell after English botanist, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker in 1887 and was considered the largest Valley Oak in the world. The tree fell in 1977 and was over a hundred feet tall (30 m) and the circumference of the outside branches was nearly five hundred feet (150 m). The Hooker Oak is part of the City of Chico's logo and is a longtime icon of Bidwell Park.

Staff hopes to develop some ideas to help memorialize the significance of the Hooker Oak and seek community input and potentially funding.

Please keep tuned to future Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meetings for more information.



At the scene of the crime; the repositioned remains of the Hooker Oak, burned by vandals March 2013

Written on bottom of image: "At the scene of the crime; the repositioned remains of the Hooker Oak, burned by vandals, March 2013." Caption and modern image courtesy of Byron Wolfe (CSU Chico).