



Public Works Department,  
Park Division  
965 Fir Street  
(530) 896-7800

Agenda Prepared: 4/6/18  
Agenda Posted: 4/9/18  
Prior to: 5:00 p.m.

**CITY OF CHICO  
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)  
TREE COMMITTEE**

(Commissioners Hernandez (Chair), Reddemann, Haar)

April 12, 2018, 6:00 p.m.  
1st Floor Conference Room, Old Municipal Building, 441 Main Street.

*Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection in the Park Division Office at 965 Fir Street during normal business hours or online at <http://www.chico.ca.us>.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. REGULAR AGENDA** - All items listed under the Regular Agenda are in the order which is believed are of interest to the public or which require Committee action at this meeting. The items will be considered in the order listed unless the Committee members request a change. Any person may speak on items on the Regular Agenda.

**2.1. CITY OF CHICO URBAN FOREST REVITALIZATION PROGRAM APPLICATION.**

The Urban Forest Manager (UFM) will provide an update of the City's submittal of a grant to update the City's tree inventory and prepare an Urban Forest Management Plan. **Recommendation:** *None. Informational only item.*

**2.2. SUMMARY OF ONGOING DISCUSSIONS REGARDING REVISION TO CHICO MUNICIPAL CODE 14.40, 16.66 AND 16.68.**

The UFM will provide a summary review of the Committee's previous discussions regarding proposed Chico Municipal Code revisions related to trees. **Recommendation:** *None. A brief review will be provided for ongoing discussion at a future meeting.*

**2.3 URBAN FORESTRY TREE DIVISION PRIORITIES**

The Committee is requested to review proposed goals and objectives for the City's Tree Division for FY 2018-19. **Recommendation:** *Staff recommends that the Committee provide input on goals and objectives for the Tree Division for the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission's consideration.*

**2.4 ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION TREE CITY USA GROWTH AWARD.**

The UFM is requesting the Committee to review and provide input on eligible activities that can be implemented in 2018 to attain a Tree City USA Growth Award for the City of Chico.

**3. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Members of the public may address the Committee at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Committee cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

**4. ADJOURN**

Adjourn to the next regular meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm. June 14<sup>th</sup> in Conference Room 1, Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).



Please contact the Park Division Office at (530) 896-7800 if you require an agenda in an alternative format, or if you need to request a disability-related modification or accommodation. This request should be received at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting.



## BPPC Tree Committee Report

Meeting Date 4/12/2018

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DATE: 04/12/18  
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) Tree Committee  
FROM: Richie Bamlet, Urban Forest Manager  
SUBJECT: **City of Chico Urban Forest Revitalization Program. Project Tracking number: 17-CCI-UF-01-MGMT-0048.**

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

*None at this time. Informational only item.*

### **BACKGROUND:**

Public Works Operations and Maintenance Tree Division submitted a concept proposal on 2/28/18 for the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry California Climate Investments (CCI) Grant Program to update the City's tree inventory and to prepare an Urban Forest Management Plan. By letter dated 4/9/18, CalFire notified the Staff that the concept proposal has been accepted. A copy of the letter is attached as Attachment A.

Staff will now work to draw up a full proposal, which will include a Resolution by City Council approving the grant application. Submission deadline for the full proposal is 3:00 PDT on Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

### **Fiscal impact:**

Staff is submitting a proposal to receive approximately \$425,000 in funding. The local match funding component comprises of in-kind volunteer time, as well as existing Staff payroll and existing contractual funds.

### **Attachments**

**A:** Letter from CalFire April 9<sup>th</sup> 2018



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**  
**Urban and Community Forestry Program**

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 657-2289  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



April 9, 2018

Richie Bamlet  
City of Chico  
Public Works  
PO Box 3420  
Chico, CA 95927

**RE: Concept Proposal for the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry  
California Climate Investments (CCI) Grant Program**

We are pleased to inform you that you have been selected to submit a California Climate Initiatives Project Application for your project titled **City of Chico Urban Forest Revitalization Program** in the **Urban Forest Management Activities** category. Your project has been assigned a Project Tracking number: **17-CCI-UF-01-MGMT-0048**.

The *Urban and Community Forestry Program California Climate Investments Grant Guidelines*, required PDF Project Application Form, and other related forms contain all the necessary information to submit your grant application. These documents can be found on the following website:

[http://calfire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/resource\\_mgt\\_urbanforestry\\_grants](http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants)

CAL FIRE will carefully evaluate each application according to the posted *Urban and Community Forestry Program California Climate Investments Grant Guidelines*. The following elements will be important in the grant evaluation process:

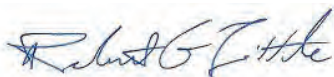
- a. GHG quantification for projects must follow the Air Resources Board *Urban and Community Forestry Program Quantification Methodology for FY 2017-18* (PDF) found at: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/auctionproceeds/quantification.htm>. Applicants must provide printouts of both the iTree Planting and ARB calculators with their project application.
- b. Highly competitive projects will include those with substantial levels of collaboration with partners, and demonstrate community support. Such projects will have authentic community engagement as a strong project element. Letters of commitment from partners are a way to demonstrate such collaboration.
- c. Inclusion in the project of strong tree establishment practices, presence of long term urban forest management planning, a history of good urban forest practices by the applying entity, and a commitment to long term maintenance of the project are ways to demonstrate assurance that GHG emission reduction goals will be achieved.

- d. All projects must show proof of what portion of their project can be considered “in” an AB 1550 community. A percentage of how much of the project will be in 1) disadvantaged communities, 2) low income communities, 3) low income communities adjacent to disadvantaged communities, and 4) benefits to low income households must be included. Please see the table in Appendix L of the Grant Guidelines for the definition of what “in” an AB 1550 community is. It should be noted that 75% of CAL FIRE’s funds must be considered “in” such communities. This factor, therefore, will greatly affect a project’s competitiveness.
- e. Budgets must only be submitted in the format provided by CAL FIRE, and should be accompanied by an explanation of the expenses as provided on the project application form.
- f. A detailed tree species list as required on the project application form is of the highest importance. Failing to provide a detailed species list, with the expected number of each species to be planted, may result in disqualification.

Please submit one digital copy and one hard copy as instructed at the end of the Project Application. The digital copy must be received by email at [CALFIRE.Grants@fire.ca.gov](mailto:CALFIRE.Grants@fire.ca.gov) no later than 3:00 PDT on Wednesday, May 30, 2018. The hard copy must be signed, and postmarked no later than Wednesday, May 30, 2018. Failure to submit the Project Application and supporting documents by the due date will result in your proposal being disqualified. You must reference your project tracking number on each document of your application package when submitting the required documents. For the digital copy, use the project tracking number in the file name for each file submitted. For the hard copy, be sure to put the tracking number at the top of the page, even if it must be handwritten.

Due to the high demand for Urban and Community Forestry CCI grants, CAL FIRE will not be able to fund all projects for the applications submitted. Consequently, invitations to submit an application, and acknowledgement of a completed application, do not guarantee that the project will be funded.

Sincerely,



ROBERT LITTLE  
Forester III - State Urban Forester



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For more information visit:  
[http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/resource\\_mgt\\_urbanforestry.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry.php)





# CAL FIRE Regional Urban Foresters



[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)  
September 2017

*“The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California.”*



# BPPC Tree Committee Report

Meeting Date 4/12/2018

DATE: 04/12/18  
 TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) Tree Committee  
 FROM: Richie Bamlet, Urban Forest Manager  
 SUBJECT: **Summary of ongoing discussions regarding revision to Chico Municipal Code 14.40, 16.66 and 16.68**

## RECOMMENDATION

*None at this time. Discussion will continue to a future meeting.*

## BACKGROUND

At its 6/26/17 meeting, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) provided Staff with various Chico Municipal Code (CMC) sections that needed revising. At the 8/10/17 meeting, the Tree Committee discussed revisions to CMC Chapters 14.40, 16.66 and 16.68. Furthermore, at the 10/12/17 meeting, the Tree Committee discussed additional revisions on Heritage Trees CMC Chapter 16.68, as well as permit fees and homeowner pruning of city right-of-way trees. At its 1/22/18 meeting, Tree Committee held additional discussions of revisions to CMC 16.68 Heritage Tree Program.

## DISCUSSION

The CMC sections that the BPPC considered to be important and in need of revision are listed, not in order of priority, in the Table 1 below. The UFM will provide a brief update on the proposed se revisions.

Table 1

| BPPC CMC REVISION LIST |              |                  |                               |                                   |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Item                   | Commissioner | CMC Code Section | Title                         | Specific Topics Noted             |
| 1                      | McReynolds   | 14.40.120        | Street Trees                  | Director Definition               |
| 2                      | McReynolds   | 14.40.150        | Street Trees                  | Revise Tree Plant calculation     |
| 3                      | McReynolds   | 14.40.300        | Street Trees                  | Reduce Site Clearance             |
| 4                      | Reddemann    | 14.4             | Street Trees                  | Tracking Tree Planting/Compliance |
| 5                      | Stoller      | 14.4             | Street Trees                  | Update Approve Street Tree List   |
| 6                      | Stoller      | 14.4             | Street Trees                  | Streamline Permitting             |
| 7                      | Stoller      | 16.66            | Tree Preservation Regulations | Streamlined Permitting Process    |
| 8                      | McReynolds   | 16.68            | Heritage Trees                | Reduce Application fee            |

## Permit fees and Homeowner Pruning of City Right-of-Way Trees

In tandem with the proposal to make Heritage tree applications free, it is proposed to explore introducing a fee for street tree removal permit applications. The City of Chico already levies a fee on tree permits tied to development. A survey of California cities revealed that many cities charge a fee to cover processing costs for such street tree permits. Planting permits should remain free. Of the cities that charged permit fees, costs ranged from \$25 to \$81.

At the 10/12/17 meeting, the Tree Committee also discussed ideas to introduce a program whereby *de minimis* incidental pruning on city trees is permissible without the need for a formal permit at all. It is noted that some cities operate a similar method without any major issues. This would have the benefit of releasing staff from the burden of a large backlog of service requests for minor work and would allow residents to remedy minor tree issues adjacent to their properties without administrative cost or burden, or fear of civil or administrative action against them. Residents would have the option to employ a paid gardener or landscaper to do the same minor tree work, if they chose to do so.

UFM will give an update on the idea to allow incidental pruning on city ROW trees.

**Fiscal impact:**

None

**Attachment**

A: Recent examples of homeowner pruning on city street trees.







## BPPC Tree Committee Report

Meeting Date 4/12/2018

DATE: 04/12/18  
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) Tree Committee  
FROM: Richie Bamlet, Urban Forest Manager  
SUBJECT: **Consideration Of 12-Month Workflow Priorities of Public Works Tree Division**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

*Staff recommends that the Committee provide input on goals and objectives for the Tree Division for the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission's consideration.*

### **BACKGROUND**

The City's Public Works Tree Division recently submitted a concept proposal for a Greenhouse Gas Reduction grant program with CalFire. Part of the proposal was to fund the production of a comprehensive Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP). If the funding proposal reached a successful conclusion, the Tree Division will be able to proceed with plan development. The plan will provide guidance for the next fifty years and will be central to shaping Chico's future urban forest. However, plan development cannot commence until the tree inventory assessment is concluded so the UFMP will not be ready for Council adoption until sometime in 2019. In the meantime, UFM seeks input from Tree Committee to determine where the focus should be in the interim period.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Urban Forestry (UF) Goals:

The UFM has compiled a broad list of five goals for the Tree Division, which are summarized as follows:

**GROW:** The urban forest should be enhanced for social, economic and environmental benefits. Additional tree planting is the main tool to achieve this goal.

**PROTECT:** Chico's existing trees need to be protected from biological, climatic, and man-made threats that if left unchecked could diminish canopy cover and associated benefits in Chico.

**MANAGE:** In order to create a cohesive urban forestry program, decision making is best made with up-to-date data and current best industry practices. Strategic planning and optimal use of available resources with collaboration from multiple stakeholders will ensure a robust urban forest for generations to come.

**FUND:** Urban forestry activities cannot happen without securing long-term funding. Novel approaches and creativity will be required to fill funding shortfalls.

**ENGAGE:** A successful urban forestry program cannot happen without active participation from multiple stakeholders.

#### UF Objectives:

A dynamic and broad list of 108 objectives has been identified. This list has been created by a combination of previous work plan priorities, ongoing discussions with community stakeholders, and the UFM's own experiences of Chico's urban forest over the last twelve months. This list can be used to shape the future UFMP. It can also be used to focus on short-term priorities. UFM requests that the Committee review the list of goals and objectives and come back with the top three priorities that should be focused on over the next twelve months. It is not anticipated that final objectives will be selected at the April 12th meeting. Discussion can continue to a future if the need arises. The Committee's recommended goals will be presented to the BPPC and the Public Works O&M Director for their consideration.

#### **Attachments:**

A: Goals and Objectives Summary table.

Analysis table of UFMP objectives

|     | Goal and Objective  | Objective already in process | Selected priority |  |
|-----|---|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Obj | <b>Goal: Grow</b>   |                              |                   |  |
| 1   | Initiate analysis of empty planting sites in the ROW.   | x                            |                   |  |
| 2   | Develop criteria for viable street tree planting sites, increased planting of street trees, and related protocols to ensure optimal stocking level                      | grant funding pending        |                   |  |
| 3   | Initiate annual tree planting programs throughout the City to maintaining a multi-aged urban tree canopy.   | more needed                  |                   |  |
| 4   | Develop a program to increase tree planting opportunities in public/private/commercial areas.   |                              |                   |  |
| 5   | Explore and analyze additional planting locations identified by the Sustainable Cities South Campus initiative.   |                              |                   |  |
| 6   | Work with the Planning and Building Departments to establish a better procedure for planting new trees in new developments.   |                              |                   |  |
| 7   | Ensure that staff is knowledgeable about innovative ways to add trees to development projects and in limiting situations. e.g. engaging with Real Estate professionals. |                              |                   |  |
| 8   | Provide measures for an urban forest that contains large trees over the streets where space allows, in open space and parks.  |                              |                   |  |
| 9   | Maintain a population of young, moderate sized and vigorous trees throughout Chico.   |                              |                   |  |
| 10  | Develop for approval an overall canopy goal that defines the character and appearance of the Urban Forest   |                              |                   |  |
| 11  | Set overall and neighborhood tree canopy goals and measures to increase total canopy tree cover in the city   |                              |                   |  |
| 12  | Promote species diversity for the resiliency of the urban canopy.   |                              |                   |  |
| 13  | Promote age diversity for multiple benefits and long-term planning of the urban forest.   |                              |                   |  |
| 14  | Promote the “Right Tree Right Place “ concept.  |                              |                   |  |
| 15  | Promote the use of native species where appropriate.  |                              |                   |  |
| 16  | Encourage citizens to remove invasive trees from private property.  |                              |                   |  |
| 17  | Promote the use of non-native cultivar “work-horse” trees in highly demanding municipal forest situations.  |                              |                   |  |
| 18  | Analyze canopy data by work zones to determine species distribution and planting requirements.  | grant funding pending        |                   |  |
| 19  | Develop specific objectives for species diversity in each work zone according to the Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) analysis.  | grant funding pending        |                   |  |
| 20  | Upgrade the Street Tree Species Lists for use by all stakeholders.  | ongoing                      |                   |  |
| 21  | Develop “deferred”, “preferred” and “restricted” lists of trees for use in the ROW.   | ongoing                      |                   |  |
| 22  | Develop strategies and protocols from the Urban Tree Canopy analysis to develop a diverse and resilient tree canopy (no more than 5% of one species in the forest)      | grant funding pending        |                   |  |
| 23  | Explore the possibility of a city tree nursery or partnership with civic and non-profit groups. “From Seed to Shade”  |                              |                   |  |

Analysis table of UFMP objectives

|    |  |             |  |  |
|----|--|-------------|--|--|
|    |  |             |  |  |
|    | <b>Goal: Protect (Resource and residents)</b>  |             |  |  |
| 24 | Promote the concept of risk reduction as the first priority for scheduled tree work  |             |  |  |
| 25 | Ensure dead and dying trees are removed in a timely manner.  | ongoing     |  |  |
| 26 | The Standard of care for the forest should be high, based on the concept of enhancing the longevity of the trees within the forest. Promote the concept of “useful life”   |             |  |  |
| 27 | Promote BMP industry standards to ensure tree work is carried out to high standards.   | ongoing     |  |  |
| 28 | Develop measures for required tree preservation on new projects to be better understood  |             |  |  |
| 29 | Address the ARB regarding physical requirements for tree preservation.   |             |  |  |
| 30 | Discuss the current Tree Preservation regulations with the ARB. Revise Tree preservation policies.   |             |  |  |
| 21 | Consider Tree Preservation Bonds to ensure adequate protection of retained trees during development.   |             |  |  |
| 32 | Identify desirable trees for preservation at the beginning of the design process so engineering solutions can be developed for their protection.   |             |  |  |
| 33 | Require desirable tree preservation as a standard condition of approval for projects.  |             |  |  |
| 34 | Promote the preservation of well placed, healthy and young trees on development sites.   |             |  |  |
| 35 | Explore the development of an ordinance to protect against tree topping on private property  |             |  |  |
| 36 | Enforce standard pruning practices on private commercial parking lots that are a requirement of development.   |             |  |  |
| 37 | Work with Code Enforcement when necessary to enforce City Code   | x           |  |  |
| 38 | Citizens occasionally remove trees on private property that impact neighboring properties or are viewed as community assets. Explore approaches to encourage tree retention  |             |  |  |
| 39 | Find ways to influence the management and retention of trees that are owned and managed by other entities, such as trees in private yards or commercial developments, including CARD, the County, the University and others. |             |  |  |
| 40 | Review AB 1881 compliance  |             |  |  |
| 41 | Update and promote the Heritage Tree Ordinance. Celebrate historically significant trees e.g Hooker oak descendants.   | ongoing     |  |  |
|    |  |             |  |  |
|    | <b>Goal: Manage</b>  |             |  |  |
| 42 | Establish regular pruning and care of the trees within the forest.   |             |  |  |
| 43 | Adopt specific procedures and policy regarding ANSI Tree Risk Assessment Standard and BMP.   | more needed |  |  |
| 44 | Address emergencies and urgent tree work in a timely manner.   | x           |  |  |
| 45 | Promote the elevation of limbs and foliage for traffic safety and line of site clearance at intersections as high priority work, but second to urgent removals.  | x           |  |  |
| 46 | Program Downtown elevations, sight-lines and building clearance at least every other year as needed.   |             |  |  |
| 47 | Program volunteer tree removal from alleyways on a mid-term cycle.   |             |  |  |
| 48 | Program formative pruning of young trees during the winter months.   | more needed |  |  |
| 49 | Promote the removal of trees for reasons other than safety, such as property damage, as a lower priority.  | more needed |  |  |

Analysis table of UFMP objectives

|    |   |                       |  |  |
|----|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| 50 | Develop outreach efforts that manage resident expectations when non-emergency service requests are submitted.   |                       |  |  |
| 51 | Service requests for pruning are performed only on high risk trees as a first priority. Develop second priority service request schedules as workload allows. | more needed           |  |  |
| 52 | Develop tree pruning standards and productivity standards for Public Works and contractors.   |                       |  |  |
| 53 | Develop a contract for tree pruning, as well as tree removals, to allow for greater flexibility in managing the trees with limited staff.                     | more needed           |  |  |
| 54 | Ensure trees planted along City streets by developers are installed to professional standards, and inspected by the City. Clarify the process.                |                       |  |  |
| 55 | Continue collaboration with other city departments to ensure the Urban Forest Manager is involved with trees-cape decisions early in the development process. |                       |  |  |
| 56 | Engage in the development process so that ROW planting sites are managed with the same authority as the road base.  |                       |  |  |
| 57 | Explore Carbon Credit programs with the STF   |                       |  |  |
| 58 | Review Title 14 to improve its functionality.   | ongoing               |  |  |
| 59 | Review and update Title14 penalties and incentives as related to tree malpractice and damage  | more needed           |  |  |
| 60 | Review Title 16 Tree Preservation code to clarify parameters. Review fee schedules.   | more needed           |  |  |
| 61 | Develop protocols for the aggressive removal of high-risk trees and clearly define “dead, dying and diseased” definitions                                     |                       |  |  |
| 62 | Develop and promote the concept of “whole tree life-cycle” to include salvaged wood and use of wood products.   |                       |  |  |
| 63 | Revise and expand the Tree Inventory and include designated trails in Bidwell park and other open spaces.   | grant funding pending |  |  |
| 64 | Develop city and contractor work flows to ensure the inventory is updated as trees are removed, planted or pruned.  |                       |  |  |
| 65 | Review sidewalk design and ROW tree planting criteria to mitigate sidewalk displacement by tree roots.  | more needed           |  |  |
| 66 | Develop programs to remove and replace invasive trees on public property  |                       |  |  |
| 67 | Monitor removals and plantings and annually report on progress towards sustainability policy goals  | x                     |  |  |
| 68 | Review Landscape Design Standards to enhance water conservation and improve soil health issues.   |                       |  |  |
| 69 | Develop better interdepartmental communication to enhance landscape plan review, installation and inspection  |                       |  |  |
| 70 | Develop a Public Landscapes information web page, and include information about AB 1881.  |                       |  |  |
| 71 | Investigate the upgrade and modernization of reduced water irrigation systems to provide for better water conservation.                                       |                       |  |  |
| 72 | Update Landscape Standards in collaboration with other stakeholders as new equipment, techniques and practices are developed.                                 |                       |  |  |



Analysis table of UFMP objectives

|    |   |                       |  |  |
|----|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| 73 | The process for approving and building landscapes in new developments is not well defined. Identify, review and revise the current policy to better define the steps developers must take to have landscape plans approved. Improve the inspection process for the installation of new landscapes |                       |  |  |
| 74 | Develop a procedure for final approval and acceptance of projects once complete, including the requirement that as-builts are received and scanned in a timely manner   |                       |  |  |
| 75 | Require electronic as-builts for completed landscape projects to be incorporated into city databases.   |                       |  |  |
| 76 | Explore the necessity of a city Solar ordinance.  |                       |  |  |
| 77 | Evaluate the effectiveness of Title 19. 50% shading for parking lots (public and private). Identify reasons for success and failure. Reach out to selected stakeholders to engage in corrective measures.   | more needed           |  |  |
| 78 | Engage with utility providers to ensure minimal damage is done to city trees in utility easements.  | more needed           |  |  |
|    | <b>Goal: Fund</b>   |                       |  |  |
| 79 | Establish a budget allocation so that individual trees are pruned on a realistic cycle.   | x                     |  |  |
| 80 | There is a backlog of maintenance needs. Promote the permit system along with approved tree contractors. Residents can fund low priority service requests.  | more needed           |  |  |
| 81 | Pursue alternative funding sources for tree care, such as Chico Maintenance Districts.  |                       |  |  |
| 82 | Pursue increased staffing for tree care needs.  | more needed           |  |  |
| 83 | Pursue alternative staffing mechanisms to supplement full-time city tree crew.  | grant funding pending |  |  |
| 84 | Provide adequate budgets to maintain trees in the manner required by industry standards.  |                       |  |  |
| 85 | Leverage existing funding as match for grant funding opportunities as they arise.   | x                     |  |  |
| 86 | The Street Tree Master Plan required in Title 14 is out of date. Develop revision collaboratively with stakeholders.  |                       |  |  |
| 87 | Write a grant to develop the Master Plan, per Title 14.   | grant funding pending |  |  |
| 88 | Pursuant with accepted tree removal policy, establish revenue streams from recycled wood.   |                       |  |  |
| 89 | Nurture existing volunteer support groups and work with non-profit organizations to reach out to businesses and corporate sponsors for forest restoration projects.   |                       |  |  |
| 90 | Explore corporate sponsorship e.g. Heritage Tree Program.   | more needed           |  |  |
|    | <b>Goal: Engage</b>   |                       |  |  |
| 91 | Promote habitat values of city street trees and how they act as wildlife corridors from larger open spaces.   |                       |  |  |
| 92 | Enhance the knowledge of City staff and appointed officials (ARB, Planning Commission, etc.) about tree protection measures   | more needed           |  |  |
| 93 | Develop and distribute with stakeholders more information regarding proper care of young trees  |                       |  |  |
| 94 | Require care of young trees brochures to be included in new homeowner packets   |                       |  |  |
| 95 | Encourage citizen participation to improve tree care through out the City.  |                       |  |  |

Analysis table of UFMP objectives

|     |  |                       |  |  |
|-----|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| 96  | Give particular emphasis to promote voluntary residential watering of ROW street trees.  |                       |  |  |
| 97  | Educate citizens about the selection of the right trees, and the care of trees, including planting, proper soil preparation, watering, and pruning.  |                       |  |  |
| 98  | Develop partnerships to instigate educational programs to improve citizen understanding of the functional benefits of trees.   | ongoing               |  |  |
| 99  | Develop and expand volunteer opportunities in the Urban Forest.  |                       |  |  |
| 100 | Continue to encourage interns from CSU and Butte college programs  |                       |  |  |
| 101 | Reinstate a field program to teach about young tree pruning  |                       |  |  |
| 102 | Encourage citizens to plant and care for their own street trees  |                       |  |  |
| 103 | Develop materials per Committee member Haars proposed list of educational programs.  |                       |  |  |
| 104 | Review the promotion of policy regarding tree and shrub planting in the ROW  |                       |  |  |
| 105 | In conjunction with CSU faculty / civic groups and non-profits explore outreach possibilities such as city mailings, e-mail blasts, door hangers, bill inserts, social media, press releases, and newspaper columns. | grant funding pending |  |  |
| 106 | Develop a a portal for community input on the Tree Division Urban Forestry website.  |                       |  |  |
| 107 | Develop programs with Chico Unified School District regarding plantings, species selection, maintenance, management of landscapes, and Arbor Day events.   |                       |  |  |
| 108 | Develop parking lot tree planting standards workshops in collaboration with Building Development   |                       |  |  |
|     |  |                       |  |  |
|     |  |                       |  |  |



DATE: 04/12/18  
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) Tree Committee  
FROM: Richie Bamlet, Urban Forest Manager  
SUBJECT: **Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Growth Award.**

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### RECOMMENDATION

*Staff recommends that the committee review and provide input on eligible activities that can be implemented in 2018 to attain a Tree City USA Growth Award for the City of Chico.*

### BACKGROUND

The Tree City USA Growth Award is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize higher levels of tree care by participating Tree City USA communities. The Growth Award highlights innovative programs and projects as well as increased commitment of resources for urban forestry. It also provides an opportunity to share new ideas and successes across the country.

### DISCUSSION

The City of Chico has been a Tree City USA recipient for thirty-four consecutive years. A Tree City USA recipient can achieve a Tree City USA Growth Award if it qualifies as a Tree City USA for at least the second consecutive year and completes activities in eligible categories totaling 10 or more points. Eligible activities fall into one of four categories, and each activity has an associated point value. The attachment to this report outlines the activities that are eligible to count towards Growth Award status. It is anticipated that a Growth Award will be earned every year over the next ten years. After that time the city will be eligible for the prestigious Sterling Award. This award is given to cities that have earned a growth award for ten years in a row.

The attachments outline the four eligible categories for consideration. Ten points must be accrued, which can be derived from any or all categories as listed below:

- **Category A:** Education and Public Relations
- **Category B:** Partnerships
- **Category C:** Planning and Management
- **Category D:** Tree Planting and Maintenance

Note: Of particular interest to Tree Committee and local non-profits related to urban forestry is the following free training related to category A10.

<https://www.treeboardu.org>

**Fiscal impact:** None

### Attachments:

**A:** Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Growth Award Eligible activities.

# Tree City Growth Awards

## Category A: Education and Public Relations



### A1. Publications (2 points)

Materials for the public about tree planting and care, such as a listing of recommended street trees, were first published or significantly improved. (Please enclose a copy of the publication as documentation.)

### A2. Literature Distribution (2 points)

A new method of public literature distribution (with utility bills, at garden centers, at public events, etc.) was developed and implemented successfully.

### A3. Interpretive Program (3 points)

An interpretive program such as a walking tour of outstanding trees for community planting, an arboretum, a heritage tree program (largest, historic, etc.) or similar project was first made available to the public or was significantly improved.

### A4. Local Awards Program (3 points)

A recognition program with awards to citizens, commercial enterprises, neighborhood associations, other citizen groups, etc. for such things as best landscaping, tree planting/care projects, etc. was initiated or significantly improved.



### A5. Community-Wide Tree Event (4 points)

A special, community-wide tree event such as an Arborfest, Dogwood Festival, Oak Festival, etc. was initiated or significantly improved. (An Arbor Day celebration is a standard requirement to qualify for Tree City USA. Therefore, please report here only a community-wide, highly publicized Arbor Day celebration or festival in addition to Arbor Day.) Tree-related activities and/or exhibits must be part of the event. (Please include event name(s) and date(s) with documentation.)

### A6. Publicity (5 points)

An ongoing publicity campaign for tree care and community forestry was initiated or significantly improved, for example a weekly newspaper column by the city forester or tree board, or a community-wide newsletter about trees.

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The city initiated or significantly improved a formal, community-wide tree-education program for youth (such as the creation of a Nature Explore™ Classroom, “Project Learning Tree,” “Arbor Day National Poster Contest,” etc.)

#### A8. Continuing Education for Tree Workers (6 points)

A training/continuing education program for the city's tree workers, both employees and contractors, was initiated or significantly improved. The training must be provided at least annually - either by the city or by other qualified organizations. (Please indicate who provided training, the type of training and approximate percentage of tree workers who received 8 hours or more of formal training and percentage who received 40 hours or more of formal training.)

#### A9. Tree-Worker Safety Program (5 points)

A comprehensive safety program for city tree workers was initiated or significantly improved that goes beyond formal training to include such methods as daily warm-up exercises, wellness programs, safety newsletter, etc.

#### A10. Continuing Education for Forestry Managers and Tree Board Members (6 points)

A continuing education program for forestry managers and tree board members was initiated or significantly improved. Examples include participation in tree-related workshops, conferences, correspondence courses, or other structured educational programs for those involved with managing community forests. (Please include approximate percentage who attended conferences, workshops, or other such events, and approximate percentage who earned credit or continuing education units (CEUs), with documentation.)

#### A11. Tree-Care Workshops (4 points)

A workshop on some aspect of tree care was provided for the first time for homeowners, businesses and other members of the public. Or ongoing workshops were significantly improved or the public participation was significantly increased. (Please include date(s) and number attending with documentation.)

#### A12. Arborist Workshops (5 points)

Tree-care workshops were provided for the first time for private commercial arborists. Or ongoing workshops were significantly improved or participation was significantly increased. (Please include date(s) and number attending with documentation.)

#### A13. Publicity Event (3 points)

An activity specifically designed to gain publicity for the community forestry program was initiated or significantly improved.



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# Tree City Growth Awards

## Category B: Partnerships



### B1. New Project or Organization (4 points)

A new, significant tree project was accomplished by the city in partnership with a civic organization, youth group, or other corporate or volunteer entity. Or assistance was given in creating a new volunteer organization that contributes to the community forestry program.

### B2. Utility Partnership (5 points)

A cooperative program between the city and a utility was initiated or significantly improved, resulting in additional tree planting, planting appropriate species, improved pruning and other tree care, or utility designation as a Tree Line USA. (Please enclose documentation of significant community involvement.)

### B3. Green Industry Partnership (5 points)

A cooperative project between the city and businesses such as private nurseries or tree services resulting in improved planting stock, better tree care, improved landscaping methods, the recycling of wood materials, etc. was initiated or significantly improved.

### B4. Cooperative Purchasing/Contracting (6 points)

A program was initiated or significantly improved for the community to cooperatively work with another community. (For example, to share a forester, to jointly contract for tree-care, computer or other professional services, to purchase expensive equipment such as a tree spade, or to pool tree orders.)



### B5. External Funding ( 6 points)

The city applied for and received significant, nongovernmental funding (corporations, foundations, civic organizations, individual contributions, etc.) for community forestry. (Please indicate amount, source and use of funds with documentation.)

### B6. Tree Planting on Private Property (4 points)

The city initiated or significantly improved a cost-sharing or other incentive program, an unusual publicity campaign, etc. to bring about more tree planting on private property. There should be

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## B7. Engineering/Forestry Coordination (6 points)

Formalized coordination with city engineering was initiated or significantly improved to insure proper urban forestry review of street and utility plans, sidewalk construction, and similar practices that impact the health of the city's trees.

## B8. Land-Use Planning Coordination (5 points)

Procedures for including tree professionals in land use planning decisions were put into place or significantly improved. Examples might include the appointment of a planning and zoning official to the tree board or vice versa, or routing all development site plans and applications through the city forester for input and approval.

## B9. Wildland Fire Prevention Coordination (5 points)

The community has initiated or significantly improved a wildland fire prevention program such as involvement with Firewise Communities/USA. Go to [www.firewise.org/usa](http://www.firewise.org/usa) for details.

## B10. Citizen Training Program (6 points)

A program to train and schedule citizen volunteers to provide basic maintenance suited to volunteers was initiated or significantly improved.

## Next—Category C: Planning and Management

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# Tree City Growth Awards

## Category C: Planning and Management



### C1. Tree-Maintenance Budget (9 points)

A budget line in the city budget specifically for tree maintenance (as opposed to planting or removals) was initiated or significantly increased. (Please indicate budget allocation for the current and previous year with documentation.)

### C2. Municipal Funding (8 points)

Expanded or innovative municipal funding was developed to be used specifically to increase the planting and care of community trees. Examples include special tax districts, curb tax, bond issues, license fees, gas tax, utility surcharge, etc.

### C3. Sidewalk/Curb Policy (5 points)

Policies were adopted or significantly improved which call for placement, construction, replacement and repair of sidewalks and curbs in a manner that will minimize tree damage. (Please enclose a copy of the policies as documentation.)

### C4. Tree Inventory and Analysis (7 points)

A basic inventory of street and/or park trees was conducted for the first time or updated, and an analysis was performed indicating what conclusions are to be drawn from the inventory: species mix, planting and care needs, etc. (Please enclose copy of the inventory, or a sample from one neighborhood, and the analysis as documentation.)



### C5. Computerized Tree-Management System (9 points)

The tree management system was first computerized and is site specific, i.e. individual trees identified with specific locations, and includes a work-reporting method with the work data on individual trees updated on a regular basis, preferably at least weekly.

### C6. Management Plan (7 points)

A long-range, community-wide tree planting and management master plan using inventory data and covering at least the next 3–5 year period was first adopted or significantly improved. (Please enclose copy of plan as documentation.)

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A licensing program was initiated or significantly improved for all tree-care companies or individuals operating in the community. (Please enclose explanatory literature as documentation.)

### C8. Improved Ordinance (6 points)

A new or revised and significantly improved ordinance related to trees was adopted. The ordinance(s) must lead to the improved management and/or protection of trees and tree habitat and might include such measures as protecting historic or specimen trees, protecting trees and tree habitat during construction, conserving woodlands, ending tree topping, requiring new developments to preserve green spaces or plant trees, requiring parking lot landscaping, etc. (Please enclose copy of ordinance as documentation.)

### C9. Standards and Specifications (6 points)

A standards and specifications document was adopted, or updated and significantly improved, as a separate document which complements the community's tree ordinance. Provisions might include such things as acceptable street trees to plant, standards for planting in downtown areas and along residential streets, and tree-maintenance guidelines. The standards would be updated and kept current by the city forester, tree board, or equivalent authority. (Please enclose copy with documentation.)

### C10. Wildlife Habitat (3 points)

Wildlife habitat was developed or protected, including such practices as setting aside “no mowing” zones, planting trees and shrubs for wildlife purposes, protecting riparian zones, adding water impoundments for wildlife, providing nest boxes, etc.

### C11. Park, Open Space (5 points)

Forested open space was acquired or a park developed with major tree planting. To use this criterion, it is necessary to demonstrate that the forestry staff or tree board was instrumental in the project. The land in question must be available for public use. Land covered by a scenic or other easement may also be included here.

### C12. Emergency Plan (4 points)

A tree-care emergency plan was developed or significantly improved. The plan could outline who will provide what services after a severe storm, mutual aid available between communities or jurisdictions, and how to work effectively with the news media.

### C13. Professional Tree Manager (10 points)

A full-time city forester or equivalent was hired for the first time. (Please indicate name, title, education/degree and starting date.)



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Seek and receive accreditation for the municipal forestry department such as that provided by the [Society of Municipal Arborists](#).

## Next - Category D:Tree Planting & Maintenance

### Related Resource

[Tree City USA Bulletin: How to Conduct a Street Tree Inventory](#)

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# Tree City Growth Awards

## Category D: Tree Planting and Maintenance



### D1. Special Tree Planting Project (4 points)

A tree-planting project for a special purpose such as energy conservation, or requiring special circumstances such as pit construction or vandalism protection was successfully implemented.

Such a project would require a special appropriation, or special cooperation with the neighborhood or business district.

### D2. Public Utility Tree Care (5 points)

The maintenance of publicly owned utility lines was significantly improved to reduce adverse impacts on trees. An example would be training in the use of state-of-the-art techniques that avoid topping trees, or qualifying as a Tree Line USA Utility.

### D3. Recycling (6 points)

A biomass recycling program was successfully implemented or significantly improved. This may include street tree leaves, lawn wastes, tree removals, Christmas trees, etc.

### D4. Street Tree Planting (7 points)

The city formally established or significantly improved its street-tree-planting program.



### D5. Street Tree Pruning (8 points)

A formal pruning system was established or improved for the city's street trees. This criterion requires significant improvement through the initiation of regularly scheduled visits to all street trees depending on the requirements of the species, or the reduction of time between visits if needed.

### D6. Hazard Tree Program (5 points)

A hazard tree assessment and action program was established or significantly improved, including employee training and a systematic method that includes periodic tree inspections and prompt follow-up when needed.

### D7. Special Program to Eliminate Destructive Practices (6 points)

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herbicides, weed cutters, and lawnmowers was successfully implemented.

#### D8. Integrated Pest Management (5 points)

Systems and methods for insect and disease control that are environmentally sensitive were put into place or significantly improved.

#### D9. Plans for Donations (3 points)

Plans were developed or significantly improved for projects such as vest-pocket parks, arboretum improvements, memorial tree groves, woodland acquisitions, etc. to be available in case of unexpected cash donations or similar opportunities.

#### D10. Contract Growing (5 points)

A contract with a nursery was initiated or significantly improved to provide specific varieties or species of street and park trees for future years (to enable planning and to assure having the right trees for the right sites).

#### D11. Tree Preservation (6 points)

A special project or program was initiated to preserve or relocate trees on development or construction sites.

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