



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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CITY OF CHICO SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON UPPER BIDWELL PARK ROAD

The City of Chico Parks Division is seeking public input on Upper Bidwell Park by asking the public to complete a short online survey. The City is requesting the public provide their views regarding allowing vehicle access to the unpaved portion of Upper Park Road and providing other amenities that would enhance the public's experience.

The survey will be available on the City's website at www.chicoca.gov and on both <https://www.facebook.com/cityofchicopublicworks/> and <https://www.facebook.com/CityofChicoParks> until March 16, 2018. Hard copies of the survey are also available at the City's Parks Division Office at 965 Fir Street, or can be requested by email at parkinfo@chicoca.gov. The survey will also be conducted in-person by volunteers in Upper Bidwell Park and at the Saturday Farmers Market (dates to be announced).

Due to heavy storm erosion and an outdated road design causing unsafe conditions, the approximate 2.25 miles of the unpaved portion of Upper Park Road past the Diversion Dam has been closed to vehicles for some time. However, this road section is open to bikers, hikers, and equestrians.

A recent report by a consultant retained by the City identified 43 locations on the unpaved road in need of repair, redesign, and/or drainage treatments to allow safe vehicle passage, and to prevent erosion and sediment from entering Big Chico Creek. In addition, parts of the road are deeply rutted and narrow, making it difficult for large emergency vehicles to access and turn around.

Maintenance of all of Bidwell Park is funded by the City's Park Fund 002, which is General Fund money specifically allocated by the City Council for Parks and Street Trees. The survey also includes questions about a potential vehicle parking fee for Upper Park to help pay for improvements to the road and other Upper Park infrastructure.

If you would like more information, please contact Park & Natural Resource Manager Linda Herman at (530) 896-7241, or by email at linda.herman@chicoca.gov .

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