

Care about Upper Bidwell Park Trails?

Discussion on Trail Conditions & Use

Bidwell Park & Playground Commission
October 26, 2009



City of Chico Park Division, General Services Department

Bidwell Park is located “at the interface of three geologic provinces: the Sierra Nevada to the south, the Cascades to the north and the Sacramento River Valley floor to the west.”



Formed over millions of years by lava flows, Upper Park is comprised of various layers of rock formations.



Yahi Trail



Iron Canyon from Lot O



Iron Canyon from Lot R



Horseshoe Lake



Pine Trail



Guardian Trail



View from Disc Golf Course
Area/Trailhead

Upper Bidwell Park's trail system has been largely established by animals and humans – evolving over time. Upper Park is estimated to have over 80 miles of trails!

Some Upper Park trails transverse wet meadows. Rains greatly impact these trail areas -- leading to standing water, erosion, and visitors walking off trail to avoid muddy areas. There is also greater impact on wet trails from bikes and horses.

Soil Conditions

Soils in Upper Bidwell Park vary greatly and are thin. They house many native California plants, wildflowers and, of course, non-natives!

Multi-use trails have a potential for greater impact due to the thin soils in Upper Bidwell.

TRAIL GUIDE

- THE GUIDE to Upper Park trail work is the Bidwell Park Trails Manual, adopted in June 1999, and periodically updated. The trail crew follows these in depth guidelines in planning trail projects, repairs & maintenance.
- The Bidwell Park Master Management Plan's Appendix E provides a Trails Plan with objectives for the trail system.



Master Management Plan Trail Goals & Objectives

The overall goal of the Trail Plan is to create and maintain a well functioning trail system which accommodates a variety of users while providing an enjoyable and safe experience that minimizes adverse impacts to sensitive resources within the Park.

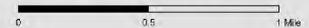
Bidwell Park

Chico, California



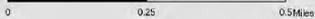
UPPER BIDWELL PARK

Scale
1 inch = Approx. 1,300 feet / 0.33 miles



LOWER BIDWELL PARK

Scale
1 inch = Approx. 625 feet / 0.12 miles



LEGEND		
SYMBOLS	TRAIL INFO	TRAIL DIFFICULTY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interconnect Designated Parking Designated Parking Bike Box Restrooms Historic Sites Open Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedestrians Only Horse Trails Blue Path (Class I) Blue Lanes (Class I) Blue Routes (Class II) Connector (Class IV) Connector (Class IV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy Moderate Difficult Most Difficult
<p>Notes: Many of the trails in Bidwell Park are considered multi-use and may be utilized by pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians, where designated.</p> <p>Interconnect: Within Upper Bidwell Park, interconnects are located to local homes on all non-paved trails and roads.</p> <p>Road & Trail Closures: The non-paved portion of Upper Park Road is closed on Sundays and Mondays, with the exception of holidays. All non-paved trails and roads are closed to hikers to keep during and after periods of rain. Check the City of Chico website for current trail status: http://www.ci.chico.ca.us</p>		

Priorities for Implementation

Based on public input and contained in the Trail Plan:

1. Maintain existing trails.
2. Discourage off-trail use.
3. Maintain, upgrade or re-route trails in known problem areas—which include Monkey Face, Jeep Trail, North Rim Trail, B Trail, and Bloody Pin Trail.

4. Address unofficial trails for either closure, restoration or establishment as an official trail.
5. Construct proposed trails that provide connections to key areas not accessible now and to alleviate safety concerns.

Current Focus

- As the main artery and jumping off point to other Upper Park trails (north of Big Chico Creek), the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission has made repair and maintenance of the Middle Trail a focus of trail crew work sessions.
- Work programs are prepared prior to each trail season that reflect Commission direction, critical needs and volunteer interests.

- An additional priority for the Park Division is building internal capacity through Park staff attending professional trail conferences.
- The Park Division hosts two ten-week trail seasons each year during which the Park Trail crew and volunteers work on repairs and maintenance issues.

Trail Conditions & Fixes



Middle Trail intersection north of parking lot E



Drainage lense construction



Finished drainage lens that allows water to pass under the trail.

Middle Trail fix!



Water bar construction on the Middle Trail



TRAIL DAYS!

- The public is welcome to participate in helping on trail work through out the week and on Saturdays.



VOLUNTEERS ROCK!



Choose your favorite Trail!

Walk the trail with staff for a field survey of needed tasks.

Work with trail crew.

Work on your own trail.

Report your hours each month!



Adopted Trails In Upper Park

- **Yahi Trail – California Native Plant Society, Mt. Lassen Chapter**
- **B Trail – North Rim Adventures**

Yahi Trail Project for October 28 & 29, 2009



Yahi Trail eroding away into Big Chico Creek. Project will reroute to former trail inland from creek on an existing route. ***Volunteers needed!***

Middle Trail Rehabilitation Project

Spring 2010 start

Project Grant of \$175,800 was funded under the non-motorized element of the Recreational Trails Program through the CA Department of Parks and Recreation.

- Two large interpretive, informational signs at Horseshoe Lake trail head at parking lot E & the Community Observatory trail head at lot C.
- Rehabilitation and upgrading of an additional 710 feet of existing trail to accessible standards. This trail currently intersects an existing accessible trail of 685 feet. When complete, the accessible trail will total 1,395 linear feet.
- Rehabilitation of 6,040 linear feet of the Middle Trail with sustainable design features and restoration of erosion damaged areas. Completed project will provide a more user-friendly trail for park visitors and restore the natural resources and beauty lost to erosion.

New Wet Weather Policy

A review of the Park's wet weather policy has resulted in development of a new approach based more on measurable information that can be tracked and used to make adjustments as needed. The public will be notified of the results of the new process via:

- 24/7 telephone Trail Hotline – 530-896-7899, which will indicate whether trails in Upper Bidwell Park, Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead, Upper Park Road and Wildwood Ball Fields are closed or open.
- Can also call 896-7800 and get the same information.
- Online - web access –
www.ci.chico.ca.us
- Web sites that point to the City site
- News media as available.



Things to Keep in Mind!

- Bidwell Park has a “pack it in, pack it out” policy – i.e.. what you bring, please take out with you!
- Yahi Trail is pedestrians only (no bikes, no dogs and no horses)!!
- Respect closed trail signs (open to pedestrians) – this is to protect our trails during rainy weather and may prevent accidents.
- The goal is to preserve the resources and setting of Bidwell Park that make it such a valued part of our community.
- Preserving and protecting Bidwell Park depends on public support and voluntary compliance with use policies. Proper use of trails is one of the most important issues in Bidwell Park.

FUTURE GENERATIONS ARE DEPENDENDING ON IT !!!

TRAIL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Ambassadors will:

- Provide information on Upper Park Trails and instruct trail users on rules; and
- Monitor trail conditions – reporting to the Park Division when there are hazardous conditions affecting the trails, such as downed tree limbs; and
- Report when there are incidents of intentional damage to the Park trails, restoration sites, signage, etc.

Enjoy Upper Park Trails while
keeping them healthy!

