



## G. CEDAR GROVE AREA CONCEPT PLAN



FINAL BIDWELL PARK MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

# **APPENDIX G CEDAR GROVE AREA CONCEPT PLAN**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Cedar Grove Area is located at a key entry point into the Park, and contains Bidwell Park's only visitor center, the Chico Creek Nature Center. For many first time visitors to the Park, Cedar Grove will provide their first impressions of the Park. The planning area for the Cedar Grove Area Concept Plan is bordered by a connector path between the Tree Walk, the adjacent residential area and the paved path on the south side of Big Chico Creek to the west, the paved path on the south side of Big Chico Creek to the north, Cedar Way to the east, and East 8th street to the south. Proposed improvements are confined to the parking areas and the Grove. The area is currently used by school groups, for group picnicking, and community festivals such as the annual Endangered Species Fair and Shakespeare in the Park. Some of the existing facilities are in need of rehabilitation, expansion, or renovation in order to accommodate expanding use in the area. A conceptual plan for future improvements of the Cedar Grove Area was developed as part on the overall Master Management Plan Update and is provided below. Exhibit 1 shows the layout of the conceptual plan, while the specific elements are briefly described below.

## **SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF THE CEDAR GROVE AREA CONCEPT PLAN**

The concept plan for the Cedar Grove area (Exhibit 1) includes rehabilitation, enhancement, and renovation of existing facilities at the site. Improvements would be made to parking, circulation, signage, lighting, and facilities, such as restrooms. The purpose of the improvements is to provide enhanced infrastructure for the area to accommodate the existing events and functions taking place in the Cedar Grove Area, such as the annual Endangered Species Fair, Shakespeare in the Park event. It would also support use of the area by individuals for picnics, hiking/ walking, nature exploration along the World of Trees Nature trail, and visiting the Big Chico Creek Nature Center. The Cedar Grove Area Concept Plan separates the overall area into two distinct use areas: the group picnic/festival meadow area and the nature center area. Although separate vehicle access points are provided, pedestrian pathways connect the two areas and a proposed overflow parking area could serve either area during high visitation events. Specific improvements proposed in each of the two areas include the following:

In the Nature Center area:

- ▶ Paving and delineation of the existing parking lot to maximize parking efficiency with 38 standard and 2 ADA parking spaces;
- ▶ Accommodation of school bus and emergency vehicle access and required turning radius;
- ▶ Planting of additional trees in/near parking area to provide shade and soften the appearance of delineated parking;
- ▶ Establishment of trail and sidewalk connections to enable access to other areas of the Park;
- ▶ Use of low barrier fencing in high use areas to direct pedestrian traffic and discourage off-trail use; and
- ▶ Establishment of an entry plaza to the Park, including an information kiosk and benches.

In the group picnic area:

- ▶ Improved access from Cedar Way;
  - ▶ Paving and delineation of the existing parking lot to maximize parking efficiency with 45 standard and 4 ADA parking spaces;
  - ▶ Planting of additional trees in/near parking area to provide shade and soften the appearance of delineated parking;
  - ▶ Installation of electricity to provide lighting along trails during community events;
  - ▶ Improvement of restrooms;
  - ▶ Installation of a small playground/play structure in the group picnic area;
  - ▶ Establishment of a “meadow trail” around the festival meadow;
  - ▶ Use of low barrier fencing in high use areas to direct pedestrian traffic and discourage off-trail use;
  - ▶ Establishment/formalization of an unpaved overflow parking area providing 48 standard spaces that would be used during major events only; and
  - ▶ Establishment of an entry plaza to the group picnic area, including an informational kiosk, and benches.
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# Bidwell Park Master Management Plan

## CEDAR GROVE AREA CONCEPT PLAN



Parking/Trail Examples

