



3. PARK VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES



FINAL BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

3 PARK VISION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

Bidwell Park Vision

The following Vision describes what Bidwell Park will be like as the City of Chico implements its Master Management Plan. It was developed and refined through input received during meetings with the Citizens Advisory Committee. The vision for Bidwell Park is as follows:

Bidwell Park is endowed with outstanding natural, cultural, aesthetic and recreational resource values because of the diverse array of natural communities present in the Park as it spans the landscape from the Sacramento River Valley floor to the western slope foothills of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges. The Park's natural setting provides tremendous opportunities for refuge, recreation, exploration, learning, and reflection for residents of the City of Chico and people from throughout northern California.

Bidwell Park's geology, climate, and biology have combined to produce a landscape of woodlands and forests, such as mixed riparian forest along Big Chico Creek, and valley oak and blue oak woodland along canyon walls and terraces, to chaparral communities on drier slopes, and grasslands interspersed with vernal pools, wet meadows and freshwater seeps. These diverse communities provide habitat for a large variety of common and sensitive native plant, wildlife, and fish species. Spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead return to the creek from the ocean via the Sacramento River to spawn and for young salmonids to grow. Migratory and resident wildlife depend on the Park's connectivity between the Valley and the foothills.

Bidwell Park represents a rich tapestry of recreational opportunities. People laughing and playing together define the character of this natural setting. It is this Park and these activities that act as a common thread in our community. For the health of the people of Chico the opportunity to recreate in Bidwell Park will be protected.

Bidwell Park uses are consistent with the City of Chico's designation for uses as a park and as open space, the wilderness character of Upper Park, and the integration of non-intensive recreation use and natural resource protection in Middle and Lower parks. The outstanding viewshed of Bidwell Park is protected.

Bidwell Park is also treated as an area for natural resource conservation. Roads and developed facilities in Upper Park are few, and those present are well-maintained and in harmony with the natural surroundings. Visitors seeking a remote recreational experience will enjoy a high-quality experience and can hike, bike, or ride horses along maintained trails that blend into the natural environment and offer many scenic views. Opportunities for solitude and quiet reflection are abundant.

As a reflection of community vision and values, the City of Chico protects the Park's important cultural resources and historic sites. Interpretive programs of prehistoric and historic sites, as well as continued compatible usage of resources have been developed in cooperation with the sovereign Nation of the Mechoopda, the local historical society, and others.

Primary interpretation of the natural and cultural resources of the Park is provided by the Chico Creek Nature Center as well as by information kiosks and signage. Visitor use is guided by a set of clear guidelines of use and etiquette that are posted throughout the Park in a non-intrusive way. Interpretive information and Park rules and management goals are also available through the internet, publications, and other offsite programs. Opportunities for learning, research, and volunteerism by local schools, universities, and the community lead to increased knowledge, understanding and continuous improvements in management of the Park.

Resource management practices applied in the Park are tailored to promote, maintain, and, where optimal, restore the natural resources of the Park while providing for high-quality compatible recreation uses in appropriate areas. There is an optimal balance between natural resource protection and recreational opportunities. The recreational needs of a growing community are carefully balanced with the need for protection of natural and cultural resources. Management decisions are guided by the evolving needs of the Park and the human and natural communities it serves and by the best available scientific and technical information.

The Park protects a large portion of the Big Chico Creek watershed and serves as an important link to the Sacramento River, foothills, and other adjacent properties. The Park and adjacent areas are managed in cooperation with the local community and sovereign Nation of the Mechoopda through open communication on important issues such as effects and compatibility of City and regional growth, fire safety, watershed, public access and safety, natural and cultural resource management, protection, and preservation, invasive plant species, and others as they arise. The size and extent of the Park are consistent with its vision of resource protection, compatible uses, and connectivity with areas providing similar uses.

Public access to the Park and its periphery is provided by safe roads that are well-maintained in a manner that is consistent with the protection of the Park's resources. The Park has sufficient resources to achieve and retain the Bidwell Park Vision for generations to come.

Overall, Bidwell Park provides a model for compatible use and serves as a regional example of a well-maintained, well-managed park where recreation opportunities and resource protection are carefully balanced. The City of Chico exhibits exemplary stewardship of the Park, its resources and its uses. The Master Management Plan is periodically revised, as needed, to serve as a clear and usable document for guiding management decisions and actions. A forum for local groups to share ideas and concerns is in place and volunteerism in and community stewardship of the Park is exemplary.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 3 of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) presents the policy and implementation component of the document. It establishes goals and objectives for the management of Bidwell Park, followed by implementation strategies and guidelines to achieve those goals. Information is presented on two levels, Park-wide (Section 3.1), and zone-specific (Section 3.2), and is arranged by resource topic, following the same general outline as Chapter 2. The Park-wide and zone-specific goals and objectives are intended to provide the long-term philosophical basis that will guide the City's decision-making to achieve a balance in protecting sensitive natural, cultural and other resources while providing a diversity of recreational opportunities. As the goals and objectives represent the policy element of the BPMMP, any future revisions or amendments to these elements will be subject to review and approval by the City Council. The implementation strategies and guidelines represent the implementation element of the BPMMP. As such, any future revisions or amendments to these elements will be subject to review and approval by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC).

In addition to general and specific guidance provided in this Chapter, several appendices are included and referred to in this BPMMP to provide additional detail on specific resources or project plans for specific areas. These include:

- ▶ Appendix A – Annie Bidwell Deed
- ▶ Appendix B – Visitor and Community Survey Summary
- ▶ Appendix C – Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP)
- ▶ Appendix D – Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) (Annotated Outline Only)
- ▶ Appendix E – Trails Plan
- ▶ Appendix F – Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan
- ▶ Appendix G – Cedar Grove Area Concept Plan
- ▶ Appendix H – Disc Golf Area Concept Plans
- ▶ Appendix I – Regulatory Framework
- ▶ Appendix J – City of Chico General Plan Goals and Policies and Municipal Codes
- ▶ Appendix K – Cultural Resources Inventory (Confidential)
- ▶ Appendix L – Design Standards
- ▶ Appendix M – City of Chico Bench Policy
- ▶ Appendix N – Interpretation of Implementation of the BPMMP from BPPC
(depository for future written guidance)

Goals, objectives and implementation strategies and guidelines presented in this Chapter were derived from the 1990 BPMMP and from input received during CAC meetings, written CAC and public comments, and from the City and consultant planning team. They were also thoroughly reviewed by the BPPC during a series of focused meetings conducted between September 2005 and March 2006.

3.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Goals and Objectives are to outline the philosophy that will guide the management of Bidwell Park and to provide a framework for consistent decision-making. Implementation Strategies and Guidelines translate the Goals and Objectives into actions to be implemented during management of the Park. For the purpose of this BPMMP, goals, objectives, implementation strategies, and guidelines are defined as follows:

- ▶ Goals – Desirable outcomes that are consistent with the BPMMP Vision and the General Plan.
- ▶ Objectives – Policies, principles, and guidance to achieve the individual goals.
- ▶ Implementation Strategies and Guidelines – Implementation approaches, guidelines, or actions which are consistent with objectives to achieve the goals.

3.3 INTERPRETATION OF THE PLAN

The provisions below are intended to ensure consistent interpretation and application of the provisions of the BPMMP.

3.3.1 PROCEDURES FOR INTERPRETATION OF BPMMP

The BPPC is assigned responsibility and authority to interpret the requirements of the BPMMP. When used within this BPMMP, the words “shall,” “will,” “is to,” and “are to” are always mandatory. “Should” is not mandatory but is strongly recommended; and “may” is permissive.

For basic inquiries, the staff, on behalf of the BPPC, shall respond in writing to any written request for interpretation of the provisions of the BPMMP. However, whenever the General Services Director determines that the meaning or applicability of any of the requirements of the BPMMP is more complex and requires additional consideration, the General Services Director shall forward the matter to the BPPC and the BPPC shall issue an official interpretation. Official interpretations shall be (1) in writing and shall quote the provisions of the BPMMP being interpreted and explain their meaning or applicability in the particular or general circumstances that caused the need for interpretation; and (2) maintained on file in the Parks Division and within Appendix N to this BPMMP.

3.3.2 CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUSLY UNIDENTIFIED USES

If a proposed use is not specifically identified as an allowable use within one of the Park zones (Lower, Middle, Upper), the use shall not be allowed in that specific zone, except as follows:

3.3.2.1 SIMILAR USES ALLOWED

The BPPC may determine that a proposed use not specifically identified as an allowable use in a Park zone in the BPMMP is permitted if all of the following findings are made:

- ▶ The characteristics of, and activities associated with, the proposed use are comparable to those of one or more of the uses identified in the particular Park zone or specific zone as allowable, and will not involve a higher level of activity or intensity of use than the uses currently listed in the particular Park zone;
- ▶ The proposed use will meet the purpose/intent of the particular Park zone; and
- ▶ The proposed use will be consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the BPMMP and its certified environmental impact report.

3.3.2.2 APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND REVIEW

- ▶ When the BPPC determines that a proposed, but unlisted, use is equivalent to a listed use, the proposed use will be treated in the same manner as the listed use in determining where it is allowed, what review is required, and what other standards and requirements apply, including appropriate environmental review. A record of the determination shall be made in compliance with the “Procedures for Interpretations” section above and shall be added to Appendix N.

3.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The BPMMP will be used as the primary document for guiding policy decisions, managing data, assigning priorities management tasks and new projects, and as a means of conflict resolution. It will also be used to guide natural resource protection and resource management for the Park, and will function as the primary instrument in determining the appropriateness of current and future uses and facilities. The BPMMP does not represent a static or inflexible document, but rather one which establishes a broad policy framework to guide the development of programs over an extended period of time. Amendments will be needed from time to time to conform to state or federal law passed since adoption, to eliminate or modify policies that may become obsolete or unrealistic due to changed conditions, and to address previously unforeseen management issues as they arise.

The Goals and Objectives in the BPMMP serve as the primary policy statement for the management of Bidwell Park. Future revisions or amendments to the Goals and Objectives will be subject to review and approval by the City Council. The Implementation Strategies, Guidelines, and resource management appendices in the BPMMP will be the primary implementation guidance to the General Services Director and staff. Future revisions to the Implementation Strategies and Guidelines will be subject to review and approval by the BPPC.

3.4.1 PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of the BPMMP will take place over a long period of time and must be flexible to respond to opportunities as they arise and as resources are available. Implementation of the BPMMP will begin with the BPPC and City staff developing an annual list of priorities for implementation with a budget for specific projects, preliminary cost estimates, and projected staffing needs to maintain and manage the proposed improvements or programs. Where improvements are identified as part of a mitigation measure in the EIR, however, they must occur as required by the environmental document.

The purpose of identifying priorities is to focus attention on those improvements which present significant opportunities for the public right now and to help direct the public funds available to the City for facilities in a logical fashion. A more in-depth review of the BPMMP will be conducted approximately every five years to evaluate Plan policies; analysis of the effectiveness of implementation programs and strategies initiated to carry out the plan; and a systematic assessment of the resource-based thresholds, environmental standards, and resource management plans. The focus of this five-year review will be to determine how well the BPMMP has performed and whether policies related to development and environmental conservation have been effective or may need modification.

As the trail network expands and public usage of the Park increases over time, the challenge of patrolling and maintaining the various trails and other facilities will also increase. The City will continue to use a combination of park staff and volunteers to implement the plan so that the trails and facilities remain useable and safe. The City may increasingly need to rely more on individual volunteers for assistance in the overall maintenance of the Park and in building and maintaining trails.

3.4.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Management of the Park lies within the area of responsibility of the City Parks Division. Within the Parks Division, Park Rangers are responsible for management and maintenance of the park and conducting law enforcement duties. The Supervising Park Ranger serves as the facility manager for the Park. The Volunteer Coordinator will actively recruit individuals, community groups, classes and others to volunteer for various projects in the Park. Volunteer groups report to the Volunteer Coordinator. Park Division staff and the Volunteer Coordinator report directly to the General Services Director.

The General Services Director is responsible for the day to day implementation of the BPMMP. The BPPC determines policy interpretation, priorities, and funding requests. The Chico City Council retains final authority to approve, override, or modify the BPPCs actions and/or requests.

3.4.3 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

The use of adaptive management strategies is identified as a key implementation strategy in the BPMMP to address new planning and management issues as they arise. Adaptive management is an approach and process that incorporates monitoring, research, and evaluation to allow projects and activities, including projects designed to produce environmental benefits, to proceed in the face of some uncertainty regarding consequences. City actions will be evaluated periodically, with subsequent management decisions and actions modified as needed to achieve planned objectives. The BPMMP reiterates the need to develop measurable objectives for restoration and management actions; selection of indicators to measure success, failure, or general performance that are practical and efficient to use and capable of signaling change at a level needed to meet objectives; establish a program for collecting, managing and reporting information from monitoring and research projects and a procedure for reviewing information, mediating different interpretations of the data, and making management decisions.

3.4.4 FUNDING

The City of Chico Park Division is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Park. Creating a funding strategy for maintenance, staffing, and new projects or programs within in the Park will be a key to the successful implementation of this BPMMP. All of the Park’s operating expenditures are currently paid through the City of Chico General Fund.

The BPMMP recommends pursuing other sources of funding to augment limited City General Fund monies, including federal, state and local grants, possible development fees/impact fees or user fees, bonds, private donations, and community fundraising. The BPMMP also identifies the increasing need to utilize volunteers for implementation/maintenance activities such as trail work, litter removal, invasive weed removal, Park Watch, and volunteering at the Big Chico Creek Nature Center. The success of these volunteer efforts will be greatly improved with the new staffing of a volunteer coordinator position.

3.5 PARK-WIDE GOALS

Provide appropriate and meaningful recreational activities and facilities in Bidwell Park while protecting, maintaining, and enhancing the natural, aesthetic, and cultural values of Bidwell Park.

3.5.1 DECISION-MAKING AND MANAGEMENT

Goal DMM:

Implement a coordinated and efficient decision-making and management process with defined roles and responsibilities by the City Council, Bidwell Park and Playground Commission, and City Staff, and with periodic review and input by the public.

Objectives:

- O. DMM-1. Use the BPMMP to manage data, guide policy decisions within and around Bidwell Park, and as a means for conflict resolution.
- O. DMM-2. Use the BPMMP as a primary source for assigning priorities to management tasks.
- O. DMM-3. Consider the Goals and Objectives in the BPMMP as the primary policy statement for management of Bidwell Park. Future revisions or amendments to the Goals and Objectives will be subject to review and approval by the City Council.
- O. DMM-4. Consider the Implementation Strategies, Guidelines, and resource management appendices in the BPMMP as the primary implementation guidance to the General Services Director and staff. Future revisions to the Implementation Strategies and Guidelines should be subject to review and approval by the BPPC.
- O. DMM-5. Consider specific interpretations of individual recommendations within the BPMMP within the context of the general goals and objectives (intent) of the BPMMP.
- O. DMM-6. Allow the staff and BPPC flexibility to develop implementation responses in accordance to and consistent with the goals and objectives and existing implementation strategies and guidelines of the BPMMP, and in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulatory requirements, to address issues and needs throughout the Park including new planning issues as they arise (see Appendix I, “Regulatory Framework” and Appendix J, “City of Chico General Plan Policies”).
- O. DMM-7. Use adaptive management strategies to address new planning and management issues as they arise.
- O. DMM-8. Acknowledge and support active citizen input in the decision-making process.
- O. DMM-9. Review the BPMMP through a public review process on a periodic basis (approximately 5 year intervals), including any regulatory revisions and updates, as applicable.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. DMM-1. The BPMMP shall be used as a tool for decision-making, establishing priorities, and as a means for conflict resolution so that decisions reflect consistent and defensible interpretations of the Plan.
- I. DMM-2. An amendment process shall be applied for the BPMMP that allows for the incorporation of new data and conditions without compromising the overall philosophy and intent of the Plan.
- I. DMM-3. New data should be allowed to become officially recognized and incorporated into the BPMMP.

- I. DMM-4. Opportunities for better public outreach such as media announcements, public notices regarding issues pertaining to the Park, and contacting of known park users groups should be identified and implemented in conjunction with important potential management changes.
- I. DMM-5. A greater emphasis shall be placed on the role the BPMMP plays as the lead document for Park and off-site Park related issues.
- I. DMM-6. BPPC decisions shall be incorporated into BPMMP updates, and to the extent possible, past policies decisions (such as those regarding park benches and management of Lindo Channel) should be captured.
- I. DMM-7. A review of the BPMMP shall be conducted approximately every 5 years, and to the extent necessary, updates shall be incorporated into the BPMMP.
- I. DMM-8. Research topics and data needs should be identified and methods for acquiring the data should be identified and pursued.
- I. DMM-9. An active effort to encourage research and data submittal of the Park should be conducted.
- I. DMM-10. Opportunities for public agencies, volunteer groups, community experts, Butte College and CSUC faculty, other organizations, and students should be provided to participate in research and planning efforts.
- I. DMM-11. On an annual basis, BPPC shall review and approve priorities for BPMMP implementation for the following year. Insights gained from any research projects conducted in the Park shall be considered when setting priorities.
- I. DMM-12. Youth, the elderly, and the disabled and/or the physically challenged should be encouraged to participate in planning decisions pertaining to the Park.

3.5.2 LAND USES

Goal LU-1:

Manage Park use and the distribution of facilities to meet the changing needs of the Park users while continuing to protect the Park’s natural and cultural resources.

Goal LU-2:

Provide a proper framework for decisions related to off-site properties and circumstances that have the potential to adversely affect the vision, purpose, and goals established for Bidwell Park in this BPMMP.

3.5.2.1 MANAGEMENT AND CLASSIFICATION

Objectives:

- O. MC-1. Manage Bidwell Park consistent with the BPMMP, as well as the City of Chico General Plan and Municipal Code.
- O. MC-2. Establish resource or management zone designations to help guide the type and extent of resource protection and/or allowable uses, for specific park locations, where appropriate.

- O. MC-3. At a minimum, manage resources to a standard consistent with and/or in addition to those required by local, state, and federal requirements.
- O. MC-4. Manage land uses and activities so as to minimize detrimental impacts to the Park's resources.
- O. MC-5. Develop management plans for specific Park areas, consistent with goals, objectives, and implementation strategies and guidelines presented in the BPMMP.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. MC-1. The establishment of special resource or management zone designations for portions of the Park should be explored, as appropriate, which would clearly delineate allowable compatible uses consistent with protecting resources.
- I. MC-2. Appropriate designations should be considered when identifying and mapping sensitive resources throughout the Park.

3.5.2.2 SURROUNDING LAND USES

Goal SLU-1:

Establish a Bidwell Park Sphere of Influence (BPSI) in order to preserve and enhance the experiential value of Bidwell Park and protect it from adverse effects within the BPSI.

Goal SLU-2:

Provide the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission a review and comment period relating to discretionary development projects within the BPSI.

Goal SLU-3:

Establish active participation of the BPPC on land use development issues in the Big Chico Creek Watershed.

Goal SLU-4:

Eliminate existing encroachment into Bidwell Park land and take steps to prevent encroachment in the future.

Objectives:

- O. SLU-1. Implement the BPSI Policy: The BPPC shall have a review and comment period relating to discretionary development projects within the BPSI. The BPPC shall review and comment on all discretionary development projects that fall within the BPSI within the City and surrounding areas prior to the review, consideration, and approval by the City Planning Commission, City Council, County Planning Commission, and County Board of Supervisors. Appropriate City or County staff shall make every effort to avoid or minimize the adverse effects upon Bidwell Park during the discretionary development project process and when issuing administrative development permits within the BPSI.
- O. SLU-2. Assess potential impacts on Bidwell Park and comment on the scope and content during the environmental impact review process conducted for all development in the Chico urban area and require mitigation measures that reduce impacts to less than significant levels. Mitigation

measures should address issues such as fragmentation of natural communities and movement and dispersal corridors, duration of impacts, buffer zones, noise, height restrictions, architectural and landscaping guidelines, open space easements, and parkland dedications. Consider incremental and cumulative impacts.

- O. SLU-3. CARD should implement their overall strategy for park planning. Implementation should include design standards based on population, developer participation and an overall financing method that directs intensive recreation facilities to parks other than Bidwell Park.
- O. SLU-4. Revise the Parks, Public Facilities, and Services Element of the General Plan to ensure consistency with the BPMMP and the CARD Park and Recreation Plan, as necessary. CARD should complete its Master Plan.
- O. SLU-5. Conduct annexation of county property near Bidwell Park in a manner consistent with City policy to gain greater control over development of such sites.
- O. SLU-6. Prevent the Park viewshed from being obstructed by surrounding development.
- O. SLU-7. Expand the Park where feasible to enhance and protect the values that make Bidwell Park of importance to the community.
- O. SLU-8. Demarcate property lines and remove encroachments.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. SLU-1. The BPPC shall provide input during review of discretionary development projects. BPPC review and comment period shall be prior to the review, consideration, and approval of discretionary development projects within the BPSI by the City Planning Commission, City Council, County Planning Commission, and County Board of Supervisors.
- I. SLU-2. Timely recommendations and positions on particular properties and projects shall be developed by monitoring off-site development activities and influencing policy formation.
- I. SLU-3. Developers and other project applicants shall be required to mitigate their respective negative impacts on Bidwell Park. City staff should consider potential impacts on Bidwell Park when they comment on the scope and content of environmental impact assessments.
- I. SLU-4. Noise mitigation for new development near the Park should be required. Construction, operation, and maintenance of noise sources should be addressed as part of the CEQA process.
- I. SLU-5. Park boundaries shall be surveyed and protected from structural encroachments and invasive plant encroachment, and an encroachment policy should be developed.
- I. SLU-6. Adequate buffer policies should be established to protect the Park's viewshed.
- I. SLU-7. Communications with owners of property in locations that could affect Bidwell Park should be maintained.
- I. SLU-8. Generous setbacks or dedicated open space should be provided to form appropriate transitions between the Park and new development.
- I. SLU-9. Architectural guidelines and landscape plans should be developed to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects to the Park and habitat conditions.

- I. SLU-10. Purchasing additional Park land with public funds should be considered.
- I. SLU-11. The implementation of various land entitlement transfer programs should be considered, such as a Transfer of Development Rights program and awarding density bonuses to developers' who transfer adjacent land holdings to the Park.
- I. SLU-12. Development impact fees (or requiring of land dedication) should be considered for new development adjacent to the Park and used to fund the purchase of new Park land.
- I. SLU-13. Development impact fees should be considered to provide for more maintenance, service and needed for updated facilities due to increased demands on Bidwell Park resulting from City growth.
- I. SLU-14. An assessment of Park user fees to maintain existing park facilities and fund improvements should be considered.
- I. SLU-15. Requiring or encouraging the construction and maintenance of recreation facilities outside of Bidwell Park should be considered as part of development proposals to offset increased use pressure on Bidwell Park.
- I. SLU-16. Acquisition and development of lands elsewhere in the City of Chico or in the region for intensive recreation uses should be considered to off-set increased pressure on Bidwell Park.
- I. SLU-17. Land exchanges with adjacent land owners should be considered where there is a benefit to the Park.
- I. SLU-18. The BPPC should become actively involved with the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance.

3.5.2.3 REGIONAL CONTEXT

Objectives:

- O. RC-1. Provide recreational opportunities for Chico residents and others in the Park that currently are not provided for in other local settings, while balancing the need to protect the Park's natural resources.
- O. RC-2. Direct new intensive recreation to neighborhood and community parks.
- O. RC-3. Support regional recreation facility planning efforts.
- O. RC-4. Provide for public access and recreation along Creekside Greenways, Park lands, and other public open space.
- O. RC-5. Encourage plans and designs for Lindo Channel and the banks of Big Chico Creek that maintain and enhance a natural resource protection corridor and compatible recreational uses in these areas all the way to the Sacramento River.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. RC-1. Developed intensive recreation shall be focused outside of Bidwell Park and natural features and facilities for non-intensive use shall be emphasized within the minimally developed areas of the Park.

- I. RC-2. The development of facilities and areas for intensive recreation outside of Bidwell Park shall be encouraged.
- I. RC-3. The construction of new park facilities in other parts of Chico shall be promoted to relieve intensive recreational use pressure on Bidwell Park.
- I. RC-4. General Plan provisions requiring development of neighborhood parks commensurate with new development should be supported.
- I. RC-5. CARD should be encouraged to complete its Recreation Facilities Master Plan.
- I. RC-6. The relationship between Bidwell Park and Lindo Channel and Bidwell Ranch should be evaluated and clarified.

3.5.2.4 VISITOR USES

Goal VU:

Continue to provide for a wide variety of visitor uses including quality recreational opportunities for users of all abilities.

Objectives:

- O. VU-1. Consider the changing needs of the community when evaluating potential new Park uses.
- O. VU-2. Match existing and desired uses to the area in the park most suitable to a particular use.
- O. VU-3. Periodically evaluate desired uses by seeking feedback from user groups and community.
- O. VU-4. Effectively manage current and projected levels of Park use.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. VU-1. The City should use the evaluation of visitor use numbers, visitation patterns (activities, seasons, time of day), visitor demographics, and visitor interests to establish quantified baseline information on Park use.
- I. VU-2. The City should consider input gained from the evaluation to determine desired uses as well as likely scenarios for future use patterns.
- I. VU-3. Adaptive management strategies should be used to manage current and future levels of Park use in a manner that provides for high quality visitor uses and keep park users safe.

3.5.2.5 ACQUISITIONS

Goal AQU:

Be aware of opportunities for land acquisition which allow for the expansion of Bidwell Park or the expansion of other lands usable for open space/recreational goals and consider their purchase pursuant to General Plan and BPMMP policies and guidelines.

Objectives:

- O. AQU-1. As appropriate, and where feasible, accept dedications and/or consider acquiring property to protect and enhance Bidwell Park resources and opportunities for its use.
- O. AQU-2. Work with non-profit organizations and other agencies on protecting adjacent land from inappropriate development to protect and enhance Bidwell Park.
- O. AQU-3. Consider options other than ownership such as purchase of development rights, conservation easements, or restricted zoning (which are less costly and may be equally effective).

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. AQU-1. Long term management costs for potential new additions to the Park should be analyzed to ensure that sufficient funding exists for long-term management.
- I. AQU-2. Implementing various land entitlement transfer programs should be considered, such as a Transfer of Development Rights program and awarding density bonuses to developers who transfer adjacent land holdings to the Park.
- I. AQU-3. Development proposals and changes in land use on adjacent properties should be monitored and tracked for acquisition opportunities.
- I. AQU-4. The incorporation of public “Park” lands that are contiguous with current of expanded Park boundaries, including Lindo Channel, Bidwell Ranch, and other parcels which may be purchased by the City for open spaces or park uses into Bidwell Park should be considered.

3.5.3 PARK RESOURCES

Goal PR-1:

When integrating human activities into the Park, recognize the complexity of the ecological communities in Bidwell Park and surrounding areas.

Goal PR-2:

Integrate ecological communities, physical and biological resources, and cultural resources with human activities, where appropriate. Use interpretive programs to promote proper stewardship of resources.

Goal PR-3:

Protect natural and cultural resources from human activities, where necessary, based on their environmental and cultural sensitivities.

Goal PR-4:

Use monitoring and adaptive management strategies to assess the effects of Park use and management on Park resources to prevent resource degradation and to implement responsible stewardship of the resources.

Objectives:

- O. PR-1. Apply, evaluate, and refine diverse management procedures to achieve Park resource goals.

- O. PR-2. Focus the management of the Park on preserving and restoring natural ecological functions and natural resources in conjunction with providing appropriate quality recreational experiences appropriate to the various areas of the Park.
- O. PR-3. Continue to make natural resource protection a high priority in Bidwell Park.
- O. PR-4. Draw from local experience and expertise and apply the latest reasonably available scientific information in managing Park resources.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. PR-1. Biological, physical, and cultural resource assessments shall be completed while considering proposed facilities and uses for any area of the Park.
- I. PR-2. The quality and integrity of natural resources in the Park should be periodically and efficiently assessed to help refine management approaches.
- I. PR-3. Coordinate with and enable mutual support and learning with the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve and other nearby ecological reserves regarding management issues of both the Park, the Reserve, and adjacent areas.
- I. PR-4. Research projects aimed at understanding and protecting resources within the Park should be encouraged.

3.5.3.1 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

Goal PhysR:

Conserve and protect the varied and complex physical resources and natural processes of Bidwell Park and surrounding areas to the extent feasible.

Geology/Soils

Objectives:

- O. G/S-1. Periodically assess soil conservation and soil erosion potential (including the potential for degradation of water quality and physical habitat in Big Chico Creek) to determine and modify protective measures. Priority shall be given to those high use erodable and/or sensitive areas.
- O. G/S-2. Preserve unique geologic resources within the Park.
- O. G/S-3. Conserve shallow Park soils to the maximum extent feasible.
- O. G/S-4. Recognize improperly designed roads, trails, and parking areas as potential sources of erosion and assess them to form the basis for soil conservation measures.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. G/S-1. Loss or degradation of soil and hydrologic conditions that provide unique or rare habitat for plants and animals in the Park should be minimized by mitigating, reducing, redirecting, or eliminating incompatible recreation uses.

- I. G/S-2. The City-approved Trails Manual shall be utilized for trail development and maintenance in order to reduce soil erosion.
- I. G/S-3. Best management practices for the construction and maintenance of roads should be implemented to minimize erosion and soil loss.
- I. G/S-4. Unique geological resources within the Park should be identified and protected, including fossils.
- I. G/S-5. Areas of active erosion shall be identified and methods shall be developed for controlling the erosion and restoring those sites.
- I. G/S-6. The condition and erodibility of Park soils shall be assessed when planning and managing current and projected recreational opportunities.

Hydrology/Water Quality

Objectives:

- O. H/WQ-1. Preserve and enhance the Big Chico Creek watershed to maintain surface and groundwater quality for private and public use and for fish and terrestrial wildlife.
- O. H/WQ-2. Protect hydrologic processes important to maintaining ecological integrity.
- O. H/WQ-3. Discourage disruptions of natural hydrologic conditions of the Big Chico Creek watershed, other than improvements to the One-Mile Recreation Area, Five-Mile Recreation Area, and related diversion structures.
- O. H/WQ-4. Well drilling may be permitted, if/where necessary for Park uses, unless significant impacts can be attributed to groundwater pumping.
- O. H/WQ-5. Minimize pumping of Big Chico Creek water for irrigation and other purposes.
- O. H/WQ-6. Protect water quality to the point where swimming in Big Chico Creek is safe and enjoyable while habitat for aquatic species is provided in a manner acceptable to the California Department of Fish and Game. If swimming or swimming facilities cannot co-exist with habitat protection requirements, limitations on swimming or swimming facilities should be enforced.
- O. H/WQ-7. Strive to reduce point and non-point source pollution into Big Chico Creek. Additional stormwater outlets into Big Chico Creek should not be permitted.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. H/WQ-1. New storm water drainage outlets should not be constructed on Big Chico Creek in the Park. Water quality data for Big Chico Creek and potential water quality problems related to adjacent activities and land uses should be reviewed and assessed on an ongoing basis.
- I. H/WQ-2. Baseline hydrological conditions should be recorded for use in future planning and management decisions, or to determine the need to make adjustments in Park uses or management approaches.
- I. H/WQ-3. Future diversions from Big Chico Creek should be discouraged and, where feasible, the removal of existing diversion structures should be considered; pumping of Big Chico Creek water for irrigation and other purposes should be phased out.

- I. H/WQ-4. Measures to protect water quality in Big Chico Creek should be developed for safe and enjoyable swimming and protection of aquatic species.
- I. H/WQ-5. The City should work collaboratively with agencies, stakeholders, and involved parties to restore sources of gravel to Big Chico Creek below the diversion structure at the Five-Mile Recreation Area.

Air Quality

Objectives:

- O. AQ-1. Protect, preserve, and enhance air quality in Bidwell Park.
- O. AQ-2. Recognize the use of unpaved roads and parking areas as a source of air pollution.
- O. AQ-3. Activities within the Park should not adversely affect air quality within the Park and surrounding areas.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. AQ-1. Measures aimed at reducing automobile traffic in Bidwell Park should be encouraged.
- I. AQ-2. Alternatives to unpaved roads and parking areas should be developed. Considerations should include gravelling, paving, and rolling dip technology, while considering potential impacts to traffic patterns including calming design, effects to natural resources, air quality, and others.
- I. AQ-3. City of Chico air quality control BMPs and BCAQMD standards shall be applied to applicable activities within the Park.
- I. AQ-4. Park trails shall be maintained to the standards established in the Trails Manual and the City’s Best Management Practices Manual.

3.5.3.2 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Note: A Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) is provided in the BPMMP Update as Appendix C. The NRMP is intended to provide additional details for management approaches to a specific set of resources to assist in achieving the goals and objectives of the BPMMP.

Goal BR:

Conserve, protect, and optimize natural resource functions and values in the Park and maximize their integration with natural resources in surrounding areas.

Natural Communities

Objectives:

- O. NC-1. Preserve natural habitats.
- O. NC-2. Prohibit and/or limit the development of new facilities that will increase use intensity in sensitive environments, and require mitigation of potential negative effects on resources.

- O. NC-3. Improve conditions for natural regeneration and/or planned recruitment of native plant communities in an effort to offset losses to the native ecosystem, where appropriate.
- O. NC-4. Protect biological resources throughout the Park, based on their sensitivity, environmental protection regulations, and consistency with the BPMMP.
- O. NC-5. Manage visitor use and access to avoid and/or minimize adverse effects on biological resources.
- O. NC-6. When degradation of natural, cultural, or other environmental resources at a given facility/location occurs worsens the resource's condition, use both analysis of environmental factors and creative solutions to achieve or regain sustainable conditions where feasible.
- O. NC-7. Improve age class diversity within chaparral and even-age stands of oaks and other plant communities to benefit wildlife.
- O. NC-8. Further develop the NRMP to include additional management measures covering additional vegetation communities (e.g., chaparral, riparian communities, grassland, others), as necessary.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. NC-1. High priority shall be given to protecting sensitive habitats such as vernal pools, wet meadows, riparian communities, and wildflower fields from activities that cause compaction, erosion, vegetation removal, or other degradation.
- I. NC-2. The vegetation management guidelines contained in Section 3 of the Natural Resources Management Plan (Appendix C) shall be implemented.
- I. NC-3. Implementing temporary or seasonal restrictions to specific Park areas should be considered when sensitive resources are detrimentally affected, or have the potential to be affected, so long as the restrictions would protect those resources, and alternatives have not proven effective.

Plants

Objectives:

- O. P-1. Utilize native plant materials for Park landscaping and re-vegetation to the maximum extent feasible.
- O. P-2. Protect populations of sensitive (or special-status) plant species.
- O. P-3. Protect shallow Park soils from incompatible recreation activities, especially where the soils support sensitive plant populations.
- O. P-4. Protect wet meadows and other natural wetlands from incompatible recreation activities.
- O. P-5. Provide the public with information about the presence and importance of sensitive (or special-status) plants.
- O. P-6. Employ proper horticultural practices to preserve and maintain oaks, other native vegetation, and other ecosystem functions within developed areas, wildlands (only where necessary due to fire threat, etc.), and along trails.

- O. P-7. Manage and/or restrict recreational activities that occur in locations that support sensitive (or special-status) plants to avoid damage to these resources.
- O. P-8. Periodically collect data describing the presence/absence and distribution of sensitive (or special-status) plants as well as data describing the overall condition of vegetation communities as funding and/or volunteer efforts allow.
- O. P-9. Consult with the sovereign Nation of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria regarding the propagation and gathering of native plant resources that are necessary to the continuation of cultural traditions.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. P-1. The vegetation management guidelines contained in Section 3 of the Natural Resources Management Plan (Appendix C) shall be implemented.
- I. P-2. Native plant planting programs designed for specific areas should be implemented.
- I. P-3. Where feasible, existing recreation facilities should be modified to minimize potential effects on special-status plants, natural wetlands, and other sensitive plant species, communities or habitats.
- I. P-4. Intensive recreation shall be restricted and non-intensive recreation activities shall be controlled where necessary to minimize effects on special-status plants.
- I. P-5. Success criteria for oak and other native planting programs should be established, including in locations to improve stands of oaks and other native plant communities.
- I. P-6. Seeps, wet meadows, and other natural wetlands in the Park should be inventoried when funding or volunteer efforts are available.
- I. P-7. The building of new roads and trails through natural wetlands and shallow Park formation soils should be avoided, where feasible, especially where special-status plant populations may occur.
- I. P-8. Old unused roads and trails that bisect existing wet meadows and other natural wetlands should be eliminated where feasible. The natural hydrologic flow in existing meadows should be restored where possible.
- I. P-9. Prevent vehicles from compacting natural wetlands.
- I. P-10. Partner with students and faculty at CSUC and other groups and organizations to collect plant population and community data.
- I. P-11. Interpretive signage describing the importance of native plant communities and special-status plant populations should be installed.

Invasive Plants

Objective:

- O. IP-1. Control or eliminate undesirable or invasive plants that compete with or reduce native vegetation or degrade wildlife habitat.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. IP-1. The invasive plant abatement plan of the vegetation management section of the NRMP should be periodically updated as new information and data become available.
- I. IP-2. The invasive plant guidelines contained in Section 4 of the NRMP (Appendix C) should be implemented.
- I. IP-3. Revegetation plans and site monitoring should be implemented as part of invasive plant removal projects as resources allow.
- I. IP-4. The effects of invasive vegetation, including encroachment from or into adjoining properties, should be evaluated and addressed in cooperation with adjoining property owners.
- I. IP-5. Invasive plants should be removed from riparian areas along Big Chico Creek to improve in-stream habitat, where feasible.
- I. IP-6. A list of acceptable non-invasive plants for horticultural use in the Park should be created.
- I. IP-7. A City vegetation ordinance should be considered that prohibits planting of invasive species and addresses compatibility with adjacent properties.
- I. IP-8. A program that includes volunteers shall be developed and supported to remove invasive species with an emphasis on high priority species.

Terrestrial Wildlife

Objectives:

- O. TW-1. Protect sensitive (or special-status) wildlife.
- O. TW-2. To the extent possible, provide opportunities for nesting, foraging, hunting, and other essential wildlife activities for those species found within the Park.
- O. TW-3. Maintain Bidwell Park as a wildlife corridor between the Valley floor and the surrounding foothills.
- O. TW-4. Minimize disruption of wildlife activity patterns.
- O. TW-5. Support management/abatement programs for nonnative, invasive animal species.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. TW-1. The wildlife corridor along Big Chico Creek should be preserved to connect the Sacramento River to Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve and the foothills and mountains beyond.
- I. TW-2. Partner with students and faculty at CSUC and other groups and organizations to collect wildlife population data (i.e., census or other data pertinent to management). Special attention should be given to species protected by the State and federal governments and species or conditions unique to the area.

- I. TW-3. Special studies of particular conditions or habitats should be conducted, including Big Chico Creek aquatic habitat, Horseshoe Lake, deer migration routes, and invasive plant species and their adverse effects on native wildlife.
- I. TW-4. Potential adverse effects of Park lighting on wildlife resources shall be minimized by restricting outdoor lighting in or near natural areas.
- I. TW-5. The development of management/abatement programs for nonnative wildlife species shall be considered, including the draining of the pond at Ten Mile House Road every other year to control the invasive bullfrog.
- I. TW-6. The efforts of the Chico Cat Coalition shall be supported and a clear policy defined related to animal abandonment, humane capture, and relocation.

Aquatic Resources

Objectives:

- O. AR-1. Enhance anadromous fisheries and support State and federal efforts to manage and improve the fisheries of Big Chico Creek.
- O. AR-2. Protect geomorphic processes that create and maintain aquatic and riparian habitat.
- O. AR-3. Protect and enhance aquatic habitats (e.g., passage, holding, spawning, egg incubation, and rearing) to promote the restoration and enhancement of special-status and other native fish species.
- O. AR-4. Protect and maintain shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) habitat.
- O. AR-5. Support efforts to restore and improve fish passage to upstream habitats for anadromous and resident migratory fish species.
- O. AR-6. Support efforts to identify, better understand, and address aquatic resource limiting factors including the interaction between native and nonnative fish species, habitat alterations, and upland (land use) interactions.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. AR-1. The City should continue to work with State, federal and local agencies and groups to eliminate migration barriers to anadromous fish species, specifically at the Five-Mile Recreation Area and Iron Canyon.
- I. AR-2. Mature native trees that provide shade to the stream should be protected, where feasible.
- I. AR-3. Water quality should be assessed and a plan developed to control pollutants.
- I. AR-4. Riparian restoration projects should be facilitated.
- I. AR-5. Gravel should be restored in Big Chico Creek below Five-Mile Recreation Area for anadromous fish spawning habitat.
- I. AR-6. The holding areas for spring run salmon and basking areas for pond turtles should be identified and temporary swimming closures and signage to educate the public should be considered.

- I. AR-7. Bathrooms and trash receptacles shall be provided to reduce potential bacteriological contamination.
- I. AR-8. Dirt roads and trails should be out-sloped and rolling dips should be installed where feasible to reduce sediment load to Big Chico Creek. Ten Mile House Road should be the first priority.
- I. AR-9. The public should be educated regarding the importance of maintaining the normal flow pattern of Big Chico Creek unimpeded by rock dams.

Prescribed Fire Management

Objectives:

- O. PF-1. Utilize prescribed fire as a management tool to protect and enhance habitats.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. PF-1. The need for and location of prescribed burning and related vegetation management shall be determined to reduce catastrophic fire risk and to enhance habitat quality.
- I. PF-2. The fire management guidelines contained in Section 5 of the Natural Resources Management Plan (Appendix C) shall be implemented.
- I. PF-3. A prescribed burn program which includes post-burn monitoring and adaptive management should be developed to determine long-term habitat and ecosystem effects, to evaluate the success in meeting objectives, and to make adjustments to the program to improve successes and reduce detrimental effects.

3.5.3.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Note: A Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) (annotated outline only) is provided in Appendix D of this BPMMP Update.

Goal CR:

Protect and preserve significant archeological and historic resources in the Park.

Objectives:

- O. CR-1. Conduct a comprehensive Cultural Resource Assessment in order to properly identify resources for protection and preservation.
- O. CR-2. Develop a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) to address proper management of cultural resources in Bidwell Park.
- O. CR-3. Protect sensitive archeological and cultural resources.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. CR-1. All known and newly discovered cultural/ethnographic resources should be inventoried and recorded by a qualified cultural resources specialist. Potential conflicts between cultural resource preservation and daily Park operations and public use should be assessed. Maps shall be used internally and shall not be made available to the public.

- I. CR-2. For those resources for which conflicts exist, assessments of resource significance shall be completed, and/or measures to reduce or eliminate detrimental effects shall be implemented.
- I. CR-3. For all known cultural resources which are not being adversely affected by current park management and use, a monitoring plan shall be developed and implemented to ensure that conditions do not change.
- I. CR-4. Activities should be supported to increase public awareness of cultural resources, including their value as a link between the past and the present and the importance of preservation.
- I. CR-5. Consult with the sovereign Nation of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria regarding the identification of traditional use areas and accessibility to native botanical resources that are necessary to the continuation of cultural traditions. These may involve the propagation and gathering of botanical resources, providing access to particular locales of special tribal spiritual value (such access and use shall be consistent with management policies of Bidwell Park), and consulting on Park management decisions that may benefit or result in adverse effects to sovereign Nation of the Mechoopda cultural sites.
- I. CR-6. College and university resources and other groups and organizations should be utilized, as appropriate, to develop cultural resource access policies (information access, physical access) and to implement cultural resource site protection measures.

Ethnographic Background

Objectives:

- O. EB-1. Recognize natural springs and seeps as important seasonal gathering areas for botanical resources of special tribal spiritual values and maintain those areas with known cultural resource sites as compatible with other BPMMP goals.
- O. EB-2. Protect meadows with archeological significance.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. EB-1. A partnership with the sovereign Nation of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe should be considered to develop and implement a gathering program and identify sites traditionally used for food, crafts, and medicine that could be gathered in ways and quantities that are consistent with the overall management of Bidwell Park.

Archaeological Sites

Objectives:

- O. AS-1. Protect archaeological resources.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. AS-1. Use conflicts at archaeological sites shall be identified and resolved.
- I. AS-2. Public access to information describing the location and extent of archaeological resources within Bidwell Park shall be restricted pursuant to State law.

3.5.3.4 INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Goal I/E:

Inspire short- and long-term stewardship of Park resources through interpretation of natural systems and cultural resources.

Interpretive and Educational Program

Objectives:

- O. I/E-1. Support the Chico Creek Nature Center as the main center for interpretation and environmental education for the Park.
- O. I/E-2. Support the Chico Creek Nature Center in the development of a comprehensive environmental education and interpretive program that covers the Park's wealth of natural and cultural resources, integration of recreation uses, and rules and regulations.
- O. I/E-3. Make information on the Park and its natural resources, recreational opportunities, and upcoming events widely available. Increase the presence and availability of interpretive and educational programming and signage throughout the Park, and at off site locations.
- O. I/E-4. Create partnerships with other groups whose goals are consistent with that of the Vision and BPMMP for Bidwell Park in their educational efforts for the Park.
- O. I/E-5. The BPMMP should be one source of information for leaders of community groups and service organizations.
- O. I/E-6. Provide child- and family-friendly opportunities to learn about Park resources and appropriate uses.
- O. I/E-7. Utilize Bidwell Park as a setting for natural resource education, health and wellness, art, historic and cultural knowledge, and social gatherings.
- O. I/E-8. Guide community groups, students, and businesses in establishing responsibility and providing stewardship for Bidwell Park.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. I/E-1. An Interpretive and Educational Plan should be developed and implemented that addresses signage, facilities, public communication, programs and special events, and rules and regulations. The enforcement of rules and regulations should be continued in order to support responsible activity participation.
- I. I/E-2. The following should be considered in the development/refinement of the interpretive plan:
 - Disseminate interpretive and informational materials (i.e., including maps of trails and facilities, locations of ADA accessible facilities and areas, calendar of organized activities and events, pamphlets, other materials) via a website, mass media, kiosks, and Park information centers, including the Chico Creek Nature Center and Kiwanis Community Observatory, as well as within the City at City office buildings, Chamber of Commerce, or other venues;

- Develop interpretive “themes” (principal messages) that utilize natural processes and phenomena to explain why certain activities are encouraged and others are discouraged;
- Coordinate with the sovereign Nation of the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria and any other interested groups to provide interpretation of Native Peoples’ uses of the Park;
- Encourage the development of a docent program. Docents should be recruited and involved based on enthusiasm, environmental and cultural knowledge, and experience in the area of communication and education;
- Schools should be encouraged to participate in interpretative and outdoor education and blend this program into their curriculums and achievement requirements.

I. I/E-3. The following parameters should be considered for developing a comprehensive Park signage program:

- Develop a coordinated signage system, using or creating identifiable, consistent logos and designs, to guide Park users with respect to facility locations and Park rules and to educate Park users on Bidwell Park’s natural, cultural, and other significant resources;
- Provide signs at appropriate locations listing Park rules that pertain to trail use and showing officially designated trail routes;
- Install interpretive kiosks at parking areas explaining the plants and wildlife common in the trail vicinity and describing any noteworthy natural or cultural resources in the area;
- Stress the effects of litter and other forms of environmental degradation on birds, fish, and other wildlife on kiosks at trailheads parking areas.

Facilities

Objectives:

O. F-1. Reinforce the Chico Creek Nature Center as the primary source of information regarding Bidwell Park through signage and public communications.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

I. F-1. The Chico Creek Nature Center’s and City Park Division’s websites should be coordinated.

I. F-2. Awareness of Chico Creek Nature Center’s location and mission should be improved at points throughout the Park, the City, and regionally.

I. F-3. Opportunities to support and work in collaborative relationships to grow and expand the vision for Chico Creek Nature Center outreach and programs should be sought.

Special Events

Objectives:

O. SE-1. Allow special events in the Park that contribute to community spirit, stewardship of the Park and provide opportunities for citizens to enjoy the Park.

- O. SE-2. Administer a permit process and present permit applications to the BPPC when necessary.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. SE-1. Guidelines for special events shall be outlined on the City’s website.
- I. SE-2. Monitoring of potential adverse effects of annual and/or new events should be continued.
- I. SE-3. Special event permit applicants shall demonstrate, where necessary, mitigation measures or avoidance strategies to protect natural, cultural, and other environmental resources.

Rules and Regulations

Objectives:

- O. RR-1. Make park users aware of park rules and regulations at all times and inform them that violations of these rules and regulations will be consistently and rigorously enforced.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. RR-1. An interpretive and educational plan should be implemented to educate and motivate Park visitors to follow Park regulations and rules. (See also “Interpretive and Educational Resources,” “Goal” and “Objectives” sections).
- I. RR-2. All rules and regulations in the Park should be clarified and Park users shall be made aware of them and how they are enforced through clear signage and other means.
- I. RR-3. Strategic and effective means of enforcing Park rules and regulations should be identified in a consistent manner that also encourages stewardship of Park resources.
- I. RR-4. Park users shall be notified that undeveloped natural areas within the Park are to be used at their own risk.
- I. RR-5. Park areas that are restricted in use shall be identified to protect sensitive biological, cultural, or other resources.

3.5.3.5 AESTHETIC RESOURCES

Goal AR:

Identify and protect the scenic and aesthetic resources in Bidwell Park.

Visual Resources and Scenic Characteristics

Objectives:

- O. VR-1. Protect scenic characteristic and aesthetic resources.
- O. VR-2. Keep structures and other development features to a minimum and design them to blend into the cultural and natural setting. Utilize natural materials to soften the presence of structures in the natural environment.
- O. VR-3. Use native plants for landscaping in Bidwell Park with few exceptions.

- O. VR-4. To the greatest extent possible, limit the use of irrigated turf areas to the Municipal Golf Course, One-Mile Recreation Area, Cedar Grove, Five-Mile Recreation Area, East 4th Street entrance, and Hooker Oak Recreation Area.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. VR-1. Impacts to the visual character of Bidwell Park should be considered when evaluating decisions.
- I. VR-2. Creative/artistic elements should be incorporated into Park facilities and programs.
- I. VR-3. Design standards should blend in with the natural environment. Natural materials such as rock, gravel, logs, and mulch should be used in ways that simulate natural conditions. The choice of using asphalt, concrete, decomposed granite or other alternatives should be based on consideration of aesthetics, environmental effects, and maintenance costs. Consideration should be given to avoiding or minimizing adverse effects and achieving long term resource protection.
- I. VR-4. Litter and graffiti control shall continue to be a high priority management task and public cooperation and assistance to control litter should continue to be encouraged.
- I. VR-5. Areas should be designed to encourage responsible Park use patterns and unofficial trails should be minimized.

Viewsheds

Objectives:

- O. VS-1. Protect to the maximum extent feasible viewsheds from Park vantage points, particularly those encompassing ridgelines and slopes.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. VS-1. The BPPC Bidwell Park Sphere of Influence (BPPC) Policy (see “Surrounding Land Uses” section, above) should be implemented.
- I. VS-2. Cooperation between City and County planners to develop standards for development both inside and outside of the Park shall be encouraged to ensure adequate screening of structures and protection of the viewshed.

Night Sky

Objectives:

- O. NS-1. Protect the night sky by minimizing sources of light within Bidwell Park and from adjacent facilities.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. NS-1. The adoption of a night sky ordinance for the City and County should be promoted, including development requirements for structures built on ridges within the viewshed.

3.5.3.6 RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Goal RecR-1:

Provide diverse recreational opportunities for a variety of user groups consistent with the vision for Bidwell Park.

Goal RecR-2:

Maintain designated developed recreation areas in Bidwell Park consistent with the goals and objectives of the BPMMP.

Definitions:

Developed Facilities

For the purposes of the BPMMP, developed facilities are defined as facilities that require or result in substantial disturbance or removal of natural (e.g., plants, wildlife, soils, hydrology), cultural, visual, aesthetic or other resources. Examples of developed recreational facilities include golf courses, playing fields, children's play parks, turf areas, swimming pools, tennis courts, and other sports facilities. Examples of other developed facilities include roads and powerlines.

Intensive Uses

For the purposes of the BPMMP, intensive uses are defined as uses that typically occur at developed facilities or uses in undeveloped areas that result in substantial disturbance or removal of natural (e.g., plants, wildlife, soils, hydrology), cultural, visual, aesthetic or other resources. Substantial disturbance results when the intensity, frequency, and/or extent of the use exceeds the capacity of the resource to recover or significantly damages the resource for an extended period. Thus, intensive uses are defined both by the type of use as well as the sensitivity of the resource where the use occurs. Examples of intensive uses that result in degradation of resources and include cumulative off-trail foot traffic on erosion prone creek banks or other sensitive sites and large group field trips to sensitive areas (e.g., wet meadows and wildflower fields).

Non-intensive Uses

For the purposes of the BPMMP, non-intensive uses are defined as uses that generally do not result in substantial disturbance or removal of natural (e.g., plants, wildlife, soils, hydrology), cultural, visual, aesthetic or other resources individually or cumulatively. Examples of non-intensive uses include trails in most areas, well-designed trails in sensitive areas, swimming in natural creek settings, nature observation, and limited amounts of off-trail foot traffic in non-sensitive areas.

Recreational Activities

Objectives:

- O. RA-1. Continue to provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities for Park users.
- O. RA-2. Manage recreational activities and facilities according to the allowed uses defined for each Zone: Lower, Middle and Upper Park. Base Park management decisions regarding recreation use intensity on the underlying natural resources within the relevant Park area.
- O. RA-3. Manage recreational facilities/events to avoid or minimize conflict between different Park users.

- O. RA-4. Balance recreation activities and facilities for the City of Chico among all parks, consistent with the type and intensity of uses allowed for each park. Bidwell Park, despite its substantial space, plays an important role in preserving natural and cultural resources in the City and region. It should not be considered available space for all recreation activities, especially those that may be placed in more appropriate parks.
- O. RA-5. Achieve a balance between recreational uses of the Park and protection and conservation of natural ecosystems and cultural resources. Consider recreational uses that do not substantially detract from the natural resource functions and are consistent with the designated level of natural resource protection for the area.
- O. RA-6. Consider impacts to established Park user experiences and changes in use patterns resulting from modifications to specific allowable uses.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines

- I. RA-1. Periodic meetings with user groups should be conducted to assess potential conflict.
- I. RA-2. Communication among users with conflicting interest should be encouraged when problems arise.
- I. RA-3. Existing uses should be prioritized and alternatives should be sought for uses with high potential for conflict; alternatives should be sought where necessary.
- I. RA-4. Adequate facilities and maintenance support should be provided for designated uses (see also “Recreational Facilities” section).
- I. RA-5. The natural, cultural, and aesthetic resource quality of the Park should be periodically and efficiently assessed to manage the type and intensity of recreation uses to protect resources.
- I. RA-6. Recreational activities and facilities shall be managed considering the sensitivity of physical, biological, cultural, aesthetic, and other resources, along with the value of the activity.

Trails

Objectives:

- O. T-1. Create a trail system that accommodates a variety of users and experiences and considers the following:
 - Maintain trails to acceptable standards as per the Trail Manual;
 - Establish a trail network that balances user demands with resource protection and enhancement;
 - Utilize existing trail corridors;
 - Eliminate and implement measures to discourage the creation of new unofficial trails;
 - Trail closure when necessary should include a reasonable measure of habitat rehabilitation, signage, or other method to indicate closure, and monitoring to ensure future non-use and achievement of rehabilitation goals;
 - Provide sufficient support facilities for trail users, including the PAR course in Lower Park;

- Park bicycle routes should be connected to the Chico Bicycle Pathway system to the extent feasible;
- Maintain the existing multi-user status (hike, bike, and equestrian use) of existing designated trails, and implement trail manual standards to accommodate use by multiple groups as necessary.

O. T-2. Promote reasonable use of trails by all park uses.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

I. T-1. The Trails Plan (Appendix E) shall be implemented and trails shall be maintained to standards provided in the City's Trails Plan.

I. T-2. A trail network should be designed which provides:

- Access to a variety of terrain, landscape types and views;
- A variety of trail distance options, including loops;
- A range of difficulties;
- Fun, challenging, and safe experiences for all users.

I. T-3. Sufficient funding, Park staff, and volunteers should be provided to implement the maintenance program.

I. T-4. A list of priority maintenance areas should be established.

I. T-5. A long-term strategy should be developed to ensure funding for maintenance.

I. T-6. Natural resources should be carefully evaluated, and proposed new trail locations and designs should be modified to avoid potential adverse effects.

I. T-7. Guidelines for acceptable trail use on trails within the Park should be developed.

I. T-8. A comprehensive trail sign system program should be implemented, detailing trail and trailhead locations, trail use rules, sensitive resource areas, trail closures, and other information.

I. T-9. Channeling devices such as signs, fencing or natural barriers should be strategically placed to discourage creation of unofficial trails.

I. T-10. Implementation of an interpretive program that educates users about the Park's resources and the damage caused by unofficial trails should be continued in cooperation with the Chico Creek Nature Center and others, as appropriate.

I. T-11. The trail network should be monitored on a regular basis in order to identify areas with trail and/or associated resource degradation. Appropriate technologies should be used, along with written descriptions during inventories of trail conditions to establish a long term record and better understanding of trail associated issues including maintenance tasks, conditions of resource, and use pattern effects.

- I. T-12. Natural resources (e.g., vegetation, soil, sensitive biological and cultural resources) should be inventoried to determine effects on those resources and the need for mitigation measures.
- I. T-13. Consultation with professional trail planners and natural resource scientists should be conducted as necessary to develop the best possible responses to trail management issues.
- I. T-14. Trailheads and day-use areas should be established, maintained, and renovated as needed.
- I. T-15. Periodic user surveys should be conducted to assess user satisfaction, identify problems or concerns, understand the volume of visitation, and identify new user groups.
- I. T-16. Trails should be named and access points numbered to facilitate access, maintenance, and security.

Patterns and Levels of Recreational Use

Objectives:

- O. PRU-1. Effectively manage current and projected levels of Park use to provide quality recreational experiences.
- O. PRU-2. Provide for compatible recreation use levels and patterns while preserving the natural character and ecological resources of the Park.
- O. PRU-3. Manage uses such that they do not substantially degrade natural or cultural resources.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. PRU-1. Facilities and resources (e.g., vegetation, soil, other natural resources, cultural resources, and aesthetic resources) should be periodically and efficiently inspected, and use levels and patterns should be identified, so adjustments to management and maintenance of specific sites and uses may be made if/where substantial degradation of resources occurs.
- I. PRU-2. Use areas and types of activities that are suitable to the facilities should be understood. Park uses, events, and facilities should be focused at locations suitable for safe and enjoyable family use.
- I. PRU-3. Effects of activities that cause substantial environmental deterioration shall be mitigated.
- I. PRU-4. The City should strive to minimize and seek to eliminate trash and noise problems.
- I. PRU-5. Minimize excessive noise levels.
- I. PRU-6. Noise generated by large events shall be regulated as part of the Special Event/Activity Permit process.
- I. PRU-7. Illegal activities should be prosecuted and restitution for damages should be sought.
- I. PRU-8. The costs of repair, signage, and barriers should be included in damage estimates.
- I. PRU-9. Public service to the Park shall be allowed, if possible, in lieu of fines.

3.5.4 FACILITIES

Goal F:

Apply appropriate intensities of Park use and distribution of indoor and outdoor facilities in a manner that meets the changing needs of the Park users while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the Park.

Objectives:

- O. F-1. Provide and maintain facilities to support uses and activities consistent with the BPMMP and other City policies.
- O. F-2. Make public information and assistance centers available throughout the Park.
- O. F-3. Locate, design, and construct Park facilities to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects and maximize compatible recreation, educational, safety and other benefits.
- O. F-4. Choose facilities' materials that have the least adverse effect and greatest benefit on the environment (i.e., energy use, water quality, air quality, noise, aesthetics).
- O. F-5. Utilize recycled materials whenever feasible.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. F-1. Facilities should be planned, sited, and developed based on accepted uses for specific areas of the Park, environmental sensitivities, compatible recreation interests, educational interests, safety, and other factors.
- I. F-2. When developing facilities, materials should be utilized that have the least adverse effect and greatest benefit on the environment (i.e., energy use, water quality, air quality, noise, aesthetics).
- I. F-3. New Park facilities should be sited, designed, and constructed to meet high environmental standards.
- I. F-4. Sustainable facilities (e.g., high durability, low maintenance) should be provided and use of materials with high recycle or reuse potential should be promoted.
- I. F-5. Facilities should be maintained and uses should be managed based on periodic assessments of the condition of natural, cultural, and other environmental resources. Park facilities should be maintained with a standard of least damage and maximum benefit to environmental resources, including incorporation of environmentally acceptable materials.
- I. F-6. Necessary repairs should be conducted in a timely manner to keep facilities functioning as intended.
- I. F-7. Graffiti shall be removed from Park buildings as soon as possible.

3.5.4.1 ACCESSIBILITY

Objectives:

- O. Access-1. Increase and enhance the range of recreational opportunities and experiences for users with disabilities in Bidwell Park.

- O. Access-2. Increase opportunities for providing input and participating in projects for individuals, groups, and organizations interested in the issues of recreational opportunities and experiences for users with disabilities in Bidwell Park.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. Access-1. Any and all new and/or altered facilities shall comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101, et seq.) and with the Recommendations for Accessibility Guidelines: Outdoor Developed Areas (RAG: ODA), as developed by the United States Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board. Alterations are distinguished from, and do not include, routine or periodic maintenance/repairs.
- I. Access-2. A plan for incorporating accessible recreational opportunities throughout Bidwell Park should be developed.
- I. Access-3. All existing facilities, including leased facilities, should comply with ADA and Accessibility Guidelines wherever feasible and practicable.
- I. Access-4. The need for a variety of transportation modes on the roads and trails within Bidwell Park for users with disabilities should be considered.
- I. Access-5. Access to facilities in Bidwell Park for users with disabilities shall be periodically reviewed, including areas where motorized vehicle access is limited.
- I. Access-6. Individuals, groups, agencies and organizations who are interested in outdoor recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities should be identified. Those identified should be invited to periodically review and comment upon the facilities within Bidwell Park with regard to persons with disabilities, and how the facilities could be more effectively maintained or improved to achieve our objective.

3.5.4.2 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Objectives:

- O. CF-1. Support existing community-sponsored interpretive and recreational facilities within the Park.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. CF-1. The Chico Creek Nature Center shall be supported in its important role as the primary interpretive and environmental education facility in the Park.
- I. CF-2. Coordination of environmental education and interpretive services related to the natural systems of the Park by other groups through, or in coordination with the Chico Creek Nature Center should be encouraged.
- I. CF-3. Leases with the Chico Rod and Gun Club, Bidwell Golf Course Association, Chico Equestrian Association, Kiwanis Community Observatory and Chico Area Recreation District (CARD) should be maintained.

3.5.4.3 RESTROOMS (PERMANENT, PORTA POTTIES)

Objectives:

- O. Rstrm-1. Provide restrooms adjacent to high-use areas and other locations as needed, such as trailheads.
- O. Rstrm-2. Provide restroom facilities that are ADA accessible, blend in with the natural environment, and designed to meet modern and ecologically sensitive standards.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. Rstrm-1. Existing facilities should be improved and new restroom facilities should be installed that are ADA accessible, blend in with the natural environment, and designed to ecologically sensitive standards (e.g., sweet smelling technology (SST), vaulted toilets sand filter technology).
- I. Rstrm-2. Permanent restrooms shall replace year-round portable toilets in high-use areas.
- I. Rstrm-3. Maintenance and accessibility of all restrooms shall be reviewed on a periodic basis.

3.5.4.4 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Objectives:

- O. RF-1. Design facilities to support activities and avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects.
- O. RF-2. For new facilities, follow a common design standard developed for the Park.
- O. RF-3. Ensure that resources managed under leases are managed consistent with the BPMMP and that leases adhere to the accessibility guidelines established in this document.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. RF-1. New facilities, such as pedestrian bridges, should be designed and located to minimize adverse environmental effects.
- I. RF-2. Design standards (see Appendix L, “Design Standards” section) shall be applied to common facilities.
- I. RF-3. All resources managed under leases shall be managed consistent with the BPMMP, and leases shall adhere to the accessibility guidelines established in this document.

Playgrounds

Objectives:

- O. PG-1. Provide safe and ADA accessible playground facilities that meet a portion of the local demand, in balance with other parks in the community.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. PG-1. Capers Acres playground shall be maintained, preserved, and used as a model for other playground facilities within the Park.

- I. PG-2. The need for increases or decreases in playground facilities should be periodically assessed based on demand, with priority given to meeting much of the increased demand at other parks in the community.

Golf Course

Objectives:

- O. GC-1. Continue to provide a public golf course within Bidwell Park.
- O. GC-2. Manage the golf course to abide by all applicable rules and regulations.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. GC-1. The lease of the Municipal Golf Course should be maintained.
- I. GC-2. Requirements related to the golf course shall be monitored and managed as stated in the expansion agreement (April 16, 1993).

Potential Future Disc Golf Course

Please see “Disc Golf Course/Trailhead Area – Objectives and Implementation Strategies” in “Upper Park” section, below.

Equestrian Center

Objectives:

- O. EC-1. Continue to support opportunities for equestrian use within Bidwell Park.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. EC-1. The lease with the equestrian center should be maintained.
- I. EC-2. The equestrian center lease should be monitored and supported, and increased membership should be encouraged.

Swimming Areas

Objectives:

- O. SA-1. Maintain swimming areas in a state that ensures a quality swimming experience.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. SA-1. Free public swimming access shall continue to be provided at Sycamore Pool and responsible and respectful swimming use of Big Chico Creek shall be encouraged.
- I. SA-2. Litter receptacles and sanitary facilities shall be provided, as needed, at Sycamore Pool and other locations.

Picnic Tables

Objectives:

- O. PT-1. Provide an adequate number of picnic tables at appropriate sites throughout the Park.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. PT-1. The current numbers, locations, and configurations of picnic tables available at appropriate sites shall be maintained, and new tables shall be added, as funding allows, to increase availability to meet demand.
- I. PT-2. Picnic tables shall be located within properly developed and surfaced areas to minimize damage to surrounding resources; picnic tables located in inappropriate location shall be moved or eliminated.

Benches

Objectives:

- O. BE-1. Provide benches at approved location. (Please refer to Appendix M for bench policy).

Implementation Strategies:

- I. BE-1. The current number of benches along trails and at vista points should be evaluated.
- I. BE-2. The addition of new benches should be considered, as funding allows, to increase bench availability in heavily visited areas.
- I. BE-3. Benches shall be located within properly developed and surfaced areas to minimize damage to surrounding resources; benches located at inappropriate location shall be moved or eliminated.

3.5.4.5 CIRCULATION AND ACCESS

Goal C/A:

Develop an efficient and safe circulation system which clarifies access rights and responsibilities for formal and informal circulation uses (i.e., motor vehicles, horses, bicycles, pedestrians, disabled persons and special user groups).

Roads

Objectives:

- O. C/A-1. Provide for multi-modal accessibility to the Park and within the Park.
- O. C/A-2. Encourage use of private motor vehicles in Bidwell Park for access only.
- O. C/A-3. Restrict new north-south roadways from bisecting Bidwell Park (expansion of existing north-south roadways within the Park is more desirable than new roads).
- O. C/A-4. Encourage non-motorized modes of travel to, from, and within Bidwell Park.

- O. C/A-5. Provide for use of roadways for non-motorized recreational uses where appropriate.
- O. C/A-6. Encourage the establishment of additional bus routes and access by public transportation to and within the Park.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. C/A-1. Park bicycle routes shall be connected to the city-wide pathway system where appropriate.
- I. C/A-2. The existing vehicle speed limit of 20 miles per hour in Lower Park shall be enforced.
- I. C/A-3. Park access corridors from surrounding neighborhoods and city-wide should be evaluated to determine if/where improvements could be made, including multiple types of access and appropriate locations.
- I. C/A-4. Existing city streets beyond Park boundaries should be used to the extent possible, for motor vehicle circulation.
- I. C/A-5. Certain portions of the roadways in Bidwell Park should be used for motor vehicle access, bicycles, and roller-skaters.
- I. C/A-6. “Signal warrant” processes and financial planning should be closely followed for intersections in the Park vicinity so that pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle movements are accounted for in traffic signal planning and design.
- I. C/A-7. Unauthorized roads and trails should be eliminated.
- I. C/A-8. Roadways and trail use rights and responsibilities should be clarified for park users as required.
- I. C/A-9. The Park shall be closed to motor vehicles at night with the hours to be set by the city, except in approved night use areas.
- I. C/A-10. Toll booths and/or toll gates for access to Lower Park, Middle Park, and Upper Park should be avoided.
- I. C/A-11. Pavement and other traffic controls should be provided for non-motorized access (e.g., rollerblades, skates, etc.).
- I. C/A-12. Access points to the Park for non-motorized uses should provide for appropriate sight distance for safe entry.
- I. C/A-13. Car pooling during special events should be encouraged to reduce the number of vehicles in the Park.

Bridges

Objectives:

- O. BR-1. Provide a minimal number of new bridges to provide improved access, safe creek crossing, and to expand recreational opportunities and experiences.
- O. BR-2. Design and construct new and replacement bridges according to the design standards in Appendix L of the BPMMP.

- O. BR-3. Consider public safety at bridge crossings.
- O. BR-4. Consider additional bridges in Middle and Lower Park as the need arise.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. BR-1. Up to two additional bridges in Upper Park should be provided per the objectives stated above and in accordance with the Trails Plan (Appendix E).

Access Points

Objectives:

- O. AP-1. Provide improved linkage from the Park to downtown and the University campus by pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles, where appropriate.
- O. AP-1. Enable access throughout the Park for users and services.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. AP-1. Appropriate access points shall be provided to the Park.
- I. AP-2. Linkage to the University campus and downtown should be evaluated and refined to the extent feasible.
- I. AP-3. Access to the Park by various demographic segments and geographic areas of the community should be reviewed.
- I. AP-4. Annie’s Glen should be connected to Lower Park by establishing a crossing under Pine Street.
- I. AP-5. Good access to all portions of Bidwell Park should be enabled for uses and services.

Parking

Objectives:

- O. Parking-1. Use centralized parking areas in appropriate locations. Design parking areas to avoid creating conflicts with other Park uses, including existing access and trail use.
- O. Parking-2. Minimize Parking in inappropriate areas.
- O. Parking-3. Minimize adverse effects to resources from parking during special events.
- O. Parking-4. Delineate parking lots to minimize resource damage (see Design Standards in Appendix L).

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. Parking-1. Usage intensity of existing parking lots should be identified and periodically reviewed to ensure adequacy.
- I. Parking-2. Dust pollution should be minimized and parking efficiency should be maximized through good design, hardening, and establishment of borders to avoid parking lot creep.

- I. Parking-3. Asphalt and alternative parking materials and treatments shall be considered in large parking lots to minimize dust pollution.
- I. Parking-4. Parking for access to Upper Park on the South Side (e.g., Centennial Avenue, Ten Mile House Road) should be improved.
- I. Parking-5. The uses of satellite car pooling facilities should be considered.
- I. Parking-6. Appropriate car pooling areas should be clearly identified.

3.5.4.6 UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Goal U/S:

Provide adequate, environmentally sound utility service within all areas of the Park, as appropriate.

Objectives:

- O. U/S-1. Expand utility services within Bidwell Park as appropriate.
- O. U/S-2. Ensure new utilities and upgrades meet high environmental standards for resource efficiency and compatibility with Park resources.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. U/S-1. The use of solar power and other alternative energy sources should be considered, when feasible, to expand utility service.
- I. U/S-2. New utility infrastructure and upgrades to existing facilities shall meet environmental standards and shall be designed and located to avoid or minimize adverse effects to environmental resources, including visual, natural, cultural, and other resources. Affordability should be considered when weighing alternatives.

Telephone Service

Objectives:

- O. TS-1. Provide telephone services in the Park.
- O. TS-2. Strategically locate public telephones at developed recreational areas where feasible.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. TS-1. Existing public telephone locations should be analyzed and additional public telephones should be provided as funding allows.
- I. TS-2. The availability of telephones should be increased to maintain adequate protection levels and response times.
- I. TS-3. Emergency telephones should continue to be provided in Upper Park at the Bear Hole and Salmon Hole parking areas. Emergency telephone access in Upper Park should be expanded as technology allows.

Internet and Cell Phone Access

Objectives:

- O. I/CP-1. Consider internet and cell phone access for some Park areas.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. I/CP-1. Existing public telephone locations should be analyzed and if/where feasible, cell phone coverage shall be enhanced to improve emergency response. Priority should be given to providing opportunities for emergency calls. Utilities or facilities to provide access should be weighted in terms of cost and potential effects on environmental resources.

Lighting

Objectives:

- O. L-1. Prevent artificial lighting from adversely affecting wildlife or impairing public vistas.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. L-1. Lighting shall be designed to minimize adverse effects on wildlife, the Kiwanis Community Observatory, and other night related activities and adjacent properties.
- I. L-2. Lighting should be provided to increase public safety while at the same time reducing light spillage, such as recommended by energy commission standards and the “Dark Sky Association.”

Other Utilities

Objectives:

- O. OU-1. Minimize adverse effects to wildlife from utility lines.
- O. OU-2. Utility lines should not impair scenic vistas.
- O. OU-3. Provide trash and recycle bins at all trailheads and recreation areas, as appropriate.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. OU-1. Natural looking recycling bins/trash cans shall be provided throughout the Park.
- I. OU-2. Above-ground placement of new utilities shall be avoided unless necessary for public safety or to avoid resource damage.

3.5.4.7 PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (INCLUDING FIRE PROTECTION, PARK SECURITY AND MEDICAL AID)

Goal PS/ES:

Provide a secure, safe, and healthy experience for all Park users.

Objectives:

- O. PS/ES-1. Bidwell Park should be a safe resource for all visitors.
- O. PS/ES-2. All Park staff and management should understand the limits of liability.
- O. PS/ES-3. Determine appropriate locations for safety and liability signage.
- O. PS/ES-4. Encourage activities which reduce liabilities.
- O. PS/ES-5. Continue to use appropriate and up-to-date arboricultural practices in the care of trees in Bidwell Park.
- O. PS/ES-6. Use prescribed fire to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires within Bidwell Park.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. PS/ES-1. Liability limits should be understood and risks associated with Park uses and facilities should be minimized.
- I. PS/ES-2. Park rules should be vigorously enforced.
- I. PS/ES-3. Fines and penalties (including public service commitments) should be established to discourage unacceptable activities in Bidwell Park.
- I. PS/ES-4. Routine enforcement standards should be established for specific use areas.
- I. PS/ES-5. An emergency response plan should be established.
- I. PS/ES-6. Information centers, safety and liability signage, and telephone service should be strategically located to reduce emergency response times.
- I. PS/ES-7. A wildfire response plan should be developed that specifies procedures for initial wildfire response and plans for public safety in the event of a wildfire.
- I. PS/ES-8. The Park should be adequately staffed to enforce rules and regulations.
- I. PS/ES-9. Bicycles, horses, and foot traffic should be used for regular patrol of the Park by Park staff and law enforcement officers.
- I. PS/ES-10. Coordination with the Butte County Vector Control District regarding mosquito abatement needs and implementation should be routinely conducted.
- I. PS/ES-11. Regular tree assessments should be conducted to identify potential public safety risks posed by unhealthy trees, dangling branches, and similar safety risks in heavily used areas of the Park.
- I. PS/ES-12. Fuel breaks should be developed and maintained along existing roads by selectively cutting and pruning.
- I. PS/ES-13. Fuel breaks should be created and maintained 100 feet on each side of Ten Mile House Road, Musty Buck Road and other locations as appropriate. An overstory canopy to promote shade and wildlife habitat should be maintained.

3.5.5 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Goal MO:

Provide an efficient maintenance program that keeps Bidwell Park facilities and resources clean, safe, attractive, functional, and in harmony with the users and natural resources of the Park.

3.5.5.1 MAINTENANCE STAFF

Objectives:

- O. MS-1. Establish a safety inspection program whereby all areas and facilities are scheduled for regular safety reviews.
- O. MS-2. Establish a dependable base funding source that recognizes immediate, short-term and long-term maintenance requirements.
- O. MS-3. Provide periodic training to maintenance staff that supports among other things natural and cultural resource protection.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. MS-1. The General Services Director should establish and regularly review maintenance priorities.
- I. MS-2. Maintenance methods (e.g., irrigation, mowing, trimming, etc.) shall be utilized that avoid or minimize adverse effects on natural conditions and control adverse effects caused by humans and natural processes (e.g., invasive weed infestations, fuel load buildup, pests, acts of nature).
- I. MS-3. Areas in which maintenance staff may need additional training to support resource protection and recreational opportunity goals should be identified.
- I. MS-4. Sound resource preservation, horticulture, and maintenance practices shall follow Best Management Practices.
- I. MS-5. Immediate, short term and long term maintenance requirements in terms of manpower, equipment, training, and tasks should be discussed when new facilities and programs are proposed.

3.5.5.2 RANGERS

Objectives:

- O. R-1. Provide knowledgeable Park rangers to patrol Park and enforce rules and regulations, as well as assist Park users.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. R-1. Park activities should be monitored and Park rules enforced.
- I. R-2. Enforcement activities should be coordinated with the Police Department and other law enforcement agencies as needed.
- I. R-3. The role of rangers in law enforcement should be periodically evaluated.

- I. R-4. Rangers should be provided adequate training and experience in order to be able to provide public information and education.
- I. R-5. The Park Division should support and work with volunteer groups and organizations, especially Park Watch.
- I. R-6. Appropriate staffing levels for Park rangers should be ensured to meet Park use needs.

3.5.6 VOLUNTEERS

Objectives:

- O. V-1. Expand and develop the volunteer program utilizing the wealth and breadth of the community’s resources to accomplish various tasks pertaining to Park maintenance such as invasive plant control, restoration, vegetation, species and water quality monitoring, trail maintenance, Park patrol and others.
- O. V-2. Provide a knowledgeable volunteer coordinator to continue to enlist the help of the local community in managing Park resources and expand volunteerism in as many aspects of enhancing Bidwell Park as possible.
- O. V-3. Model the volunteer program after programs successfully implemented by other agencies, such as the “Volunteers in Parks” program of the Golden Gate Nation Recreation Area implemented by the National Park Service or the East Bay Regional Park District's Volunteer program. Continually adapt the program to meet the changing needs of the City, community, and Bidwell Park.
- O. V-4. Provide interested groups and individuals with meaningful and useful opportunities for volunteering in the Park.
- O. V-5. Implement volunteer appreciation days/events to thank volunteers for their commitment and involvement, and to keep building a sense of stewardship in the community.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. V-1. A volunteer and contributor program should be implemented that harnesses the willingness of volunteers to identify and assist with tasks identified in the BPMMP.
- I. V-2. Tasks which can be accomplished by volunteers should be identified and utilized where appropriate.
- I. V-3. The volunteer coordinator shall have the primary responsibility to implement the volunteer program in the Park.
- I. V-4. Community groups that assist in improving Bidwell Park should be supported.
- I. V-5. The development and implementation of an internship program should be considered.
- I. V-6. A prioritization system for volunteer activities and locations should be established.
- I. V-7. A Park needs list showing both volunteer and contributor opportunities should be created, published, and updated on the City’s web site.

- I. V-8. Park notices, the City’s website, the media, and other resources should be utilized to help recruit volunteers.

3.5.7 DESIGN STANDARDS

This section is intended to state objectives, implementation strategies and guidelines for design standards; updated Design Standards are included in Appendix L of this BPMMP.

Objectives:

- O. DS-1. Develop and implement appropriate design standard themes for the Park.
- O. DS-2. Utilize design standards that are consistent with other objectives in the BPMMP (i.e., Interpretive and Educational Resources, Visual Resources and Recreation Facilities, other resources).

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. DS-1. Appropriate design standards shall be developed and implemented for all new and upgraded facilities, signage, and other Park elements.
- I. DS-2. Design techniques and signage should be utilized to discourage roadside parking.
- I. DS-3. Design solutions should be implemented in areas where safety and security are compromised by physical circumstances.
- I. DS-4. A coordinated signage system shall be developed and utilized to guide Park users with respect to facility locations and Park rules.
- I. DS-5. Standard specifications should be developed to address requirements for identifying mitigation measures that will avoid or minimize adverse effects on natural, cultural, or other environmental resources for construction projects within the Park. These detailed specifications shall be developed cooperatively by City staff and resource specialists. Compliance with the specification shall be included in contractors’ construction contracts.

3.5.8 FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

Objectives:

- O. FI-1. Seek to ensure that sufficient funding and implementation resources are sought to implement the BPMMP.
- O. FI-2. Pursue grants and a variety of public and private funding sources in addition to the funds allocated to the management of Bidwell Park.
- O. FI-3. Establish an annual list of priorities including needed funding for the implementation of the BPMMP.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. FI-1. A variety of grants and public and private funding resources should be sought.
- I. FI-2. Park user groups should be encouraged to improve areas specific to their use.

- I. FI-3. Recognition of individual or group contributions of money, time, and effort should be provided at each site.
- I. FI-4. Private sector donations for Park improvements should be encouraged and appropriate recognition of such donations should be allowed.
- I. FI-5. Trusts which provide revenue for Bidwell Park should be established and maintained in perpetuity.
- I. FI-6. Using discretion, the application of user fees should be considered for specific activities in Bidwell Park.
- I. FI-7. A specific funding request should be developed by the BPPC annually and forwarded to the City Council for approval.
- I. FI-8. Development impact fees should be considered to provide for more maintenance, service, and updated facilities uses due to increased demand on the Park resulting from City growth.
- I. FI-9. The Bidwell Park Endowment Fund should be used as a source of funding for Park Improvement and Maintenance.

3.6 ZONE-SPECIFIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

3.6.1 LOWER PARK

3.6.1.1 PERMISSIBLE USES IN LOWER PARK

Permissible uses in Lower Park include a variety of non-intensive recreation activities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, walking, running, rollerblading, driving, fishing, nature study, and other similar activities, as well as developed facilities and intensive uses such as children’s playparks, picnic areas, swimming areas, outdoor entertainment, interpretation center, nature center, athletic fields, and other facilities.

3.6.1.2 LOWER PARK OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

Objectives:

- O. Lower-1. Continue to utilize Lower Park as the focal point for intensive and developed recreational uses within Bidwell Park.
- O. Lower-2. Ensure that future uses are similar to and consistent with permissible uses in Lower Park.
- O. Lower-3. Make the preservation of Lower Park’s oak woodland and riparian corridor a high priority.
- O. Lower-4. Improve user access points and trails to reduce pathway intersection conflicts along Petersen and South Park Drives.
- O. Lower-5. Consider renaming South Park Drive.
- O. Lower 6. Keep the balance of South Park Drive open to motorized vehicles from the gate at Cedar Grove to Centennial Drive.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. Lower-1. Recreational uses in Lower Park should be similar to and consistent with those currently allowed in Lower Park.
- I. Lower-2. New uses and new development should be focused in currently developed areas whenever possible.
- I. Lower-3. Native oak woodlands and the riparian corridor along Big Chico Creek should be protected and preserved.
- I. Lower-4. The following modifications to circulation patterns should be considered to improve circulation in Lower Park:
 - Clarify motor vehicle, pedestrian, roller-skater, cyclist and other users' roadway use rights and responsibilities for minimizing conflict;
 - Install signage that indicates whether one way or two way travel by bicycles is permitted along Petersen and South Park Drives;
 - Designate and protect local scenic corridors outside Bidwell Park whenever possible;
 - Use established and/or innovative technique to implement traffic calming measures to reduce speeds and to encourage through traffic to use alternative routes outside Bidwell Park;
 - Use aggressive enforcement to implement the speed limit.
- I. Lower-5. Dog leash laws in Lower Park should be clarified and enforced.
- I. Lower-6. An expansion of road closure times in Lower Park should be considered.
- I. Lower-7. The use of bicycles and horses by police should be encouraged.
- I. Lower-8. Enhanced access for disabled persons and senior citizens should be considered, including the feasibility of providing alternative access modes (ped-cabs, van service, etc.).
- I. Lower-9. Vehicular access should be provided to a limited number of picnic sites with off-street parking along East 8th Street (i.e., picnic sites 11 and 12).

3.6.1.3 CEDAR GROVE OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

Objectives:

- O. CG-1. Manage the World of Trees to maintain its historic character and preserve a diversity of trees while allowing for invasive plant removal.
- O. CG-2. Ensure that uses are consistent with the Cedar Grove Area Concept Plan (Appendix G).

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. CG-1. The following shall be considered when implementing the Cedar Grove Area Concept Plan (Appendix G):

- Add additional paths from East 8th Street;
- Control poison oak as needed;
- Consider expanding the oak regeneration project to help shade the group picnic area. Control nonnative or invasive plants (see Appendix C, “Natural Resource Management Plan” section for a list of possible methods);
- Continue to improve sight-lines within Cedar Grove wherever possible to discourage illicit uses of the Park and improve security for Park users;
- Monitor conflicts between users and include trail improvements as needed to minimize conflict;
- Replace the East 8th Street fence with a split rail fence and create an additional pedestrian entrance;
- Improve the visibility and access to the Chico Creek Nature Center by improving directional signs;
- Consider alternate uses for the deer pen;
- Continue controlling invasive plants at Cedar Grove while allowing historic trees to have a natural existence;
- Remove the eucalyptus grove near the deer pen because of fire hazard;
- Address additional parking capacity at the Chico Creek Nature Center in any parking studies as needed.

I. CG-2. The Cedar Grove site should be periodically and efficiently inspected to assess the level of ground disturbance (i.e., vegetation, soil, erosion), other natural resources, cultural resources, and aesthetic resources, so adjustments to management and maintenance of the site may be made if/where substantial degradation of resources occurs.

I. CG-3. Impacts of special events should be monitored to ensure that the festival meadow area is not degraded.

3.6.1.4 ONE-MILE RECREATION AREA OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

Objectives:

- O. 1M-1. Manage the One-Mile Recreation Area as a multi-use community recreational resource.
- O. 1M-2. Make the maintenance and rehabilitation of Sycamore Pool a high priority to ensure its continued availability as a community resource.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. 1M-1. Possible modifications to Sycamore Pool should be considered that would provide for additional recreation opportunities while still maintaining a safe swimming environment.

- I. 1M-2. Repairs and improvements needed to make Sycamore Pool a high quality facility should be conducted.
- I. 1M-3. A bike path link from Annie's Glen to Lower Park should be included within the Trail Plan, including the potential bridge site downstream from the One-Mile Recreation Area associated with this trail route.
- I. 1M-4. Additional design features (e.g., inflatable dam) should be incorporated at Sycamore Pool to enhance fisheries habitat, reduce maintenance, and reduce adverse affects.
- I. 1M-5. Bags and trash receptacles should continue to be provided for dog owners to use.
- I. 1M-6. Restrooms should be installed on the north side of Sycamore Pool.
- I. 1M-7. Oak regeneration areas should continue to be protected.
- I. 1M-8. Parking in the One-Mile Recreation Area should be evaluated and improved while reducing conflicts with other Park users.
- I. 1M-9. Improvements to the kiosk at the One-Mile Recreation Area should be considered to expand signage and interpretation.
- I. 1M-10. Improvements to the Horseshoe Pit Area should be considered
- I. 1M-11. Improvements to Sycamore Field should be considered.
- I. 1M-12. Improvements to the podium should be considered.
- I. 1M-13. Reconfinements to the south side entrance of the bridge should be considered, and accessibility should be improved.
- I. 1M-14. The vegetation between Pine/Cedar streets and Sycamore Pool should be managed to improve sight lines and give the impression that a park exists between Woodland Avenue and Vallombrosa.
- I. 1M-15. The use of shrubbery at the entryway to Bidwell Park at Woodland Avenue and East Fourth Street should be evaluated to improve views into the Park. Shrubby should not act as a visual barrier.
- I. 1M-16. The incorporation of facilities (creekside picnic areas) should be considered to make this area more attractive for public use.
- I. 1M-17. Better access into the Park should be provided at the main entryway to the One-Mile Recreation Area by incorporating street features that will encourage pedestrian access to the entryway (crosswalk striping and other pedestrian features that make it easy for entering the Park at this point).

3.6.1.5 LOST PARK

Objectives:

- O. LP-1. Provide for public access and public use of Lost Park.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. LP-1. The City shall consider accomplishing the following:
- Develop a specific plan for Lost Park that will incorporate this section of the Park into the fabric of the Park and also with the downtown area;
 - Clearly demarcate property lines and remove encroachments;
 - Make access from Lost Park to Lower Park a high priority when considering redevelopment of the area;
 - Consider incorporating features and facilities into Lost Park that will allow an all weather trail (Annie Bidwell Trail) from Bidwell Mansion to the proposed Vallombrosa bridge into Annie’s Glen and make this an attractive area to picnic and be utilized by the public;
 - Develop a vegetation management policy for Lost Park;
 - Consider renaming Lost Park.

3.6.1.6 ANNIE’S GLEN/CAMELLIA WAY

Objectives:

- O. AG/CW-1. Provide for public access and public use of Annie’s Glen/Camellia Way.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. AG/CW-1. Annie’s Glen/Camellia Way should be identified as a major access point to Lower Park from the downtown area.
- I. AG/CW-2. Vegetation at Annie’s Glen/Camellia Way should be maintained to provide an “open” feeling, to improve sight lines, and to reduce undesirable uses.
- I. AG/CW-3. Features and facilities should be incorporated into the Annie’s Glen/Camellia Way area that will utilize the old road as a pathway (the Annie Bidwell Trail) into the Park. This should include a bridge from Memorial Way to Annie’s Glen and an under-road tunnel to the One-Mile Recreation Area. Features should be added to make this an attractive place to picnic and to be utilized by the public for low-intensity events and other recreational activities.
- I. AG/CW-4. Parking at and access into Annie’s Glen should be improved from East Second Street, including additional ADA parking and marked access into the glen.

3.6.2 MIDDLE PARK

3.6.2.1 PERMISSIBLE USES IN MIDDLE PARK

Permissible uses in Middle Park include a variety of primarily non-intensive recreation activities such as swimming, hiking, biking, walking, horseback riding, kite flying, running, driving, off leash dog use (where currently permitted), fishing, nature study, and other similar activities, and intensive or more developed facilities such as swimming areas, picnic areas, athletic fields, children’s play areas, equestrian facilities, the Five-Mile Recreation Area, the Hooker Oak Recreation area (baseball, soccer, children’s play area), the Horseshoe Lake

area (indoor shooting facility at the Rod and Gun Club, Kiwanis Community Observatory), and the Bidwell Municipal golf course.

3.6.2.2 MIDDLE PARK OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

Objectives:

- O. Middle-1. Ensure that future uses are similar to and consistent with permissible uses in Middle Park.
- O. Middle-2. Make the restoration and preservation of Middle Park’s natural communities a high priority.
- O. Middle-3. Develop and manage Middle Park consistent with its role as a use and circulation transition between Lower and Upper Park.
- O. Middle-4. Ensure that use of the area is consistent with the Trails Plan (Appendix E) and, where applicable, the Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan (Appendix F).
- O. Middle-5. Consider the future use and management practices at the Five-Mile Recreation Area.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. Middle-1. New uses and developments should be focused in currently developed areas whenever possible.
- I. Middle-2. Traffic calming measures should be considered.
- I. Middle-3. Elimination of Five Mile Way beyond the parking area at the Five-Mile Recreation Area should be considered; the connector trail from the footbridge to the road should be delineated, and hardened, if feasible.
- I. Middle-4. Implementation of the following shall be considered in conjunction with the Trails Plan (Appendix E), Trails Plan, and Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan (Appendix F):
 - Identify trail segments with seasonal drainages/seeps and consider constructing boardwalks over them to prevent trail erosion and widening;
 - To the extent feasible, provide informational kiosks at major trailheads to educate Park users about sensitive resources and Park rules;
 - Infrastructure improvements to Parking Area B should be focused on improving the organization of the area, not simply increasing parking capacity;
 - On existing trails, minimize erosion and trail widening through proper trail management consistent with the City’s Trails Plan. Evaluate erosion control requirements of new trail segments on a case-by-case basis;
 - Give high priority to reducing and repairing erosion on North Rim trail.

3.6.2.3 HORSESHOE LAKE AREA OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

Objectives:

- O. HL-1. Develop an integrated concept for uses, facilities, access, and circulation at Horseshoe Lake.

- O. HL-2. Consider developing a Horseshoe Lake interpretive element which could include, but is not limited to the following:
- Past and present hydrologic planning in Bidwell Park should be explained to Park users at a Horseshoe Lake Information Kiosk to clarify physical relationships between runoff volumes, erosion, water quality, sediment migration and habitat requirements for aquatic and riparian species;
 - The geology of Upper Park should be described for Park users at a Horseshoe Lake Information facility.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. HL-1. The Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan (Appendix F) and Trails Plan (Appendix E) shall be implemented with consideration of the following:
- The Monkey Face area suffers from severe erosion, improper trail design, multiple unofficial paths, and wet season use. Hire professional trail designers to consider consolidation of multiple paths that follow appropriate routes to the rock formation and incorporates stairs, switchbacks and other mechanisms to limit erosion. Trails should meet the standards provided in the Trails Plan,
 - Install kiosks in the Horseshoe Lake parking areas to provide visitors with Park rules and natural history information. Kiosks should be visible from both Upper Park Road and the parking areas,
 - Allow Horseshoe Lake to continue developing a wetland-type lake edge; resource management should include a variety of erosion-mitigating lake edge designs.
- I. HL-2. The Horseshoe Lake site should be periodically inspected to assess the level of ground disturbance (i.e., vegetation, soil, erosion), other natural resources, cultural resources, and aesthetic resources, so adjustments to management and maintenance of the site may be made if/where substantial degradation of resources occurs.

3.6.3 UPPER PARK

3.6.3.1 PERMISSIBLE USES IN UPPER PARK

Permissible uses in Upper Park include a variety of primarily non-intensive recreation activities such as hiking, biking, swimming, walking, horseback riding, running, off-leash dog use (where currently permitted), fishing, rock climbing, nature study, and other similar activities, and minimal amounts of more intensive uses. In addition, disc golf is currently proposed as an official use in its current location.

3.6.3.2 UPPER PARK GOAL, OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

Goal Upper:

Retain Upper Park’s habitat value and wilderness character while providing managed access to non-intensive recreational and education opportunities.

Objectives:

- O. Upper-1. Manage Upper Park as open space set aside to remain in its natural state.
- O. Upper-2. Formalize the role of Upper Park as a protected area for non-intensive recreational uses.
- O. Upper-3. Consider creating a more restrictive resource protection area designation for all or portions of Upper Park.
- O. Upper-4. Future uses should be similar to and consistent with those currently permissible in Upper Park, with the exception of Disc Golf.
- O. Upper-5. Allow Disc Golf at the proposed site off SR 32 consistent with the goals, objectives, implementing strategies and guidelines identified in Section 3.2.3.3 of this BPMMP.
- O. Upper-6. Conduct an inventory of natural resources in Upper Park to establish a factual understanding as the basis for sound management decisions.
- O. Upper-7. Emphasize non-intensive wilderness compatible recreation in Upper Park.
- O. Upper-8. Clarify and post Park policies for uses in Upper Park.
- O. Upper-9. Allow swimming, diving, rock climbing and other activities with identifiable risks in a manner such that liability can be minimized. Inform Park users that use of the Park is at the visitor's own risk.
- O. Upper-10. Appropriately manage and maintain Upper Park Road including but not limited to the following:
 - Reduce potential conflicts between users;
 - Investigate ways to more efficiently maintain Upper Park Road;
 - Improve access to Upper Park via improved parking and roads;
 - Consider alternatives to private vehicles for access into Upper Park;
- O. Upper-11. Preserve and protect the viewshed by protecting vegetation on steep cliffs bordering developed areas.
- O. Upper-12. Consider development of a plan for rock climbing.
- O. Upper-13. Identify and conserve the unique qualities of Upper Park soils.
- O. Upper-14. Develop an emergency access plan.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. Upper-1. Non-intensive wilderness compatible recreation shall be provided in Upper Park.
- I. Upper-2. A resource protection area designation for all or portions of Upper Park shall be evaluated.
- I. Upper-3. Focus new uses and new development in currently developed areas whenever possible.

- I. Upper-4. The Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead shall be designed, utilized, and managed in a manner consistent with the goals, objectives, implementation strategies, and guidelines set forth in Section 3.6.3.2 of this BPMMP.
- I. Upper-5. The changing of the zoning of the Disc Golf Course Site to OS-2 (Secondary Open Space) should be considered to emphasize its status as a single, stand-alone facility in Upper Park.
- I. Upper-6. Contained parking areas shall be established in Upper Park.
- I. Upper-7. Regulations pertaining to uses in the new acquisition should be evaluated, including the leash laws.
- I. Upper-8. The following shall be considered when implementing the Trails Plan (Appendix E):
- Encourage Park users to use existing trails and discourage organized groups from going off trails;
 - Improve trails in Upper Park to meet the standards developed in the Trails Plan;
 - Provide a select number of trails to cliff top vantage points, including disabled accessible trails;
 - Give high priority to reducing and repairing erosion on North Rim trail;
 - Restrict uses of trails in sensitive areas that are not built for year-round use during wet conditions;
 - Include “pack it in – pack it out” signs on kiosks at trailheads leading into Upper Park;
 - Provide dog waste bag dispensers.
- I. Upper-9. Improved parking should be provided for access to Upper Park from the South Side (Centennial Avenue, SR 32, Ten Mile House Road).
- I. Upper-10. Signage should be provided indicating risks associated with swimming, hiking, and other activities in Upper Park including emergency information and warning of likely slower response times by emergency services.
- I. Upper-11. An emergency access plan for Upper Park should be developed.
- I. Upper-12. Natural resources (e.g., thin soils, vegetation on cliff faces, other resources) and cultural resources should be periodically inspected and protected from substantial degradation by human-related activities.
- I. Upper-13. The need for long range support facilities (e.g., permanent restrooms) should be determined.
- I. Upper-14. Alternative funding sources for maintaining public access to Upper Park should be evaluated.
- I. Upper-15. A feasibility/policy analysis should be conducted addressing options and future needs for Upper Park Road. The analysis would address costs, potential impacts, options and preferred outcomes to the current management of the road. In addition, if the road is to be kept open, the analysis should address what would be required to maintain public safety and maintenance at acceptable levels. Additional considerations would include:

- Evaluate options for the current management of Upper Park Road and use of private vehicles;
- Establish design and maintenance standards for unpaved roads;
- Evaluate costs and positive and negative effects of extending public transportation into Upper Park;
- Consider public transportation between upper Horseshoe Lake parking lot and Upper Park destinations, including turnaround options;
- Consider seasonal (e.g., summer) or year-round closure of Upper Park Road to private vehicles;
- Consider need for grading, surfacing and drainage improvements to Upper Park Road;
- Consider features to accommodate and reduce conflicts between vehicles, and other users, primarily hikers, cyclists, and equestrians;
- Consider reduction, elimination, and restoration of other parking areas in Upper Park;
- Evaluate cost-benefits, including financial savings from reduced needs for regular road and drainage maintenance.

3.6.3.3 DISC GOLF/TRAILHEAD AREA OBJECTIVES, IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND GUIDELINES

Note: This section was developed to provide guidance for future management of the Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead Section of Upper Park, including specific management guidance for Disc Golf. Should Disc Golf not be approved by the City Council as an allowable use for this site at the completion of the BPMMP Update, this section would be adjusted in the final version of the updated BPMMP to reflect only those management directions pertaining to those uses of the site deemed appropriate.

Goal DG/T-1

Design, construct, and manage the Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead to avoid or minimize adverse effects to natural, cultural and other environmental resources.

Goal DG/T-2

Manage parking, kiosks and support facilities at the Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead for multiple recreational uses.

Goal DG/T-3

Provide a high quality disc golf course experience for both novice and advanced players.

Objectives:

- O. DG/T-1. Design, construct, manage, and maintain the Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead to enable multiple uses of the site, including but not limited to disc golf, hiking, bicycling, equestrian use, viewing scenic overlooks, nature interpretation, photography, and other appropriate uses.

- O. DG/T-2. The Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead shall be designed, constructed, utilized, and managed in a manner consistent with the concepts developed as part of the Upper Bidwell Park Disc Golf Course Environmental and Design Report (Appendix H).
- O. DG/T-3. Develop, construct and manage the Disc Golf Course/Trailhead to avoid or minimize adverse effects to natural, cultural and other environmental resources.

Implementation Strategies and Guidelines:

- I. DG/T-1. Consistent with the Upper Bidwell Park Disc Golf Course Environmental and Design Report (Appendix H), the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the BPMMP, and direction provided by the CAC and BPPC, the following measures shall be implemented in order to avoid or minimize detrimental effects on natural, cultural, and other environmental resources when designing, developing, and managing Disc Golf:
- Evaluate funding (amount and source) for initial set-up and potential user fees or other sources for operation and maintenance;
 - Design of both the long- and short- courses shall be consistent with the 18-hole layouts detailed in Alternative A in Appendix H;
 - Mitigation measures identified in the EIR prepared for the BPMMP shall be implemented both during development and on-going operation of the Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead;
 - Baskets and earth-tone colored concrete tee pads shall be installed at each disc golf hole;
 - The width of all paths related to disc golf shall be minimized;
 - Identification of disc golf holes shall be accomplished with natural materials (i.e., lava rock) instead of wooden planking;
 - To the greatest extent feasible, sensitive plant communities (e.g., vernal pools, swales, native wildflower fields, grasslands on shallow soils) and sensitive plants (e.g., Butte County checkerbloom, Bidwell’s knotweed) should be protected;
 - Humboldt Road should be avoided during course design and construction to the greatest extent feasible;
 - Disc golf play shall be kept away from cliffs;
 - Damage to oaks and other native trees from hits by discs including should be minimized;
 - Disc golf tees and holes shall be located outside of tree canopies where feasible;
 - Minimization of damage to roots zones from compaction shall be accomplished by locating tees, baskets and trails outside of root zones and by utilizing mulch within root zones where roots may be impacted;
 - Supplements and/or alternatives to City-funded construction and management of a disc golf course should be considered;
 - A long-term lease of the disc golf facility to a non-profit organization should be considered.

- I. DG/T-2. If disc golf is approved, interim management measures should be developed to be implemented until build-out occurs.
- I. DG/T-3. If disc golf is not approved, areas not used for other compatible uses identified for this site in the BPMMP shall be restored to natural conditions.
- I. DG/T-4. Construction, materials, and maintenance specifications for the Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead shall be developed and approved prior to any work conducted on the site. Specifications shall include, but are not limited to, the following items:
- Construction, design and location of all tee pads, links, and “holes;”
 - Construction, design, and location of all trails and improved facilities;
 - Materials utilized in the construction of this site should be imported to the area but be similar to on-site materials;
 - Construction of all facilities shall be supervised by City staff during all phases of construction.
- I. DG/T-5. Facilities at the Disc Golf Course Area shall be developed and managed for multiple uses including disc golf, natural and cultural resource interpretation, nature observation, trail use, and scenic overlook use.
- I. DG/T-6. Use priorities, i.e., rights-of-way shall be established for each use type.
- I. DG/T-7. Opportunities for City-approved community involvement in maintenance of the site should be provided.
- I. DG/T-8. Other sites in Lower and Middle Park and outside of Bidwell Park should be evaluated for additional or alternative disc golf course siting.
- I. DG/T-9. The Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead shall be periodically inspected to assess potential degradation of natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources, so that necessary adjustments to management and maintenance of the site may be made.
- I. DG/T-10. Suspension of disc golf play during wet conditions should be considered as a management strategy.
- I. DG/T-11. The importance of Humboldt Road as an historical resource should be promoted by installing an educational plaque/sign describing the resource.