



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

Regular Meeting Agenda  
February 25, 2013, 6:30 pm  
Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Council Chamber

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*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. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

- 1.1. Call to Order
- 1.2. Roll Call
- 1.3. Recognition of former Commissioners Jim Mikles and Clay Craig
- 1.4. Special Presentation: Slideshow of Bidwell Park presented at the Induction of Bidwell Park into the California Parks and Recreation Society Hall of Honor.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

- 2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

**Action:** Approve minutes of BPPC held on 1/28/13.

- 2.2. Consideration of Chico Area Recreation District's (CARD) request to waive reservation and vendor fees for 2013 permits.

CARD request to waive reservation and vendor fees for the Spring Jamboree; 4th of July Community Celebration; and Pastels on the Plaza. **Recommendation:** *Staff recommends approval of the CARD's request to waive the reservation and vendor fees. The applicant will pay the other required fees.*

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT** – if any

**3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS** - None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA**

- 4.1. Consideration of a Permit Application for a 5k Obstacle Course in Lower Park -- MMX Racing, Inc. requests a permit to host a 5K obstacle course in Lower Park on Saturday, June 8, 2013. This will be the first year the applicant has held this event and anticipates approximately 300-500 participants. The course will involve the placement of 8 obstacles that will be free-standing. **Recommendation:** *Staff recommends that the BPPC utilize the BP Master Management Plan for guidance in the consideration of this application.*

- 4.2. Finalization of 2013 Committee Assignments and Chairs.

BPPC members serve on the Policy Advisory, Natural Resources, Street Trees Committees and the City's ad hoc Bicycle Advisory Committee. The Committees allow more detailed consideration of issues. Findings or recommendations are then reported to the entire BPPC. Assignments are at the BPPC Chair's prerogative with staff recommendations.

**Recommendation:** *Maintain current committee structure and announce Chair's committee assignments.*

- 4.3. Introduction to the 2013 - 2014 BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities (Informational Only).

Staff will provide an update on past priorities and discuss the overall process for the development of the BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities for 2013-2014. **Recommendation:** *Staff seeks BPPC input and will develop a more refined report for BPPC discussion and approval at a future meeting.*

**5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

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

**6. REPORTS**

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them to a subsequent posted agenda.

- 6.1. Urban Forest Manager's Report - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager
- 6.2. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to the next regular meeting on March 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).



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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 working days prior to the meeting.

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

Minutes of  
January 28, 2013 Regular Meeting

**1. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

**1.1. Call to Order**

Chair Ober called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**1.2. Swearing-in of Commissioners - City Clerk Deborah Presson**

City Clerk Debbie Presson swore in new and returning Park Commissioners Mary Brentwood, Janine Rood and Drew Traulsen.

**1.2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair** – Parks and Natural Resources Manager, Dan Efseaff  
Commission Chairs are allowed to serve two year appointments. A brief discussion ensued and the following motions were made.

**MOTION:** Appointed Lisa Emmerich to serve as Chair of the BPPC. **MADE BY:** Brentwood.  
**SECOND:** Moravec. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

**MOTION:** Appoint Jim Moravec to serve as Vice-Chair of the BPPC. **MADE BY:** Emmerich  
**SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

**1.4. Roll Call**

**Commissioners present:**

Mary Brentwood  
Lisa Emmerich  
Mark Herrera  
Jim Moravec  
Richard Ober  
Janine Rood  
Drew Traulsen

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff present:** Dan Efseaff (Park and Natural Resource Manager), Ruben Martinez (General Services Director), Denice Britton (Urban Forest Manager), Lise Smith-Peters (Park Services Coordinator) and Debbie Presson, City Clerk.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are to be considered routine and enacted by one motion.

**2.1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Action:** Approve minutes of BPPC held on 1/28/13.

## **2.2. Permit for Making Strides 5K Run.**

The American Cancer Society requested a permit to host a walk in Lower Park on 10/19/13. The Commission considered the application because the group is requesting the use of a park area for multiple days and for more than 10-hours.

## **2.3. Permit for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pedal Powered Music Festival.**

Applicant requested a permit to host a bicycle pedal powered music festival at Camellia Way Park on June 1, 2013. The application is considered by the BPPC because the group is requesting to host a public event in an area that is not designated as an intensive use area. Commissioner Herrera excused himself.

**MOTION:** Approve the consent agenda as submitted. **MADE BY:** Ober. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

## **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT – IF ANY**

### **3. NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

### **4. REGULAR AGENDA**

#### **4.1. Discussion of Committee Assignments and the 2013 Meeting Calendar.**

Park staff explained the committees of the BPPC: Policy Advisory, Natural Resources, Street Trees and the City's ad hoc Bicycle Advisory. During committee meetings, Commissioners and the public are allowed more detailed consideration on park issues. The findings and recommendations are then reported to the entire BPPC at the regular monthly meetings. Assignments are at the BPPC Chair's prerogative with staff recommendations. Staff requested that Commissioners send in their preferences to Park staff by February 11 and the committees will be announced at the February meeting. Staff asked that the 2013 calendar for Committee Meetings and BPPC Annual schedule be approved with the following changes: the 05/27 meeting will be moved to 05/28 to avoid Memorial Day and the 12/30 meeting will be moved to 12/16 to avoid the New Year holiday.

**MOTION:** Approve the BPPC regular meetings calendar. **MADE BY:** Moravec. **SECOND:** Ober. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

#### **4.2. Heritage Tree Application**

A Blue Atlas Cedar street tree located at 1641 Mulberry and 17<sup>th</sup> Street was submitted for Heritage Tree status by the adjoining property owner, Julie Shaw. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> Heritage Tree application and a first for a citizen to apply for a City street tree. Ms. Shaw stated that she enjoys the beauty of this huge tree and that this status will mean that it will receive special attention and care for years to come. She also complimented Field Supervisor Dave Bettencourt for the information on the tree that he shared with her.

**MOTION:** Approve the application for the street tree to receive Heritage Status and forward to Council. BPPC regular meetings calendar. **MADE BY:** Herrera. **SECOND:** Brentwood. **AYES:** 7 (Brentwood, Emmerich, Herrera, Moravec, Ober, Rood, and Traulsen). **NOES:** 0. **ABSENT:** 0

### **5. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

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

FROM THE PUBLIC:

Jane Turney stated that she was concerned by the lack of signage for the Monkey Face trail work currently underway and said that the Master Management Plan calls for educational and informational signage for such projects. Park and Natural Resources Manager Efseff stated that our Rangers are working on interpretational signage for the area and we host our next Park Talk at Monkey Face.

**6. REPORTS**

Items provided for the Commission's information and discussion. No action can be taken on any of the items unless the Commission agrees to include them to a subsequent posted agenda.

**6.1. Policy Advisory Committee Report – Lisa Emmerich, Chair**

Chair Emmerich reported the proceedings from the Policy Advisory Committee from 1/17/13. The Committee suggested changes in the Revised Fee Schedule regarding vendors, payment of additional costs that exceed the damage deposit and rounding up fees. Commissioner Brentwood asked if there was a mechanism to ensure that applicants have to pay for costs over the \$100 damage fee and staff reported that we bill the applicant at this time. Failure to pay will be handled by 1) making contact with an applicant and 2) then disallowing the event to be held in the Park for the future.

The Committee then discussed some revisions to the Wet Weather Management Plan in assessing areas of the Disc Golf course, using a more visible closed sign and reevaluating the assessment route used in Upper Park for the trails. Both items will come back to the Commission for review and approval.

**6.2. Special Report: 2012 Street Trees and Urban Forest Annual Report – Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager**

Urban Forest Manager Britton presented the Street Trees and Public Plantings Division's Annual Report and overview of care and maintenance of over 30,000 trees and the 229 landscape maintenance areas. Much of the current focus is on formative pruning of young trees, working on deferred maintenance of trees, working with tree and landscape companies to improve their performance, and continuation of the citizen tree planting program. The Urban Forest Management Plan is well underway after months of Tree Committee work and should be finalized later this spring. Commissioner Ober inquired about the "Hwy 32 Upgrade Project" and staff reported that it would be the widening of Hwy 32 segment between Hwy 99 and El Monte. There will be some tree removal from the northside of the highway and that it has been delayed due to funding issues. Commissioner Emmerich asked about accessibility clearance if trees are too low. Staff stated that if it is a tree issue then it would be taken care of by routine pruning and safety measures. Sidewalks would fall under Capitol Projects.

**6.3. Special Report: 2012 Park Division Annual Report – Dan Efseff, Park and Natural Resource Manager**

Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efseff began the Park Division's Annual Report with the announcement that Bidwell Park will be inducted into the CA Parks and Recreation Society, District 2's Hall of Honor as a "Regional Treasure" in February. This prestigious award recognizes the importance of Bidwell Park to Chico as well as to our region. He then described the Park Division's various program areas: Administrative and Visitor Services, Maintenance and Infrastructure, Natural Resource Management, Outreach and Education, Ranger and Lifeguard, and Volunteer and Donations. Our Park staff cares for Bidwell Park as well as other City parks, open spaces and greenways. Many of the Commission's Workplan projects are well underway with completion dates for the Trails and Natural Resources Plan anticipated for 2013. Park and greenway volunteers logged 19,801 hours toward trash and weed removal, restoration with native plants, propagation of plants, and trail work. The Park Division is challenged by increasing visitors estimated at over a million (with the help of traffic counters); limited resources due to

budget cuts, and an aging infrastructure that needs renovating and replacement. Despite the obstacles, our staff has increased efforts in outreach and education, natural vegetation restoration and management efforts, trail projects on the Middle Trail and at Monkey Face, and expanding the volunteer program with trainings for new crew leaders and trail volunteers. Annual Reports for each of the Park's leasees were also included with the report.

Commissioners agreed that the Street Trees and Urban Forest Annual Report and Park Division's Annual Reports were extremely comprehensive and impressive and can be used for informing the public of budget and resource needs.

**6.4. Urban Forest Manager's Report** - Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager

Urban Forest Manager Britton presented the month's update stating the tree planting workshops will continue this spring and that she is looking into partnering with a Chico school for an Arbor Day celebration. A code violation had been issued to the Holiday Inn for topping of street trees along Manzanita Court. Staff reported that a large tree fell across Cal-Trans Right of Way at the east end of Woodland Ave and has destroyed a fence that needs to be removed.

**6.5. Park and Natural Resources Manager's Report** - Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager.

Park and Natural Resource Manager Efseaff stated that the trail crew has been working on a re-route of Monkey Face and that a major education campaign will take place to inform the public of the need for the re-route to protect this unique natural resource. The North State Resources has completed the Oak Monitoring Report which is attached to the report. Staff is looking into a new installing a bollard with a closed sign at Hole 1 as well as into whether signage could be placed on Hwy 32, near Bruce Road, that would indicate the open/closed status of the disc golf course. The restroom at Five Mile Recreation Area has been closed and new porta potties put in place until a new septic system can be installed. The new BPPC Work Plan will need to be worked on this spring and some items, such as the Natural Resource Management and Trails Plans, will be carried over from the last one.

Commissioner Herrera asked about the status of Bidwell Ranch since the last update to Council in August 2011 and what role does the BPPC play in the project. Staff reported that it was a Council directive to look into a Conservation Mitigation Bank. There will be a contract in place soon. The next step is to get the contract in place so that the pros and cons can be fully considered. There are four options to consider: 1) no action; 2) full conservation mitigation bank; 3) utilize the property only for City mitigation projects; and 4) a hybrid of 2) and 3). Bidwell Ranch will be kept on the Work Plan.

Commissioner Emmerich asked about a calculation error on page 3 of the Oak Monitoring Report. Outside Recreation Advocacy, Inc. pays for the reports. Staff will review the numbers and see about recalculation. The Technical Memorandum is preliminary findings.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 8:38 to the next regular meeting on February 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

Date Approved:    /    /   .

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Distribution: BPPC



DATE: February 7, 2013  
 TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission  
 FROM: Jessica Erdahl, Senior Park Ranger  
 SUBJECT: Consideration of CARD requests to waive reservation and vendor fees for the Spring Jamboree; 4<sup>th</sup> of July Community Celebration; and Pastels on the Plaza.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval of the Chico Area Recreational District’s (CARD) request to waive the reservation and vendor fees. The applicant will pay the other required fees.

**Background**

The Chico Area Parks and Recreation District (CARD), a public agency, has requested that the basic park use fees be waived for the following long standing events: 50<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Jamboree (March 30, 2013); 48<sup>th</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Community Celebration (City of Chico co-sponsored); and 10<sup>th</sup> annual Pastels on the Plaza (September 21, 2013). Staff can approve the permit application, but is not authorized to waive the fees in this case. The fees for these events have been waived in the past.

Chapter 12R.08 of the Chico Municipal Code (CMC) requires a permit for public events to be held in City parks and playgrounds and provides for the City to charge a permit application fee, basic park use fees, a damage deposit and other related fees for such events. Section 12R.08.250 of the CMC authorizes the Commission to waive or refund the basic park use fees for public events held by public agencies where the event is being conducted by such agency in furtherance of its powers and purposes. Pursuant to the CMC, this request is being forwarded to the Commission for consideration. Because these events are sponsored by a public agency, staff recommends that the fees be waived. A copy of CMC Section 12R.08.250 is attached for the Commission’s information.

**Discussion**

CARD is the primary provider of park and recreation programs for Chico residents of all ages, skills and abilities. Annually they sponsor several community events aimed at bringing the community together. A summary of the requested waived fees and required fees are provided below:

**CARD Request for Waived Basic Park Use Fees**

Fee	Spring Jamboree	4th Of July Celebration	Pastels on the Plaza	Total
Reservation Fee	\$291	\$291	\$87.50	
Vendor Fee	\$11	\$192.50	\$0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$302</b>	<b>\$483.50</b>	<b>\$87.50</b>	<b>\$873.00</b>

**Additional Park Use Fees Required of Applicant (Per CMC 12R.08.250)**

Application Fee	\$18.50	\$18.50	\$18.50	
1 Time Outside Insurance Process Fee	\$39	N/A	N/A	
Damage Deposit	\$100	N/A	\$100	
Event Restroom Fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Stage/Electrical Fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$157.50</b>	<b>\$18.50</b>	<b>\$ 118.50</b>	<b>\$294.50</b>

CARD has also submitted an application for a permit to host movies at Sycamore Field on June 15 and July 20, 2013. For the past several years CARD has shown a movie at this location. The request falls within the lease CARD has on Sycamore Field and a permit and fees are not required. However, due to the large number of participants—500 to 700—

CARD must provide 1 ADA and 1 standard portable restroom at the event site. The permit is for informational and coordination purposes. The South One Mile Recreation park gates will remain open beyond the normal closing times in order to accommodate this event.

**Attachments: Letter from CARD**



**TITLE 12R**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS OF BIDWELL PARK AND OTHER**  
**PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS**

**12R.08.250 General permit conditions - Basic park use fees.**

A. Fee Requirements. As a condition precedent to the issuance of a permit authorizing a public event in a city park or playground, the permittee shall pay to the city a basic park use fee in an amount established by resolution of the Bidwell Park and Playground commission and approved by resolution of the city council based on a fair share of that part of the overall cost of operating and maintaining the city's parks and playgrounds reasonably attributable to the permittee's use of city park facilities pursuant to such permit.

B. Waiver of Fees by the Park Director for Free Speech Events. The basic park use fees required by this section shall be waived by the park director for any permit authorizing a public event in a city park or playground or portion of a city park or playground designated as an intensive use area which does not exceed ten hours in length where the dominant purpose of such event is the exercise of free speech rights, and the permittee establishes that the permittee does not have the financial resources to pay such basic park use fee by filing with the park director financial statements demonstrating such inability to pay, together with a declaration, executed by or on behalf of the permittee under penalty of perjury, attesting to such inability to pay.

C. Waiver or Refund of Fees by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission for Events Conducted by Public Agencies and Non-Profit Organizations. The basic park use fees required by this section may be waived by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission for a permit authorizing an event in any city park or playground where the permittee is a public agency and the event is being conducted by such public agency in furtherance of its powers and purposes. In addition, where the permittee is a non-profit organization which is conducting an event primarily for the purpose of raising funds for the benefit of the City's parks and playgrounds, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission may refund that portion of the fee which is equal to the difference between the amount of the funds raised at the event for the benefit of the City's parks and playgrounds and the amount of the fee, or the entire fee where the amount of such funds exceeds the amount of the fee.

(Res. No. 153 92-93 §3 (part), Res. No. 95 96-97 §2)



Chico Area  
Recreation and  
Park District

February 6, 2013

Dear Bidwell Park and Playground Commission:

The Chico Area Recreation & Park District (CARD) will be holding several events in City parks in 2013. These events are free and provide opportunities for Chico residents to participate in community events with their families.

We are requesting that the basic park use fees be waived for the following long standing events: 50<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Jamboree (March 30, 2013); 48<sup>th</sup> annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Community Celebration (City of Chico co-sponsored - July 4, 2013); and 10<sup>th</sup> annual Pastels on the Plaza (September 21, 2013); and Movies in the Park (Sat. June 15 & July 20, 2013). We are a public agency providing park and recreation programs for Chico residents of all ages, skills and abilities. The fee waiver will allow us to continue to offer these quality events at no cost to the Chico community. We look forward to another great year.

Sincerely,

Ann Willmann

Sr. Recreation Supervisor

545 Vallombrosa Avenue

Chico, CA 95926

office: 530 895.4711

fax: 530 895.4721



DATE: February 7, 2013  
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)  
FROM: Jessica Erdahl, Senior Park Ranger  
Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager  
SUBJECT: Permit Application for a 5k Obstacle Course in Lower Park

## Recommendation

Staff recommends BPPC use of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan to determine whether the Bidwell Challenge is 1) in the public interest and 2) does not unreasonably impact the public's use of Bidwell Park. If the BPPC finds the answer to both questions in the affirmative, then staff recommends approval. If not, the permit should be rejected.

## Background

MMX Racing, Inc. requests a permit to host a 5K obstacle course in Lower Park on Saturday, June 8, 2013. This will be the first year the applicant has held this event and anticipates approximately 300-500 participants. Participants would start in 50 person waves 10 minutes apart. Assuming a participation number of 500, the time between the first and last wave is roughly 1 hour and 40 minutes. The applicant submitted the original application on 01/01/13, and subsequently submitted modification and a revised application on 02/04/13 after 2 meetings with staff.

The applicant is requesting to place 8 obstacles along the standard 5k course, including: a field of tires; rice bales; several walls—4', 5', 6' and 10' high; tunnels 3' in diameter; and a pool crossing at the conclusion of the event. (See attached permit application). All of the obstacles are free standing and will not be secured to any park infrastructure.

The applicant has not previously administered obstacle course events before, but states that he has successfully hosted events at his motocross facility in Marysville, CA. He is planning a similar event later this year, and hopes to develop a series of events nationally in the future.

## Discussion

The event requires BPPC consideration because it uses park facilities for a time period greater than 10 hours, is uncommon or unusual for a reserved area, and it may unreasonably interfere with the use of the intensive use area by other members of the general public not participating in the event.

Under the Chico Municipal Code (CMC), intensive use is permissible at the One-Mile Recreation Area, the Cedar Grove area, Petersen (North Park) Drive, and South Park Drive (12R.08.040). Intensive uses are those 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. Non-intensive uses 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. Running in the Park is a non-intensive use, and although temporary, the placement of obstacles may have visual and aesthetic impacts and interfere with the use of the area by the general public.

The permitting of runs on the 5 K route in Lower Park is a routine process and the Parks Division approves approximately 34 events annually. Unlike other running events, the addition of obstacles on the roadway creates a potential conflict with other park user's safe enjoyment of the Park. Other events may have items that are readily moveable (folding table with water and cups) or set up off of the road (i.e. musicians for the Mozart Mile, set up instruments, music stands, chairs, etc in parking areas or on the lawn).

The applicant has been cooperative and developed solutions for some of staff's concerns in preliminary conversations. Applicant moved the date of the event from May into June (after pool cleaning, when lifeguards are available, and to allow more time for consideration of the event), and responded to preliminary discussions with staff with modifications to the original application, including moving the obstacles to occupy less of the roadway, removing the request to use a forklift to set up the course, and compressing the time of the event so the obstacles would not be set up the day before and left overnight.

Staff also suggested that the applicant consider alternative venues such as community parks or develop alternative Park routes in which areas that may have less impact on general park use are explored (such as Sycamore Field, Cedar Grove, or shifting the venue to Wildwood Park or the Hooker Oak Recreational Area). These areas may have the advantage of requiring less time to set up, less impact to emergency vehicle access and visitors that use the roads but would transfer impacts to other areas not typically impacted during 5k events and would require additional analysis and CARD approval.

The applicant noted such changes would change the character of the event as he envisions it, and desired BPPC consideration of the route with the obstacles on the 5K route.

Most events of this type give consideration to fall prevention and are completed on grass, dirt, or over adequate fall material or pads. Staff indicated concern about the fact that the obstacles are over asphalt. The applicant will need to address this concern adequately through the City's risk management office.

A preliminary search, revealed that most mud run or obstacle courses in California are held either in developed parks or recreation areas (Folsom Lake State Park, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Gibson Ranch), permanent facilities set up for such events (Riverside training, or on private property (Lake Irvine, Van Vleck Ranch, Vail Lake Resort).

To our knowledge, no previous obstacle course events have been held on the 5 k course that required the set up of obstacles on South Park and Petersen Drives.

a. BPMMP Guidance

The Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) (EDAW 2008) provides several objectives that help with a decision and recommendations. Pertinent goals (G), objectives (O) and Implementation Strategies and Guidelines (I) include:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. O. RC-2. Direct new intensive recreation to neighborhood and community parks.
4. 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.
5. I.RC-2. The development of facilities and areas for intensive recreation outside of Bidwell Park shall be encouraged.
6. Goal VU: Continue to provide for a wide variety of visitor uses including quality recreational opportunities for users of all abilities.
7. O. VU-1. Consider the changing needs of the community when evaluating potential new Park uses.
8. O. VU-2. Match existing and desired uses to the area in the park most suitable to a particular use.
9. 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.
10. Goal AR: Identify and protect the scenic and aesthetic resources in Bidwell Park.
11. O. VR-1. Protect scenic characteristic and aesthetic resources.
12. 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.
13. Goal RecR-1: Provide diverse recreational opportunities for a variety of user groups consistent with the vision for Bidwell Park.
14. O. RA-1. Continue to provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities for Park users.

15. 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.
16. O. RA-3. Manage recreational facilities/events to avoid or minimize conflict between different Park users.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. O. RA-6. Consider impacts to established Park user experiences and changes in use patterns resulting from modifications to specific allowable uses.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. O. PRU-2. Provide for compatible recreation use levels and patterns while preserving the natural character and ecological resources of the Park.
23. 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.
24. 3.6.1.1 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.
25. O. Lower-1. Continue to utilize Lower Park as the focal point for intensive and developed recreational uses within Bidwell Park.
26. O. Lower-2. Ensure that future uses are similar to and consistent with permissible uses in Lower Park.
27. I.Lower-1. Recreational uses in Lower Park should be similar to and consistent with those currently allowed in Lower Park.
28. I.Lower-2. New uses and new development should be focused in currently developed areas whenever possible.
29. O. 1M-1. Manage the One-Mile Recreation Area as a multi-use community recreational resource.

b. Road and Other Park User Issues

Because of the obstruction on the roadway, Staff would recommend closure of Petersen and South Park Drives during the event (the gates at the South One Mile area could open after the last wave of participants about noon, the regular time is 9am). The event would not affect the Cedar Grove gates.

Recent, traffic counts suggest the weekend daily average number of visitors in June that access the S One Mile area via automobile on interior Park roads is approximately 834 (Petersen Drive is 84). Visitors arriving at the Park via other means (or parking outside of the park is estimated at least the same number). Many park visitors are aware of weekend events in the park and plan accordingly.

During the past 2 years Petersen Drive has been closed associated with construction at Highway 99 and for debris and safety during or after significant storm events. Park run events typically do not require the closure of the road as most runs are mandated to start early (8:30 am) to minimize impacts on other park visitors.

Typically, the width of interior park roads varies between 22-25 feet. Park Staff consulted with the Chico Fire Department about minimum road width for emergency vehicle response. Chico Fire officials cited California Fire Code Section 503.2.1 Dimensions which states, "Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 feet (6,096 mm), exclusive of shoulders, except for approved security gates in accordance with Section 503.6, and an unobstructed

vertical clearance of not less than 14 feet 6 inches (4,420 mm).” Chico Fire noted that the standard typically applies to roadways that provide access for structure fires and that the minimum width for access in the Park would be 12-14 feet.

Therefore, allowing a roadway access (without obstructions) on 12-14 feet is reasonable for emergency and service vehicle access. It’s possible to allow obstacles that leave less than 12 feet of the roadway, but the applicant would have to develop a viable plan (to move them and instruct participants to stop) to allow adequate access in case of emergency. The 12 foot width also provides access for other park users.

c. Framing of BPPC Permit Consideration

The BPPC must consider the event's impact to other park users and whether it is consistent with BPMMP goals. Section 12R.08.220 of the Chico Municipal Code (Action on applications for a park commission permit - Approval or denial of permit) states:

“After considering an application for a park commission permit authorizing a public event in a city or playground in the manner hereinbefore provided by this chapter, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission shall approve such permit if the commission determines that approval of such event is in the public interest and will not unreasonably interfere with the use of the nonintensive use areas of the city’s parks and playgrounds by other members of the general public not participating in the event. If the Bidwell Park and Playground commission fails to approve the application after considering same, then the application shall be deemed denied.”

In other words, if the BPPC finds that the event is in the public interest and provides no unreasonable interference with the public’s use of Bidwell Park, then staff recommends approval, if not, the permit should be rejected and the applicant referred to other appropriate facilities or the applicant directed to specific modifications (and subsequent analysis and review).

The BPMMP objectives (noted above) provide useful criteria for this determination and reflect the balance between recreation and impacts to other Park users. The BPPC will have to weigh the potentially conflicting objectives. For example, the event is similar to other 5K runs with some significant differences (the late start time and installation of obstacles); and the BPMMP encourages new recreational uses and response to changes in the community (O. RC-1, O. VU-1, O. VU-2). However, the BPMMP also states that new intensive recreation be directed to neighborhood and community parks and minimize the impact to non-intensive use areas (O. RC-2, I.RC-2). These other venues (Community Parks) may provide a better fit with management objectives.

d. Conditions if the BPPC moves to allow the event in Bidwell Park

If the BPPC recommends approval of the event, the applicant’s cooperation, coordination, and attention to the special conditions will be critical for the event to minimize impacts to other visitors and participants.

Staff recommends the following (subject to modifications depending on BPPC action):

1. The applicant will leave sufficient room (12 feet) for emergency vehicles. In the case that the obstacles (i.e. walls) occupy more space, the applicant will implement a plan to rapidly move the obstacles and stop participants to allow emergency or service vehicle access. All boundaries for the event obstacles and staging areas will be clearly signed and marked off, to alert other park users of the event and monitors will remain at each obstacle as long as the course is up.
2. Because of the early entry, applicant must be extra careful during set up.
3. Course monitors shall be positioned at each obstacle, at all bridge crossings and interspersed throughout the course. Monitors should wear identifiable badges or clothing and wear high visibility safety vests if in areas shared with vehicles.
4. Applicant will address safety concerns associated with the obstacles such as proper fall material or proper padding of barriers.
5. During the event, monitors will be in place to direct participants as well as restrict vehicle traffic, while allowing participants through. Adequate signage will also be in place to ensure racers follow the established routes and also to notify other park users of the event. The applicant will do a final inspection of the race courses at the conclusion of the event and remove all signs as well as pick up any associated garbage
6. Additionally, the applicant should contact CARD and coordinate the use of Sycamore Field if they intend on using this location as part of the event.
7. Event will start participants in groups of less than 50 people (10 minutes apart).
8. Applicant will utilize additional Sycamore Pool Lifeguards. Participants will walk only in the pool area. Applicant will work with staff for a route away from the pool to minimize disruption to other pool users. The additional lifeguards will not be at City expense and the applicant will pay for their service for the event.

9. Recommend closure of South One Mile until 12 PM and of Petersen Drive until 4 PM.
10. City requires applicant to coordinate and respond to impacts and issues associated with the Highway 99 construction.
11. To minimize the fiscal impact of the event, staff recommends that the applicant reimburse the City for costs associated with the following (billed at standard, adopted City rates):
  - a. Additional lifeguards devoted to monitor the event,
  - b. Ranger time for pre-race coordination, preparation of news releases, set up and break down, and
  - c. Any costs associated with damage to Park resources or clean-up time associated with the event.
12. We will require, at applicant's expense, presence of EMS on site.
13. Adequate consideration and measures for fall prevention that are deemed adequate through the City's risk management office.
14. Insurance coverage that is acceptable to the City's risk manager for this specific event in the amount of \$1,000,000.

An alternative condition, may be for the BPPC to create a cap on the event (with the last wave starting before 11 am) to lessen the impacts to other park users.

**Distribution:**

Jerrad Fisher

**Attachments:**

Application and permit for park use for a 5k Obstacle Course in Lower Park



# City of Chico

## APPLICATION & PERMIT FOR PARK USE

General Services Department - Park Division  
965 Fir Street/P.O. Box 3420  
Chico, CA 95927-3420  
(530) 896-7800 Fax: (530) 895-4731

Type of Event:
PUBLIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/>

### SECTION 1 - APPLICANT INFORMATION

Must be 18 or older • No glass beverage containers • Application fee due upon submittal •

THIS RESERVATION IS NOT VALID UNTIL APPROVED BY THE PARK DIVISION.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name of Applicant/Contact Person Jerrad Fisher

Description of Event: (family BBQ, walk/run, describe below if needed) Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> 2013

Organization Name (if applicable) MMX Racing, Inc.

Day and Date of Event:

Home, Organization, or Company Address Po box 4715

From: 5:00am To: 4:00pm  
Total Time Needed for Set-up, Event, and Clean-up

City, State, Zip Chico, Ca 95927

From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time of Event Only Number of people

Contact Phone # (530) 828-9529 Alternate Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address JFisher351@gmail.com

Note: Park gates will not remain closed beyond normal opening time for any event with less than 1,000 people. All races with less than 1,000 people at One Mile must start before 8:30 am. Street closure(s) subject to approval.

#### AREA REQUESTED: (Please check if requested)

- Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater
- Electricity (15 amp)
- Note: Special conditions apply for amplified sound (12R.08.263 CMC)
- Cedar Grove Picnic Area  Meadow
- Electricity (15 amp)  100 amp Electrical Service tables, restroom area (circle)  Water (public events only)
- Children's Playground
- Electricity (15 amp)-Pick up key on: \_\_\_\_\_ between 8:00 AM-4:30 PM
- Water (public events only)  100 amp Electrical Service
- City Plaza (Additional fees may apply)
- Electricity (15 amp)  100 amp Electrical Service
- Event Restrooms  Water (public events only)
- Fountain - On  Fountain - Off
- Meter Bags # \_\_\_\_\_  Sound Curtain

- Council Ring
- Fire Permit
- Five Mile Picnic Area
- One Mile Picnic/Barbeque Area - Water available, no hose bib
- Oak Grove A  Oak Grove B
- Sycamore Way Parking Lot Closure-Public Events ONLY
- Electricity (15 amp) tables, trees, parking area, restroom area
- Band Stand (15 amp) (circle above)
- BBQ-Pick up key on: \_\_\_\_\_ between 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- Depot Park
- Electricity (15 amp)
- Lower Bidwell Park (public events only): \_\_\_\_\_
- Upper Bidwell Park (public events only): \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (specify) (public events only): \_\_\_\_\_
- Early Entrance Needed (public events only) Yes No

Additional Description of the Event: SK obstacle run in Bidwell Park

FOR PARK RANGER ASSISTANCE during the event, CALL 530-897-4900 (Police Department Dispatch)

### SECTION 2 - PERMIT FEES

Call Park Office at 896-7800 for availability of park areas and fee schedule 80.020

- Application Fee \$ 18.50 (Non-Refundable)
- Reservation Fee \$ 174.00 (\$10.50 minimum, please call for quote)
- Insurance Fee \$ 39.00 (\$39.00 to process outside insurance)
- Vendor Fee # 10 \$ 55.00 (\$5.50 per vendor)
- Damage Deposit \$ 100.00 (\$100.00 refundable following acceptable clean-up after event)
- Early Entrance Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$31.50/hr, public events only)
- Additional Park Use Fees \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (see fee schedule)

<b>Additional fees for City Plaza use:</b>	
Event Restrooms _____ x (\$92.00) = \$ _____	#days
100 amp Electrical _____ x (\$29.00) = \$ _____	(electrician required) #days

Total Fee Required: \$ 386.50

Fee due upon submittal of application \* Make Checks Payable to: City of Chico

City of Chico Cash Receipt No. CR 361423 Payment Method: CK 5440AD Date: 6/1/13 Received By: TR

Office Distribution:	Permit File (original) Park Field Supervisor	Park Ranger 1 Park Ranger 2	Senior Park Ranger Landscape Inspector.	Applicant Risk Management (e-mail)	Email (various) 920 Fund
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## SECTION 3

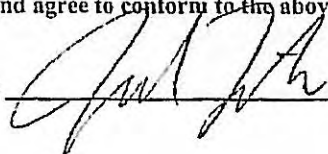
# CONDITIONS FOR PARK USE

**You Are Responsible for Knowing the Park Rules. Please Observe the Following:**

<b>Alcohol</b>	Alcohol is not permitted in any City Park or Playground.
<b>BBQ's</b>	Portable BBQ's may only be used next to existing BBQ's in Lower Bidwell Park and Five Mile Recreation Areas.
<b>Bicycles</b>	Must observe all California vehicular codes including one-way streets. Riders are expected to be courteous and yield to equestrian and pedestrian traffic. Helmets must be worn at all times in Upper Park, except when on pavement. Riders must stay on designated trails. Bicycle riding is not allowed in Caper Acres or on the Sycamore pool deck.
<b>Bounce Houses</b>	Bounce houses and other similar play equipment are only permitted with a reservation and upon approval by the Park Division. The operators of this equipment must provide proof of insurance. Bounce houses are not allowed in Caper Acres.
<b>Campfires</b>	No campfires allowed.
<b>Camping</b>	No overnight camping allowed. Bidwell Park is a "day use park" only.
<b>Clean up</b>	Permittee is required to completely clean up area at the conclusion of event. Additional garbage bags may be obtained from the General Services Department at time of reservation. (12R.04.180 CMC)
<b>Damages</b>	Any damage to City property as a result of this event will be repaired at permittee's expense.
<b>Dogs</b>	Dogs may be off leash from 5:30 AM until 8:30 AM in Lower Park -- All other times dogs must be on a leash. At the north side of Upper Park Road, dogs may be "off leash" anytime. While "off leash," dogs must remain under control via master's voice. <i>Dogs are not allowed in Caper Acres, One-Mile or Five-Mile swimming areas, or designated swimming holes in Upper Park.</i>
<b>Electrical</b>	All power extension cords, sound amplification equipment, and staging to be supplied by permittee. Permittee shall provide "tripping" prevention devices over power cords crossing any pathway.
<b>Fishing</b>	<u>Big Chico Creek:</u> Check California Fish and Game Regulations, <a href="http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations/">http://www.dfg.ca.gov/regulations/</a> , Freshwater Sport Fishing, Alphabetical List of Waters with Special Fishing Regulations, (20) Big Chico Creek. <u>Horseshoe Lake:</u> <u>Age 14 and over</u> - license, catch and release; <u>Under 14</u> - no license, catch and keep.
<b>Gate Closures</b>	Upper Park gate at parking area E is closed on Sundays and Mondays and during wet periods. Gates can be closed for approved special events. See <a href="http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/gate_closing_hours.asp">www.ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/gate_closing_hours.asp</a>
<b>Glass</b>	No glass beverage containers allowed in any City Park or Playground.
<b>Horses</b>	Horses must stay on designated trails. Horses are not allowed in One-Mile or Five-Mile Recreation Areas. Horses must cross the creek at approved crossings. Safe and courteous riding is the Park standard.
<b>Noise</b>	No loud or unusual noises are allowed, including: radios and headsets that can be heard over 50' away. Music/Amplified Sound at One-Mile Recreation Area, please, face all speakers away from Woodland Ave.
<b>Park Closures</b>	Lower Park is closed from 12:00 am (midnight) until 5:00 am every day, unless directly and actively proceeding to a destination outside of the park. Upper Park is closed between the hours of 11:00 pm and 60 minutes before sunrise every day, unless posted otherwise.
<b>Signs/Defacing</b>	Defacing of trees, benches, tables, any park fixtures, open ground, or paved roads/paths with markings, staples, tacks, or signs is prohibited. No pinatas, or accessories shall be affixed to trees. Only barricades, cones, or self standing devices may be used for these purposes.
<b>Smoking</b>	No smoking in Upper Park from May 1st - November 1 <sup>st</sup> . No smoking in City Plaza or Caper Acres any time.
<b>Swimming</b>	While in the 1-Mile swim area compliance with lifeguards is required for public safety. Pool is open and lifeguards are on duty from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
<b>Vegetation</b>	No taking, cutting or injury of any vegetation in the Park is allowed.
<b>Vehicle Traffic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• While gates are closed, limited use of vehicles to set up for event is permitted. Vehicles must be in compliance with the one-way designation of the roadway, must yield to all other activities (walking, jogging, bicycling, and horseback riding), must travel with flashers on and may not exceed ten (10) miles per hour.</li><li>• Permittee shall provide adequate signs and supervision to avoid conflicts between vehicles, bicycles, equestrians, and general public.</li><li>• Only emergency vehicles will be allowed access through the area of South Park Drive which has been closed to motor vehicles.</li><li>• No vehicles are permitted to travel or park on grass areas.</li></ul>

**\*I have read and agree to conform to the above rules and conditions:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_



**SECTION 4 – INSURANCE**

(to be determined by Park Office)

**INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS ARE APPLICABLE TO:**

Insurance Required      [ ] Not Required

- (1) All Public Events per Title 12R.08.240, and/or
- (2) All Events Public or Private where:
  - (a) Amplified sound is used, or
  - (b) The number of people participating amount to 100 or more.

If insurance is required for your event, please contact the Risk Management office at 530-879-7910, by fax at 530-895-4733, or email at [riskmanagement@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:riskmanagement@ci.chico.ca.us). Insurance may also be purchased through the City.

If insurance is required, Certificate of Insurance, meeting City standards must be received by: May 24, 2013  
Organization Named on Certificate of Insurance K2 Insurance

Permittee shall supply, at least two (2) weeks in advance of the scheduled event, a Certificate of Insurance issued by a company licensed to do business in California with a Best's Insurance Guide rating of "B" or better ("A" rated if Company is unlicensed) which provides evidence of comprehensive and general liability coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 combined single limit, with policy endorsements as follows:

- (1) Identification of permit applicant, identification of event, date of event.

**NOTE: NUMBERS 2 AND 3 MUST BE SEPARATE ENDORSEMENTS:**

- (2) The City of Chico, its officers, boards and commissions, and members thereof, its employees and agents are covered as additional insureds as respects to any liability arising out of the activities of the named insured.
- (3) The insurance coverages afforded by this policy shall be primary insurance as respects to the City of Chico, its officers, employees, or agents. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the City of Chico, its officers, employees, or agents shall be in excess of the insurance afforded to the named insured by this policy and shall not contribute to it.
- (4) An unqualified statement that "The insurer will provide the City at least ten (10) days prior notice of cancellation or material change in coverage", standard Certificate of Insurance cancellation language is not acceptable

**Please Note:** Your reservation may be cancelled if the insurance is not approved at least two weeks prior to the scheduled event

**SECTION 5 - ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITIONS**

In signing this Permit, I agree to indemnify and hold the City of Chico and/or the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission free and clear of all claims of damage for injury to persons or property occurring in, upon or about Bidwell Park, and arising from my use of the park as noted above, and to defend any action against the City of Chico resulting from any such claim, without cost to the City.

\*I certify that I have read this application thoroughly, followed any and all instructions, understand its contents, will comply with the attached "Conditions for Park Use", will adhere to any additional conditions set forth by this permit, and supplied true and correct information herein to the best of my knowledge and belief.

X [Signature]  
Signature of Applicant

X 2/14/13  
Date

**RETURN THIS FORM TO:**

City of Chico - Park Division  
965 Fir Street  
Chico, CA 95928

FAX 530-895-4731 or email to [Parkinfo@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:Parkinfo@ci.chico.ca.us)

**THIS RESERVATION IS NOT VALID UNTIL APPROVED BY THE PARK DIVISION.**

A copy of the approved application will be returned to you.

**SECTION 6 – GENERAL SERVICES DIRECTOR AUTHORIZATION**

I certify that I have carefully reviewed this application pursuant to Title 12 and 12R of the Chico Municipal Code and hereby recommend that this permit be:

- [ ] Approved.
- [ ] Approved subject to listed additional condition(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- [ ] Denied by the General Services Director. Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] Application fee waived (12R.08.100 CMC). Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] Reservation fee waived (12R.08.250 CMC). Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] Vendor fee waived (12R.08.250 CMC). Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] Insurance fee waived (12R.08.240 CMC). Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] Damage deposit fee waived (12R.08.260 CMC). Reason: \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] Application approved by the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] Application denied by the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission. Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of General Services Director

Date

# EVENT INFORMATION

Please answer the following questions by circling "Yes" or "No"

Is this an annual event? How many years have you been holding this event? _____	Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Is there a patron admission, entry, or participant fee(s) required for your event? <u>\$50-60</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Will there be amplified sound/music at event? (Please see 'Conditions For Park Use') Specify type (microphone, band, radio, PA system etc): <u>DS microphone</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
When will amplified sound/music be heard? Time from: <u>7:00am</u> until: <u>2:00 pm</u> amps needed (15 or 100) _____ Note: 100 amp electrical service requires a certified electrician to operate.		
Will there be any entertainment apparatus? (Operator to provide proof of insurance) [ ] Bounce house [ ] Climbing wall [ ] Ropes Course [ ] Other: <u>obstacles throughout</u> Name of Operator: _____ <u>Course.</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Will there be any vendors at this event? (No glass or alcohol permitted) If "yes" please note the number of vendors anticipated: <u>10</u> (submit a, separate, complete list) Does your event include food concession and/or preparation areas? If yes, please describe how food will be served and/or prepared: <u>Outside Caterer, meeting all required health codes.</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Will event require that any part of the Park remain closed beyond the normal time of opening? Note: Park gates will not remain closed beyond normal opening time for any event with less than 1,000 people. All races with less than 1,000 people at One Mile must start before 8:30am. (Subject to approval by the General Services Department Director and/or Senior Park Ranger.) If "yes" please state which gate(s): <u>Peterson Dr</u> Time of closure from: <u>11:00am</u> until: <u>2:00pm</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Will there be early entrance into the Park for setup? If "yes" when will monitors be at their position(s)? Time from: <u>5:00am</u> until: <u>4:00</u> Note: Gate Monitors are required at the entrances and exits for early Park entrance. An additional fee may be charged for early entrance.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Will event require over night camping for security purposes? (authorized for a maximum of two people, 12R.04.340 CMC) If "yes" how many security personnel will be required?	Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Portable Restrooms: You are required to provide portable restroom for events with 200+ participants at your event, in the immediate area of the event site which will be available to the public during your event. Restroom Company <u>Ben toilet rentals</u> Phone Number <u>800-767-8276</u> Location of portable restrooms <u>#4-7 restrooms</u> Note: Restrooms shall be removed within 24 hrs after conclusion of event.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Sanitation and Recycling: As an event organizer, you must properly dispose of waste and garbage throughout the term of your event and immediately upon conclusion of the event the area must be returned to a clean condition. For events with 200+ participants, additional trash and recycling cans are required. Number of Trash Cans <u>2-5</u> Number of Recycling Containers <u>2-5</u> Sanitation Company <u>Waste Management - North Valley</u> Phone Number <u>530-893-4777</u> Note: Sanitation containers shall be removed within 24 hrs after conclusion of event.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Will your event include the use of any signs, banners or decorations? (Please see 'Conditions For Park Use') If yes, please describe type and location: <u>PVC banner stand (Free Standing)</u> Note: All signs and banners shall be free standing and not affixed to Park property.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Will water be needed during your event? Please provide your own hose and on/off switch. No hose bib is available at One Mile Recreation Area. Note: Please request a water coupler key for City Plaza, Children's Playground, and Cedar Grove.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Do you request irrigation to be turned off before and during your event?	Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
<b>CITY PLAZA ONLY:</b> Vehicles are not allowed in City Plaza. Loading and unloading must occur from the streets. Meter bags for unloading and loading <u>only</u> may be obtained from the City by calling (530) 896-7800.		
Will vendors be placed on the perimeter sidewalks? If yes, a Vend, Peddle, Hawk permit must be obtained from the Engineering Division at 411 Main St, Chico, (530) 879-6900.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
Will City street closure(s) be needed? A separate permit must be obtained from the Engineering Division at 411 Main Street, Chico, (530) 879-6900.	Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

# Bidwell Challenge

## Event Proposal

My name is Jerrad Fisher and I am a Chico local. I am a physically active individual and as well as a regular Bidwell Park user. I own and operate a motocross track as well as coordinate about 15 motocross events per year. I'm interested in coordinating an event of this proportion because I wish to promote an active lifestyle among community members. By participating in this event, I feel that others can experience the Chico I'm familiar with: endless recreational opportunities and a close-knit community. Events like this not only encourage people to be active, they also create an environment where camaraderie can be experienced.

### How this event will benefit the Chico community:

- Draw new visitors to Chico and the "Bidwell Park experience"
- Bring in tax revenue and increase business sales (ie: hotels, restaurants, shopping)
- Showcase the community with local sponsors and vendors
- Provide a local, safe, and fun event that is on trend with the athletic community
- Promote an active, healthy lifestyle which reflects Chico values.

### Concerns for Park Protection

Environmental Impact/Safety: Our main focus is to leave the park in the same state in which we arrived with no trace left behind.

- All obstacles are free standing and will not be secured to park terrain.
- All constructed obstacles will be inspected for safety by a licensed contractor prior to event.
- Rice bales will be used in place of hay bales (minimal seed spread)
- Obstacle placement will not obstruct the path for emergency vehicles and regular park users.
- Tire obstacle will be of clean used tires in good conditions.

## ***Event Timeline***

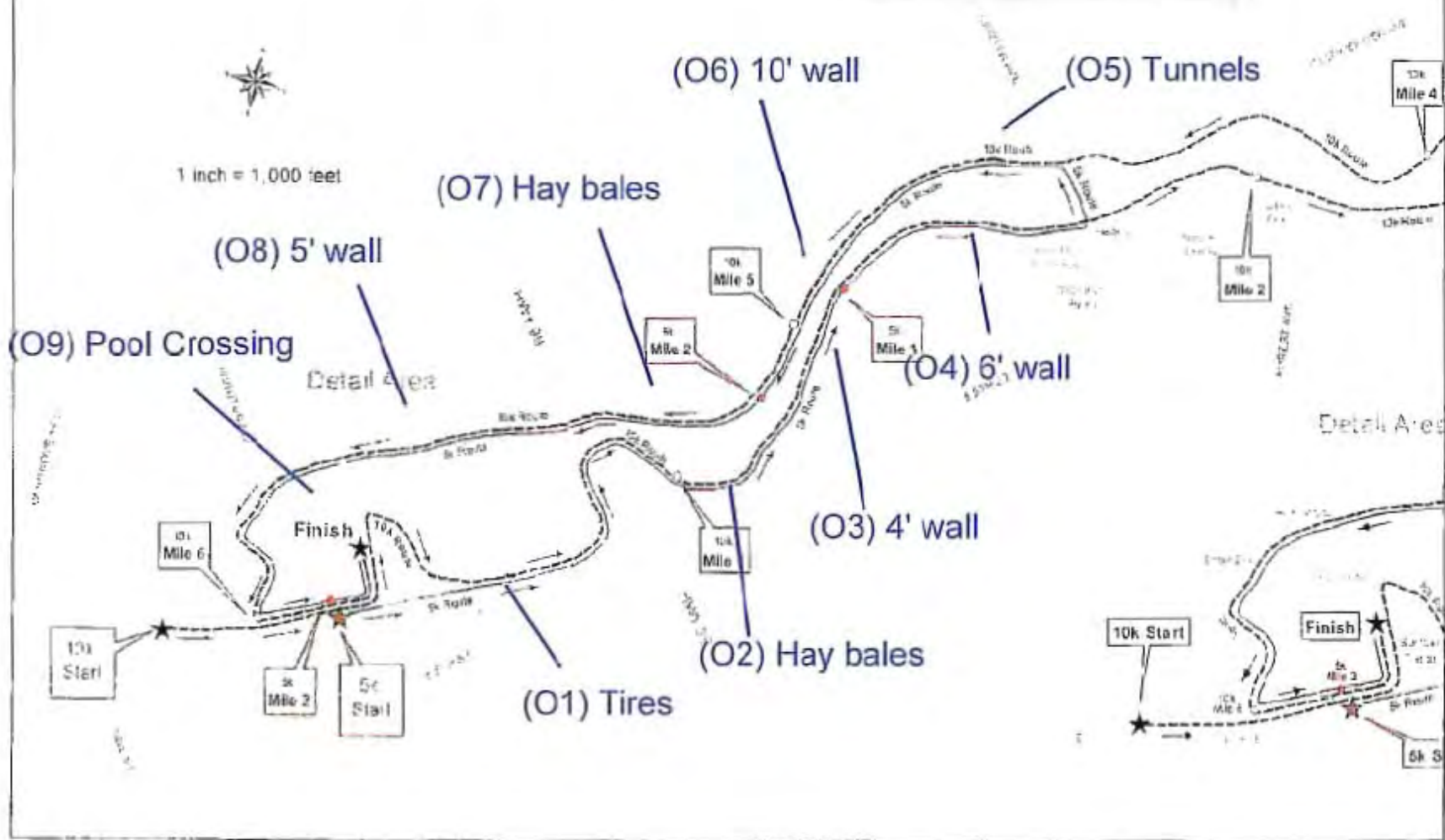
### **May 18<sup>th</sup> Setup**

- ❖ 5:00 a.m.
  - Crew of 6 assemblymen will arrive with a truck and forklift to transport and place obstacles.
  - Event staff/volunteers arrive to place obstacles, barriers, and event signage.
  - Obstacles will be placed on trail with enough space to allow for vehicles, pedestrians, and regular park users.
  - Park barriers will be completely self-standing and will not damage any park facility or terrain.
  - Cones will be used along with caution tape to section off and alert event participants of course route and obstacles.
  - Banners/signs placed. Labeling: start, finish, registration, course route.
- ❖ 6:30 a.m.
  - Vendors arrive and set up (including catered lunch)
  - Dj arrives to set up sound system
  - Timing equipment set up
- ❖ 7:00 a.m.
  - event day registration
- ❖ 7:30 a.m. Staging of first wave
- ❖ 8:00 a.m. First wave of participants start
  - Every 10 minutes after a new wave of participants is released. Participants will be released in waves of 40-50. Wave amounts will be adjusted accordingly depending on how many entries are received.
  - Final wave of participants will be released approximately 12:00 p.m.
- ❖ 10:30 a.m. Begin serving lunch
- ❖ 12:00 p.m. Truck will follow final wave to collect/tear down obstacles.
- ❖ 1:30 p.m. Awards
- ❖ 2:00 p.m.
  - Lunch service ends
  - Vendors break down
  
- ❖ 4:00 p.m.
  - (At the latest) All obstacles/event props/trash will be cleaned up.

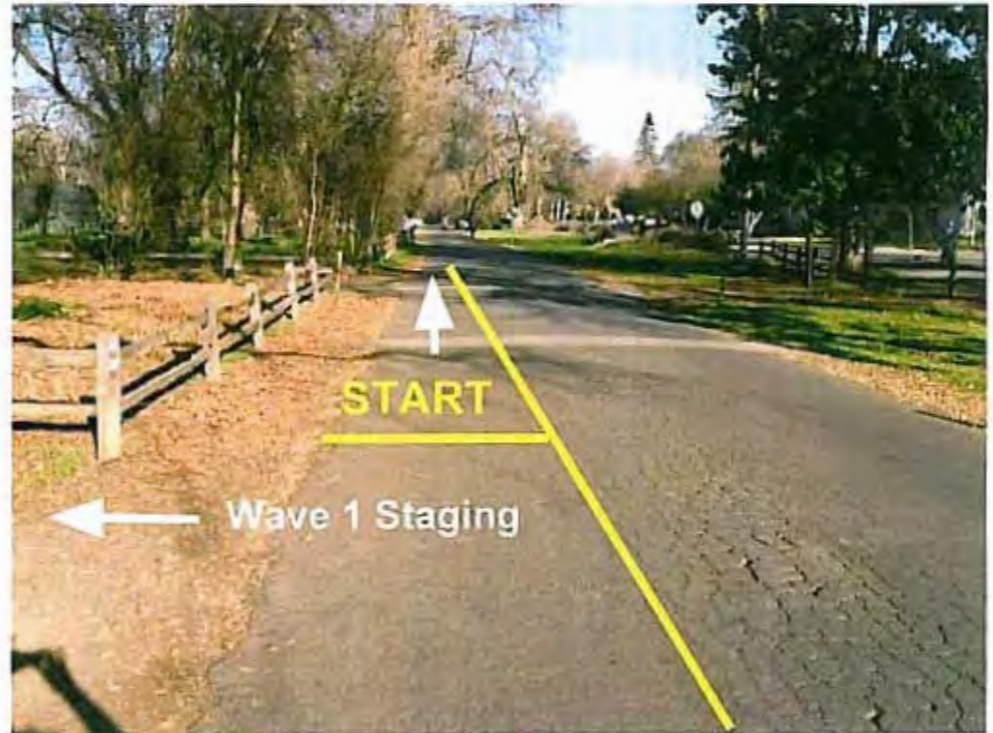
City of Chico  
5k & 10k Routes  
Lower Bidwell Park

Bidwell Challenge

Obstacle Placement  
5K Course



# Start Area



40% of the road (appx. 7ft) will be allocated.



Pathway by Gilberts Grove will be main staging area with parking lots used for immediate waves 1 and 2 to keep people organized and off the road.

# Obstacle 1 (O1): Field of Tires

Tires are laid out covering half the width of the path (approximately 7-8') and approximately 30ft long, leaving ample room for emergency personnel & regular park users. Tires will be clean and removed after event leaving no trace behind.



Actual location in Bidwell Park. Tires will start behind yellow markers.



# Obstacle 2 (O2): Hay Bales

## Obstacle 7 (O7)

Hay bales will be stacked covering half the width of the path (approximately 7-8') and no more than 3 feet in height, leaving ample room for emergency personnel & regular park users. All evidence of the bales will be cleaned after event leaving no trace behind. **The bales will be rice bales so that there is no seed spread.**



Left: Actual park location.

# Walls

Wall structures in various heights will be placed along the width of the path. These structures will be free-standing and will NOT be anchored into park terrain. All construction to be inspected prior to event by licensed contractor.

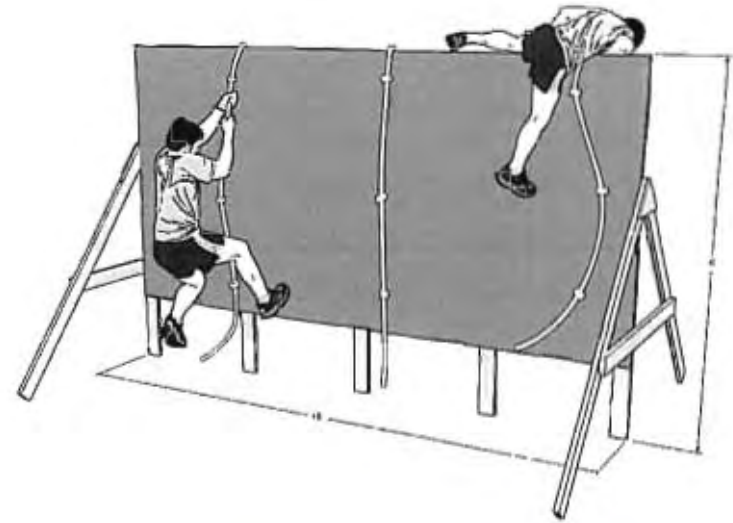
Obstacle 3 (O3): 4' wall x 10' wide

Obstacle 4 (O4): 6' wall x 10' wide

Obstacle 6 (O6): 10' wall x 10' wide

The 10' wall will have ropes and a 2' thick gymnastics pad on opposite side.

Obstacle 8 (O8): 5' wall x 10' wide



# Walls (Ob# 3,4,6,8)



Ob#3 Actual park location (camp site 4)



Ob#4 Actual park location

# Walls



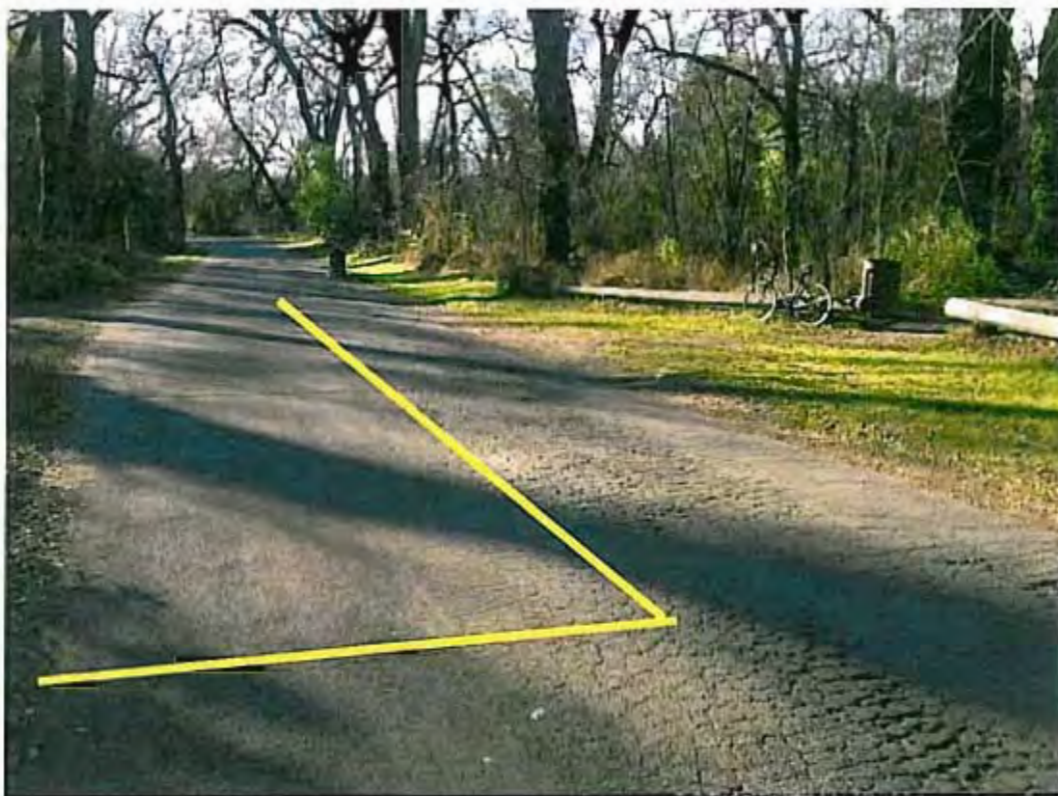
Ob#6 Actual park location. Site 34



Ob#8 Actual park location. Site 40

# Obstacle 5 (O5): Tunnels

Three tunnels (each tunnel approximately 3' in diameter) will be lined up covering approximately 12' of the path and secured by hay bales on each side.



Left: Actual park location. Site 30

# Obstacle 9 (O9): Crossing Sycamore Pool

The final obstacle before the course finish line will include crossing Sycamore Pool in Lower Bidwell Park. Participants will cross the water in the wading/children's area of the pool with a depth of approximately 3 feet. Stair area will be available to exit the pool. The pool will be sectioned off using rope or caution tape in order to contain participants to the area.



Ob#9: Actual Park location. Steps leading into and out of Sycamore Pool.

# Boundary Marking

All boundaries for the event obstacles, start & end areas, and staging areas will be clearly marked with tall cones and caution tape. Areas for emergency personnel and regular park users will be clearly signed and marked off as well.





DATE: February 15, 2013  
 TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)  
 FROM: Lise Smith-Peters, Management Analyst  
 SUBJECT: Finalization of 2013 Committee Assignments and Chairs.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends no changes to the current BPPC committee structure. BPPC committee assignments are at the Chair prerogative with commissioner and staff input. Chair Emmerich made the following committee assignments:

- Natural Resource Committee (3 members)- (Commissioners: Brentwood (Chair), Moravec, and Rood)**  
Reviews matters dealing with items related to vegetation management, trails, greenways and any other topics that are resource based.
- Policy Advisory Committee (3 members) - (Commissioners: Herrera (Chair), Ober and Traulsen)** Responsible for items dealing with interpretation of existing policies, matters dealing with art, finances, and proposed or potential policy changes.
- Tree Committee (3 members) - (Commissioners: Ober (Chair), Emmerich, and Rood)** Reviews matter related to trees (street and park), street tree permit appeals and any other matters that could/would effect the interpretation of policy and management practices.
- Representatives to the City Bike Advisory Committee (1 member plus 1 alternate) - (Commissioner Moravec, and Rood as alternate)** Represents the Commission on the City's Bike Advisory Committee. The Committee reviews bike projects and concerns relative to matters related to bicycles, bicycle routes, and facility improvements. The Committee makes recommendations to the BPPC as needed.

NAME	Natural Resource	Policy Advisory	Tree	Bicycle Advisory
Typical Monthly Meeting Date	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	As needed
Mary Brentwood	Chair			
Lisa Emmerich			Member	
Mark Herrera		Chair		
Jim Moravec	Member			Member
Rich Ober		Member	Chair	
Janine Rood	Member		Member	Alternate
Drew Traulsen		Member		

Attachments: None





DATE: 2/15/13  
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission  
FROM: Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Introduction to the 2013-2014 BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities (Informational Only).

## Recommendation

*Information provided for review and a status update, and provides an introduction to the BPPC Biennial Work Plan Priorities for 2013-2014. Staff will compile BPPC member's suggestions and develop a list for a future report and consideration. Staff will submit the approved BPPC Work Plan to the City Council.*

## Background and Status Update

The City Council directs various City Boards and Commissions to develop biennial work plans to define their goals and priorities. In developing the 2011-2012 Work Plan, the BPPC discussed the need to balance the Commission's goals with staff's ability to support and meet these goals. The BPPC defined its mission as:

"As representatives of the citizens of Chico, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) endeavors to preserve and enhance the natural and recreational resources of Bidwell Park, community and neighborhood parks, greenways and open space throughout the community. Through careful consideration of the needs and desires of citizens, coupled with an awareness of available city resources, the BPPC strives to ensure that the city's parks and greenways are preserved and enhanced for this and future generations."

At its 09/20/11 meeting, the City Council approved the BPPC 2011 – 2012 Work Plan. The information below describes each of these priorities, and provides a status update (complete, not complete, in progress, etc), and identifies any current or upcoming challenges.

The Work Plan, listed in order of priority, is as follows:

1. Develop and implement a priority list of projects and programs based on the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) that will include adaptive management strategies. Specific projects include:
  - a. Develop a Trail Plan for the Park – **STATUS: In Progress.** The initial stages of developing the Park's trail plan are underway with input from the Natural Resources Committee meetings on 01/12/12; 03/08/12; and 09/13/12.
  - b. Update the Trails Manual – **STATUS: In Progress.** The Trail Manual has not been started and is contingent on finalizing the Trail Plan.
  - c. Update of the Natural Resources Management Plan (including vegetation management plan, management units, and an Adaptive Management framework) – **STATUS: In Progress.** The initial stages of developing the Park's Resource Management Plan are underway with input from the Natural Resources Committee meetings on 01/12/12; 03/08/12; and 09/13/12.
  - d. Complete an inventory of Park Infrastructure – **STATUS: In Progress.**
2. Finalize the Wet Weather Plan – **STATUS: In Progress.** Staff will provide an analysis and update of the Wet Weather Plan in December 2012.
3. Continue development of the Park Division's Volunteer Program
  - a. More fully integrate into other Park programs – **STATUS: In Progress.** Park staff meet regularly and volunteers are assigned tasks that help support Park vegetation, trail and infrastructure needs.
  - b. Develop a team leadership program to train volunteer session leaders—**STATUS: Completed and ongoing.** Park staff conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> training (2 sessions each during Spring 2012) for Bidwell Park Crew Leaders. These volunteers have led volunteer sessions and helped with annual work days.
  - c. Develop a Trail Volunteer Program (including training component) -- **STATUS: Completed and ongoing.** Park staff conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> training (2 sessions each during Spring 2012) for Bidwell Park Crew Leaders.

4. Begin development of an Urban Forest Management Plan
  - a. Establish goals that will be the foundation for an urban forest management plan that is consistent with both the new General Plan and the BPMMP—**STATUS: Draft Completed, in progress.**
  - b. Review landscaping policies with the goal of enhancing the appearance of the City's public properties and parks while alleviating the overall cost of maintenance. **STATUS: Completed with UFMP.**
  - c. Provide for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the urban forest, including both street trees and Bidwell park trees. **STATUS: On Going.**
5. Assess needs and prioritize renovation projects for Caper Acres (developing funds and renovation plans for improved infrastructure and new play equipment). **STATUS: In Progress.** Park staff has met with a consultant to review ideas and needs for renovating Caper Acres. Staff will also meet with potential stakeholders and will layout the components of a Capital Campaign for fundraising in the Spring of 2012.
6. Continue trail work priorities (Middle Trail work, Monkey Face, and Peregrine Point Trail connections) -- **STATUS: In Progress.** The rehabilitation of the Middle Trail (Phase I, funded by the Recreational Trail grant) will be finished in 12/2012. Monkey Face Trail restoration has been vetted through Natural Resource Committee meetings and work will begin in Spring 2012. The Peregrine Point Trail connections have not been started yet.
7. Develop management plan concepts for
  - a. Greenways (including Lindo Channel) – **STATUS: Not Started.**
  - b. Bidwell Ranch -- **STATUS: In Progress.**
  - c. Lost Park – **STATUS: In Progress.**
  - d. Comanche Creek. – **STATUS: COMPLETED.** The BPPC accepted (1/30/12) the Comanche Creek Greenway Management Plan, Comanche Creek Greenway Improvement Project, and Mitigated Negative Declaration.

#### **Suggested Process**

Staff will provide commissioners with a brief status update of current priorities, and steps for developing the new work plan. We ask that BPPC members provide a list of potential ideas for discussion to staff by March 14 in preparation for the regularly scheduled BPPC March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Staff will draft a more comprehensive 2013 - 2014 Work Plan Priority List for discussion and possible adoption at a meeting this spring. Once adopted, the final will be submitted to the City Council.



**DATE:** 2/12/13  
**TO:** BPPC  
**FROM:** Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Urban Forest Manager's Report

Prepared for verbal presentation at the BPPC meeting.

## 1. Updates

- a. Field Supervisors Report – The field supervisor's report for January is included below. School zones, service requests and formative pruning were the crew's focus during the last month.
- b. City Plaza – The tree crew also did their annual pruning of the elms and other trees in the park to bring them into the best possible structure for the future. In addition, there are three new quick couplers installed to assist with cleaning the high use areas: One in turf directly across from Men's restroom; one, in turf, west of and north from women's restroom. It splits the difference between the south stage and the restrooms; and one is in the planter bed near the chess tables where the fountain vaults are.
- c. Bidwell Bowl - To reduce expenditures, the silt at the bottom landing of the Bidwell Bowl is going to remain until after the storm season, but removed before Easter, March 31st. If an event is reserved prior to that, or a safety hazard is presented, the silt will be removed sooner.

Bench repairs continue at Bidwell Bowl, necessitated by vandalism. The new bench seats are 2 x 6s and are holding up better than the older 2 x 4. The landscape contractor's responsibility to keep the vegetation clear from in front of the stage side has been clarified as a part of their regular maintenance.

- d. Belvedere Heights – Debris from the establishment of the young mitigation oaks in the oak preserve area has been removed. There were some 300 trees required to survive 3 years after planting. Some of these survivors have since perished, but a good number, well over 200 are still thriving.
- e. Training – Staff spent two separate hour long training sessions with the landscape crew on rose pruning, so that our shrub and ground cover roses are pruned at least every other year to enhance bloom and simplify structure.

Staff attended a 2 day workshop on Tree Risk Assessment. The course covered a specific method that has been adopted by the International Society of Arboriculture for assigning a risk rating to trees. Staff will use the information gathered to develop a draft Risk Management policy cooperation with the City's Risk Manager.

- f. Tree Removal – The tree at the end of Woodland has been taken down and left in place across the location of the old fence. It is now a barrier to bike and most pedestrian traffic.

A redwood tree on Alder Street north of E 8<sup>th</sup> Street had a large top break out due to moderate winds on Friday February 8. The break revealed excessive decay at the origin of the top, which had grown after the original top had broken out years ago. As a result, it was determined the tree and the remaining two tops presented too much risk to the adjacent high voltage distribution lines and the house. It was removed on February 14.

## 2. Service Requests and Tree Permits

- a. Attached is the summary of street tree maintenance projects and the Log of Tree Maintenance Hours.

b. Permits received and approved during the previous month:

Boy Scout Troop 3	Esplanade	Harvest seed heads from Nandina on east side.
Ray Murdock – Sierra Tree	308 Hazel	Prune silver maple for better clearance over house and parking.
Michael Cook – M&S Wesley	148 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave	Prune to remove dead and to reduce weight on heavy limbs
Chico High – Modern Building	W. Lincoln	Remove privet trees in median – trees will be replaced.

### 3. STREET TREE MAINTENANCE

#### A. PROJECTS COMPLETED:

1. 18-SERVICE REQUESTS- 115 hours.
2. GRATES AND CAGES- 2 hours.
3. DOWN LIMBS AND HANGERS- 38 hours at numerous locations.
4. CALL OUT CLEAN UP- 4 hours.
5. STORM DAMAGE CLEAN UP- 8 hours.
6. DOWNTOWN PLAZA- 74 hours spent pruning 49 trees.
7. CHRISTMAS TREE AND MENORAH- 50 hours spent taking down the Menorah and lights from the City Christmas tree.
8. SCHOOL ZONES- 78 hours spent pruning dead branches and elevating during winter break.
9. ROUTINE ELEVATING- 26 hours.
10. PRIORITY REMOVALS- 44 hours removing 17 dead or dying trees.
11. FORMATIVE PRUNING- 44 hours pruning 68 trees.
12. TRAINING- 32 hours.
13. PREP TIME AND DOT INSPECTIONS- 72 hours.
14. EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE- 42 hours.
15. SAFETY MEETINGS- 8 hours.

#### B. CALL OUTS:

1. There was 1 call out for the month of January that required follow up inspection and clean up.

#### Attachments:

Monthly Dailies Log of Tree Maintenance Hours, December 2012





DATE: 02/18/13  
TO: BPPC  
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager  
SUBJECT: Park and Natural Resource Manager's Report

## NARRATIVE

### 1. Updates

- a. Disc Golf Exclusive Use Dates Proposed– The board would like to request the following dates as The Outsiders Exclusive use dates for 2013 are 3/24, 4/28, 8/17, 6/22, 9/28, 7/21, 3/3, 10/12, 11/9, and 12/14.

### 2. Administrative and Visitor Services

- a. Traffic Counter – Staff is working with other Departments to research options to install a permanent traffic counter on Wildwood Avenue to allow for long-term collection of visitor data.

### 3. Planning/Monitoring

- a. Plans– Staff hopes that after a very busy start to the year that we can return the Trails and Natural Resource Management Plan and report our current progress to the Natural Resource Committee in April.

### 4. Maintenance Program

Staff continues daily cleaning and safety inspections of all recreation areas including: grounds, playgrounds, picnic sites, roads and paths, coupled with daily cleaning and re-supplying of all park restrooms. Maintenance and repair of park fixtures, daily opening of gates, posting reservations, unauthorized camp clean up and the constant removal of graffiti from all park infrastructure. Park staff have been busy this month from Monkey Face to Lower park planting sites to conducting an asset inventory of the park and now with the catch up and clean up of down trees and volunteer piles through out the park.

- a. Lower Park - Staff made a concerted effort to keeping the paths and road ways clear for all the park user groups with extra effort on race day events.
- b. Middle Park - Staff with the California Conservation Corps have started the Fuel Reduction program by cleaning up the down wood and cutting fire lines.
- c. Upper Park - The First stages of rehabilitation on Monkey face have been implemented with fencing, signs and soil holding strategies.
- d. Upcoming Projects - Removal of the last telephone pole barricades, and install split rail fence were needed in Lower Park. Staff will be planting native plants in designated sites through out the park. Start the parking lot grading program in Lower Park. Continue with the fuel reduction program.

### 5. Ranger and Lifeguard Programs

- a. Overview - Rangers continue to work on various projects and outreach items. Rangers are preparing for the upcoming volunteer training; developing a comprehensive educational approach on the Monkey Face restoration; in the process of implementing the online reservation system; continue to monitor conditions during wet weather; oversee park reservations, which are starting to pick up; and are drafting the second batch of the "Park Minute."
- b. Staffing– Eric Willadsen has been hired as the newest Seasonal Permanent Park Ranger. He will be going through a series of training over the next few months. Eric received his BS in Recreation at CSU, Chico and has previous experience with the National Park Service and the City of Roseville. We are excited to have him on board and part of the team.
- a. Lifeguards – Recruitment for Lifeguards is underway. Lindsey Anderson and Marissa Anderson will be returning from last season as the Head and Assistant Head Lifeguards. The lifeguard season will begin on May 24<sup>th</sup> and end on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

c. Significant Incidents

- i. On 01/23/13 off duty Senior Park Ranger Jessica Erdahl observed a person matching the description of the numerous incident exposure cases and contact Chico Dispatch. Police questioned the individual and the case is under investigation.
- ii. On 02/04/13 Police and Medics responded to a stabbing victim at the CARD Center. The victim sustained a single stab wound to his leg and was transported by medics. The stabbing occurred in the S One Mile Recreation Area. The case is under investigation.
- iii. On 02/05/13 Fire, Medics and Ranger Erdahl responded to a Mountain Bike accident on the Guardians Trail in Upper Bidwell Park. The patient was located just below the Peregrine Point Disc Golf course and sustained possible injuries to the pelvis, hip and leg. He was transported by helicopter to Enloe hospital for non-life threatening injuries.
- iv. On 12/23/12 Ranger Barge responded to a report of a vehicle driving off road. Upon arrival she observed a SUV stuck in the mud near Parking Area B (see photo). The driver was cited and billed for the damages.



**6. Natural Resource Management**

- a. Description Trails – Trails season will begin in mid-April and focal points will be to complete Phase I of the Middle Trail work, Monkey Face Trail connection, and initiate work on the ADA trail on the south side of Horseshoe Lake. We are likely to start some projects with volunteers in Middle Park.
- b. Fuels reduction – Staff is working with the California Conservation Corps on various projects related to funding they received to reduce fire potential. The CCC have worked in the wildwood area and will start work near Madrone Ave in Bidwell Park.

**7. Outreach and Education**

- a. Snow Goose Festival- Rangers as well as volunteers staffed a Park Division booth at the annual Snow Goose Festival. Parks and Natural Resource Manager Efsseff also led a tour in Middle and Upper Park.
- b. Horseshoe Lake Birding– Ranger Romain, along with various other educators, led a bird watching trip to 90 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Citric Elementary.
- c. News Releases for January – Five Mile Recreation Restroom Closed; Upper Park Road Closed; and Bidwell Park Recognized as Regional Treasure.
- d. Bidwell Park Pulse - The Winter edition of the Park Division quarterly newsletter is attached and is available on-line.

**8. Volunteer and Donor Program**

- a. Monthly Highlights
  - i. Park staff met with Dr. Jeff Jiang’s Special Events class to discuss the coordination of a special event for Bidwell Park to celebrate the Park’s birthday, raise awareness of the park’s needs, raise funds and have fun.

- ii. Teacher Rebecca Ginny's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at *Blue Oak Elementary School* has renewed their commitment to work at picnic site 6 for the spring. Their first workday took place on February 12.
- iii. Teichert Ponds– *CA Native Plant Society, Mt. Lassen Chapter* continues major progress in removing privets and olives along the north side of Teichert Ponds. *Susan Mason* is leading the sessions.
- iv. Park Interns *Heidi Ortiz*, a CSUC Parks and Natural Resources major is doing a full-time work experience internship with the Park Division (leading volunteer sessions, helping with planning volunteer events, and working on habitat restoration plan for Madrone-Larch area; *Robin Blue*, Butte College Natural Resource major, will be working on trails, volunteer sessions and a plant inventory for Park zones; and *Nick Watkins*, Butte College Natural Resource major, will work on weed removal projects.
- v. Little Chico Creek neighbors cleaned up along Humboldt Ave and the creek on February 16.
- vi. *Kids and Creeks* planted trees at Verbena Fields on January 19 as part of their grant award.

**b. Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

- i. Volunteer Training – for Park Watch, Crew Leaders and Trail volunteers will take place on March 12 at 6:00 pm in the Council Bldg at 421 W. Main Street. This is the second year for the combining orientation and training for the 3 volunteer programs.
- ii. Klean Kanteen – will do a litter removal on February 26 as part of their annual staff retreat.
- iii. Community Action Volunteers in Education begin their Spring semester and their program's 7<sup>th</sup> year of work in Bidwell Park.



Chico High School students plant native at Lost Park. These are plants they have cultivated from seeds in their greenhouse.



Blue Oak Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> grade students work at their adopted site #6

**9. Upcoming Issues/Miscellaneous**

- a. ADA Issues - CARD will submit to the BPPC a transition plan that will outline potential Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues and remedies for the Hooker Oak and Sycamore fields. The consultant inspecting City facilities will be sharing findings of the inspections and preliminary recommendations in the next couple of months.
- b. Bidwell Park Recognized as a Regional Treasure - The City of Chico's Bidwell Park will be inducted into the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS), District 2, Hall of Honor. The Induction Ceremony will be held during the CPRS, District 2 Awards and Installation Banquet on Friday, February 22, 2013 at the Folsom Community Center.



## MONTHLY SUMMARY TABLES

**Table 1. Monthly Visitation**

Location	Estimated Daily	Estimated Monthly	Estimated YTD Total	Trend
<b>Lower Park</b>				
Petersen Dr	72	2,232	2,232	▲
N One Mile	239	7,409	7,409	▲
S One Mile	281	8,711	8,711	▲
Cedar Grove/S Park Dr	65	2,015	2,015	▲
Estimated Subtotal	657	20,367	20,367	▲
<b>Middle/Upper Park</b>				
S Five Mile *	153	4,743		
Upper Park Rd *	728	22,568	22,568	▲
<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>42,935</b>	<b>42,935</b>	

Entrance and exit counts should be roughly the same. Either there are issues with the units or an installation error resulted in higher exit counts than entrance. Exit counts used to calculate averages.

**Table 2. Peregrine Point Visitation Log.**

Status	Total Obs.	Total # Veh.	Avg. # Veh.
Open	26	195	7.5
Closed	5	6	1.2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>6.5</b>

**Table 3. Monthly Public Permits**

Date	Location	Organization	Event	# Participant
1/12/2013	Middle/Upper Park	Under the Sun Events	Frost or Fog	350
<b>Totals</b>				<b>350</b>

**Table 4. Monthly Private Permits**

Type	# Permits	# Participants
Private	0	0
Caper Acres	5	69
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>69</b>

**Table 5. Monthly Maintenance Hours.**

Category	Staff Hours	% of Total	% Change from Last Month	2013 Trend
1. Safety	274	30.9%	#DIV/0!	
2. Infrastructure Maintenance	323	36.4%	#DIV/0!	
3. Vegetation Maintenance	199	22.5%	#DIV/0!	
4. Admin Time/Other	90	10.2%	#DIV/0!	
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>#DIV/0!</b>	

"[Insert Table]"

**10. Ranger and Lifeguard Programs**

**Table 6. Monthly Incidents**

Date	Location	Incident	Disposition
1/1/2013	Middle Park	City Property Damage/Vegetation	Report Filed
1/1/2013	City Plaza	Warrant	Arrest
1/2/2013	Depot Park	Warrant	Arrest
1/9/2013	City Plaza	Warrant	Arrest
1/10/2013	Peregrine Point	Recovered Stolen Property	Report Filed
1/10/2013	Cedar Grove	Indecent Exposure	UTL
1/13/2013	S One Mile	Petty Theft	NFA
1/13/2013	Lower Park	City Property Damage/Cell Phone	Report Filed
1/13/2013	S One Mile	Petty Theft	NFA
1/14/2013	Cedar Grove	Indecent Exposure	UTL
1/17/2013	Hooker Oak	Commercial Burglary	Report Filed
1/17/2013	City Plaza	Warrant	Arrest
1/19/2013	S Park Drive	Indecent Exposure	UTL
1/21/2013	City Plaza	Indecent Exposure	Arrest
1/23/2013	Cedar Grove	Indecent Exposure	UTL
1/23/2013	Cedar Grove	Indecent Exposure	Arrest
1/24/2013	City Plaza	Petty Theft	Report Filed
1/27/2013	N One Mile	Armed Robbery	Report Filed
1/28/2013	City Plaza	Warrant	Arrest
1/29/2013	Hooker Oak	Animal Bite	Report Filed

**Table 7. Monthly Citations and Warnings**

Violation	Monthly			Annual			2012 Trend
	Total Citations	%	Rank	Total Citations	%	Rank	
Alcohol	0	0%	6	0	0%	6	
Animal Control Violations	1	9%	4	1	9%	4	
Bicycle Violation	0	0%	6	0	0%	6	
Glass	0	0%	6	0	0%	6	
Illegal Camping	2	18%	2	2	18%	2	

Injury/Destruction City Property	0	0%	6	0	0%	6	
Littering	0	0%	6	0	0%	6	
Other Violations	1	9%	4	1	9%	4	
Parking Violations	5	45%	1	5	45%	1	
Resist/Delay Park Ranger	0	0%	6	0	0%	6	
Smoking	2	18%	2	2	18%	2	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>		

Violation	Monthly			Annual			2012 Trend
	Total Warnings	%	Rank	Total Warnings	%	Rank	
Alcohol	2	1%	7	2	1%	7	
Animal Control Violations	43	32%	2	43	32%	2	
Bicycle Violation	60	44%	1	60	44%	1	
Glass	5	4%	6	5	4%	6	
Illegal Camping	9	7%	3	9	7%	3	
Injury/Destruction City Property	0	0%	9	0	0%	9	
Littering	2	1%	7	2	1%	7	
Other Violations	0	0%	9	0	0%	9	
Parking Violations	9	7%	3	9	7%	3	
Resist/Delay Park Ranger	0	0%	9	0	0%	9	
Smoking	6	4%	5	6	4%	5	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>136</b>	<b>100%</b>		

Location	Monthly		Annual			2012 Trend
	Total Citations	%	Total Citations	%	Rank	
Lower Park	5	45%	5	45%	1	
Middle Park	4	36%	4	36%	2	
Upper Park	0	0%	0	0%	4	
Specialty Parks/Greenways	2	18%	2	18%	3	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>		

Location	Monthly		Annual			2012 Trend
	Total Warnings	%	Total Warnings	%	Rank	
Lower Park	69	51%	69	51%	1	
Middle Park	22	16%	22	16%	3	
Upper Park	24	18%	24	18%	2	
Specialty Parks/Greenways	21	15%	21	15%	4	

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**Totals**

136

100%

136

100%

**11. Volunteer Program****Table 8. Summary of Monthly Volunteer Activity**

<b>Bidwell Park</b>	<b>Sessions/# volunteers</b>	<b>Hrs</b>	<b>Tasks</b>
Monkey Face Reroute	1 session/7 vols	21	Sow native grasses, close up unofficial trails
Lost Park	1 session/8 vols	24	Planting native plants on the southside (deergrass, santa barbara sedge; big leaf maples; and bay laurel)
Chico High School	5 CHS students/Michael Stauffer & Paula Shapiro	21	Weed; transplant; and plant new seeds.
Bidwell Park	Park Watch	755	Patrolling the Park
Middle Park between Sycamore Bypass & Five Mile Way	Friends of Bidwell Park/2 sessions/2 volunteers	4.5	Mapped & removed olive & privet trees
	Park Intern	70	GPS mapping; starthistle project materials; Monkey Face project; special event planning.
	<b>Total Park hours</b>	895.5	
Little Chico Creek at Olive St.	Liz Stewart/5 sessions, 5 volunteers	9	Removed Himalayan blackberries & pokeweed
Teichert Ponds	Mount Lassen Chapter-CNPS/ 15 sessions, 35 volunteers	100	Removed olive & privet trees
<b>City Owned Greenways</b>		109	

**Attachments:** Winter Edition of the *Bidwell Park Pulse*

2/20/2013



# Bidwell Park Pulse

## 2012 Annual Report

This edition of the Pulse summarizes the Parks Division progress made in Bidwell Park and other areas of Chico. Citizen's who would like additional details may refer to the annual report presented to the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (see page 8 for details).

"National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst." Wallace Stegner, 1983.

In 1905, Annie Bidwell, on behalf of herself and her late husband, John Bidwell, gifted 1,903 acres to the City of Chico, "as a token of their love and affection and that the grand work of God may be preserved to his glory and the happiness and pleasure of the people of said City for all time."

The deed required the "preservation and protection of the waters of Chico Creek" and to "sacredly guard" the trees, shrubs, and vines of the Park. These conservation concepts are certainly fitting of a couple that was close friends with John Muir, and a unique, extraordinarily generous gift for the early 1900's. Although a city park, Bidwell Park certainly fits in the "best idea" tradition, and continues to have a profound influence on the City and region.

Park visitors have long felt that Bidwell Park is their personal treasure. On February 22, 2013, the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS), District 2 will recognize Bidwell Park as a Regional Treasure. District 2 covers 19 California counties.

Bidwell Park seems well matched with the criteria for the award; Regional Treasures have great historical significance and tremendous multi-generational impact on the quality of life in the region. They contribute to the economic vitality of the region. On all counts, Bidwell Park is worthy of recognition. Another aspect of the award is to recognize significant organizations, partnerships, and individuals that support Park programs or facilities. We are lucky

to have a community that feels passionate about the Park and contributes to a variety of recreational opportunities and volunteers time for its care.

The affinity that the community holds for Bidwell Park runs extremely deep and resides in our community's DNA. The City logo shows a depiction of the Hooker Oak -- one of the famous historical landmarks in the Park. Generations of people (and their kids) from the Northern Sacramento Valley have swam in the Park's cool waters, hiked beneath majestic valley oaks, watched the antics of acorn woodpeckers, and frolicked at Caper Acres. And long before that, this landscape sustained the native Mechoopda people.

Yet amidst this celebration of the Park and vision of the Bidwells, we also need to acknowledge the needs of the Park and to "sacredly guard" it. We call upon everyone that steps into the Park to be good stewards: to pick up waste, to stay on trails, to tread lightly when it is wet, to leave the flowers for the bees, to keep the dog on a leash, to be courteous to others, to volunteer, to donate, to educate others, to build a culture that the Park is a delicate treasure.

In the following pages, we will highlight our accomplishments over this past year. We have all been given so much from our beautiful open spaces, we ask you to give something back. Enjoy the park, yes, but also volunteer, donate, educate, and help us "sacredly guard"

the Park and all of our open spaces.

We look forward to working with you in 2013!

~Daniel Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager

### Parks Division Programs

- Administrative and Visitor Services
- Maintenance Crew
- Ranger/Lifeguard
- Volunteer Program
- Natural Resource Management
- Outreach and Education

Inside:



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VOLUNTEER TRAINING.....7

**The Bidwell Park Pulse**

The Bidwell Park Pulse is a quarterly newsletter of the City of Chico's Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways, and Preserves Division. The Parks Division is part of the General Services Department, and is responsible for maintaining and operating City parks, open space, and recreation areas including Bidwell Park, Children's Playground, Depot Park, City Plaza, Lindo Channel, Little Chico Creek Greenway, Teichert Ponds, and other preserves. Parks Division programs include: Maintenance, Ranger, Lifeguard, and Volunteer Programs. Printed on 100% recycled paper.

**City of Chico Mission**

To protect and enhance our community's quality of life for present and future generations.

**Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)**

The BPPC is vested with the supervision, control and management of many public parks and playgrounds within the City. **Commissioners:** Mary Brentwood, Lisa Emmerich (Chair), Mark Herrera, Jim Moravec, Richard Ober, Janine Rood, and Drew Traulsen. **Staff Liaison:** Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator.

**Contact**

Questions, comments, or photo contributions?

Contact us:

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**About the Banner Photograph**

Recent efforts on Monkey Face



Rangers continue to monitor trail and course conditions during wet weather.

**2012 Highlights:****Administrative and Visitor Services**

Administrative functions of the Parks Division include reservations, permits, support and analysis for Bidwell Park and Playground Commission meetings, development and management of budgets, vendor payments and contracts, and customer and visitor services.

All Park Division staff carry out some duties in this area, and shared administrative staff from the General Service Department (GSD) and other parts of the City support this function as well. Our efforts in customer and visitor services are an important part of providing citizens with a good experience in the park and community.

**Brief highlights:**

- Staff continued efforts to provide BPPC agendas and information packets in a timely fashion with the entire packet going out 5-6 days before the meeting (the legal requirement is that the agenda must be posted 72 hours before the meeting).
- The Park Division processed \$524,146 in payments to over 118 vendors (60% were local) to provide professional services, materials, and supplies (Parks also support enhanced real estate values, sporting equipment sales, event sales, health benefits, and venues for supporting non-profits).
- Estimates indicate a staggering number of use for Bidwell Park. The preliminary estimate of annual visits to Bidwell Park exceeds 1.9 million with vehicle traffic counts on Bidwell Park roads exceeding over 650,000 vehicles.
- Staff is developing an online reservation system with Active Network. This system will help customers to identify the location, content, availability and cost of reservations and to make a reservation from any computer at any time using the Internet.
- An updated fees schedule will be developed to better capture staff costs associated with permits. For example, in the past, a Park Attendant would help with set-up, break-down, and monitor events; however as that position has been cut, Rangers currently provide event assistance. Realistic fees may help capture these costs and devote an hourly staffer to support the event and allow Rangers to better serve other park users.
- Staff issued a total of 360 permits (118 public and 242 private events) and made 334 reservations at Caper Acres.
- A minimum of 81,472 people participated in public events (the estimates do not include spectators, which could increase the numbers significantly).



*2012 Highlights:*

## Park Ranger Program

Chico Park Rangers experienced an exhilarating 2012 while being engaged in a wide variety of tasks. Without a doubt, most would agree our office has the best views in town. Rangers are privileged to do the work we do and we look enthusiastically forward to the opportunities and challenges facing us in the new year.

Education and outreach remain the hallmark of the ranger program. Rangers promote an understanding of City open spaces and wild lands and the proper uses of natural resources. Both adults and children are taught preparedness and how to avoid life threatening situations in the park's wilderness areas. Resource protection, stewardship, park history, and safety imbue the ideals rangers impart to an eager public wanting to know more about the treasured resource and legacy of the Bidwells.



*A young participant at the 2nd Annual National Night Out event receives a Jr. Ranger sticker.*

This past year, rangers collectively attended more professional development trainings than previous years. Rangers require a wide spectrum of skills and abilities and trainings included wildlife awareness, search & rescue, customer service oriented communication, advanced medical training, and fire suppression.

In 2012, ranger staff initiated the "Park Minute", a radio campaign designed to educate the community about park issues, safety and natural and cultural resources in the park. The success of the public service announcements and positive feedback from the public has generated a request for additional "minutes." Also, Rangers are sought after speakers for interpretive and public safety presentations at community events and schools. Rangers participated in the Snowgoose Festival; National Night Out; ranger led bike tours; Endangered Species Faire; and 911 Safety Pals.

Rangers serve an important public safety role, with rangers often first responders to incidents in the park, open spaces, and preserves. Within minutes after citizen's reported last June's 30-acre wildfire in Middle Bidwell Park (which started in the Sycamore Diversion Channel and raced toward the Hooker Oak and 5 Mile Recreation Areas), Rangers evacuated the area and assisted Chico Fire and Police with maintaining perimeters, traffic control, road closures

and notifying nearby residents. Last year, rangers guided agency personnel to accident sites and assisted in missing person searches. Rangers work often with Park Watch members on many projects, and worked with Volunteers in Police to staff information points in Upper Park. As a result, incidents and enforcement contacts during these periods were improved.

In recent years, rangers have taken an increasingly active role in monitoring the park. Rangers oversee the wet weather protocol to monitor trails and the Peregrine Point disc golf course. In 2012, Rangers extended visitation monitoring to Lower Park. Accurate visitation data allows the Park Division to create adequate staffing plans for peak times, budget allocation, emergency planning, and provides a clearer picture to granting agencies.

Bidwell Park remains a microcosm of the City of Chico and experiences many of the same City's problems. Rangers face challenges to address increased homeless issues, calls for service, and a rise in park rule violations. Rangers also work closely with the Police to help locate wanted subjects or serving as another set of eyes to protect the public.

2013 promises to be an exciting and challenging year for park staff. Rangers Jessica, Shane, Lisa and our newest ranger, Eric, look forward to engaging visitors and doing what we do best... protecting, promoting and enhancing the natural and cultural resources of the City entrusted to us.

*-Lisa Barge, Park Ranger, City of Chico  
(Background Photo Courtesy of Abram House Photography)*



*Ranger Barge explaining rattlesnake behavior at the spring safety faire.*

## 2012 Highlights: Volunteers & Donations

*You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.*  
~Winston Churchill

When citizens take the opportunity to invest time and energy to Bidwell Park, their respect for our unique resource grows deeper and stronger. Our community provides vital volunteer hours and donations for Bidwell Park and greenways. In 2012, volunteers contributed 19,800 hours to weed removal, native plant restoration, trail work, crew leading, propagating native plants and seed collection, Park Watch, painting, litter removal and gps mapping. Cash and in-kind donations totaled over \$51,000.

In this day and age, everyone has competing interests vying for their time, be it a job, school, children, sports or other interests. The fact that volunteers make the time to volunteer is evidence of their love and willingness to invest in the health of their Park.

Some volunteers obtain class credit or fulfill



Home Depot contributes tools annually to Earth Day and sends a team!

community service requirements during their time at the University, whereas others devote time to the Park and greenways as their regular volunteer destination.

Park volunteers may Adopt-A-Site or lead other volunteers in work sessions. For example, long-time volunteer Susan Mason has lead volunteers to log in thousands of hours. Others choose to volunteer on large annual park work days, such as Make a Difference

**Volunteer Program Mission:**  
*enlist the help of the local community in managing Park resources and expand volunteerism in as many aspects of enhancing Bidwell Park as possible (Bidwell Park Volunteer Manual, April 2007)*

Day and Earth Day that usually see a diverse assemblage of students, families, community service groups and individuals).

These events are fun (there is nothing like working in unison with a few hundred folks...!) and attract groups

to make an annual commitment to pull a team together.

Volunteers get their hands dirty and their muscles worked, and also learn about the Park's history; ecology; plant life, and build skills while supporting the Parks' resource management goals.

Park and greenway volunteers make an invaluable investment in time, energy and stewardship. Using estimates from the Independent Sector organization, the Park's 19,800 volunteer hours translates into an equivalent of \$478,788. Perhaps more importantly, volunteers that work in the Park feel more invested in its care.

In addition to volunteer investment, the Park Division is also working to streamline its donations program, and will continue to build this program as a vital element to taking care of Bidwell Park and our greenways.

~Lise Smith-Peters, Park Services Coordinator

*(Background Photo: Young volunteers receive a safety briefing before going to work in the Park)*



Weekly volunteers help with restoration efforts at the Sycamore Restoration site.

### **Ongoing Park Division Volunteer Efforts and Partnerships:**

<i>Chico High Native Plant Project (5<sup>th</sup> year) –students propagate native plants for restoration areas through the full school year.</i>	<i>Trail Volunteers – Work alongside Park crew on repair and maintenance of the Park trails.</i>
<i>Community Action Volunteers in Education (7<sup>th</sup> year) –CSUC students work 30 hours a semester to the Park.</i>	<i>Intern Program – CSUC and Butte College students provided support in mapping, initial restoration planning, sign inventory, and volunteer sessions.</i>
<i>Upward Bound High School Summer Program (7<sup>th</sup> year) – High schoolers from the North State work for 6 weeks).</i>	<i>Friends of Bidwell Park has donated funds and well over 2,000 volunteer hours toward vegetation management projects. Susan Mason leads these sessions.</i>
<i>Park Crew Leaders (1<sup>st</sup> year) – trained to lead volunteer sessions in the Park and Greenways</i>	<i>CA Native Plant Society's adopted Yahli Trail work sessions and now weed removal in the greenways, such as Teichert Ponds.</i>
<i>Weekly Volunteer Sessions – Great way to learn about different locations in Bidwell Park.</i>	<i>Southwest Neighborhood volunteers work in Comanche Creek with Crew Leaders Janet Ellner and Liz Stewart.</i>
<i>Adopted Picnic Sites – Site 40 (Sigma Chi); Site 27 (Sierra View Elementary); Site 6 (Blue Oak Elementary); Site 31 (Rangels); and Site 11 &amp; 12 (McCabes) and Site 37 (Olsons )</i>	<i>Kids and Creeks works with elementary students at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hazel, Verbena Fields and the Sycamore Restoration Site.</i>
<i>Park Watch, longest running program, has 130 members trained to provide information to visitors and patrol the Park.</i>	<i>Stream Team monitors Big Chico Creek and partners with the Park Division to offer education programs at volunteer work sessions.</i>



## 2012 Highlights:

# Urban Forest Program

People who live in Chico often identify the tree canopy as providing a distinct sense of place and character to the City. Trees not only provide aesthetic value to the town, they produce a huge benefit to the citizens in the form of energy reduction from shade, pollution absorption and carbon sequestration.

The Street Trees Program cares for and manages the City's urban forest of street and park trees, as well as the public landscapes, such as around City Hall and other City buildings. Within the City's responsibility are approximately 34,211 street tree sites, of which



30,667 contain street trees. There are approximately 3,544 open planting sites – or opportunities – at this time. The City's street tree population also has 1,439 trees that are scheduled for eventual replacement, due mostly to aging or structural problems.

There were a total of 172 street trees removed in 2012.

This was Chico's 29<sup>th</sup> year a Tree City USA. The designation requires a City to have a tree ordinance, a tree board or Commission, a budget of at least \$2.00 per capita spending on tree care and an

annual Arbor Day celebration. In 2012, the City spent \$9.54 per capita on tree care, totaling \$834,875. An Arbor Day celebration was held on March 7 at Lost Park with the Chico High Horticultural Class Club planting 6 new trees. The tree crew also planted a seedling from the Bidwell Mansion Southern Magnolia at the County offices at Memorial Way and Oleander.

Street tree crews concentrate on safety pruning around school zones, elevating tree limbs over streets and clearing for signs and signals. They also completed 671 high priority service requests, many of which resulted from potentially hazardous situations. In winter months, the trees crew concentrates on formative pruning of young trees. Our most proactive form of managing our growing population of street trees, formative pruning reduces the amount of future maintenance a tree will need by improving its overall structure. In 2012, the crews pruned 1376 young street trees.

The City continued the citizen tree planting program, inviting citizens to plant and care for their street trees that need to be replaced. A total of 53 trees were provided to citizens under permit, plus another 48 were planted in CMD landscapes and other vacant sites. Another 6 permits were provided to citizens to plant trees they purchased.

Our biggest accomplishment in 2012 was the development of a draft Urban Forest Management Plan. The Tree Committee of the BPPC and a number of citizens met monthly to review and discuss proposed goals, concepts for management and wording for the plan. The Committee will begin to meet again beginning in March to complete the final draft and then begin the environmental review and approval process with the City Council. The draft plan can be found on line.

*-Denise Britton, Urban Forest Manager, City of Chico*

## 2012 Highlights:

# Planning, Monitoring, and Natural Resource Management

Although we began listing these as program areas in 2012, these tasks have long been an important part of Park Division work. Trails, invasive weed control, plantings, tree work, even managing behaviors in the park have an important effect on Park health, and all parts of the Park Division have responsibilities in this area.

### Highlights

- Wet weather – Revisions will be made to this document based on public, staff, and Policy Advisory Committee input and we anticipate that this document will return for BPPC consideration in 2013.
- Prescribed Burn - The Park Division working closely with the Chico Fire Department, the California Conservation Corps, and CAL Fire conducted several operations to reduce fuels, and prep and conduct prescribed burns in Middle Park. The burn objectives were to 1) control for medusahead (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) and yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and to a lesser extent other annual grasses such as hare (or foxtail) barley (*Hordeum marinum*) and 2) favor native plants during the next growing season, and 3) reduce woody fuel loads.
- Native Plantings: Staff and volunteers made good progress on removing invasive weeds, putting in native plants and updating and painting infrastructure of the park entrances and volunteer restoration areas.
- Peregrine Point Monitoring Report – Staff issued the first annual monitoring report for the disc golf course in July 2012. The report provides documentation of first year data and makes recommendations as part of an adaptive management framework.
- Trails Plan – Working with the Natural Resource Committee and the public, staff produced an initial inventory map of trails and estimate of trail totals. In 2013-2014, we will identify priorities and develop a draft of the Trails Plan.
- Natural Resources Plan – This plan is also part of the Natural Resource Committee process. The most significant milestone on this task has been the development of Management Units in the Park. Breaking down the Park into Management Units will help communicate goals and track progress for the various areas of Bidwell Park. The units will aid with the description of threats, issues, and remedies, and also provide a more effective description of areas to park crew, volunteers and emergency responders.
- Caper Acres – Staff is working on developing an estimate for the cost to develop an overall master plan for this beloved facility. The process will encourage public input. When complete, the plan will layout options and costs for improvements, which will allow for fundraising and capital campaigns.

## 2012 Highlights:

# Maintenance and Infrastructure

Park maintenance staff is responsible for the care and maintenance of Bidwell Park and other assigned parks, viewsheds and green ways. The balance of city owned parks and greenways are contracted out to landscape contractors, examples would be City Plaza, Children's Playground or Humboldt Park.

Many citizens are surprised at the scope required to maintain city-owned areas for safety and the satisfaction of park visitors. Our staff works seven day a week (365 days a year) and is comprised of four maintenance workers, two senior maintenance workers, and a field supervisor. Park staff duties include cleaning, safety inspection, graffiti removal, and maintenance of park grounds, facilities, and play areas.

To provide a sense of the scope, the Parks staff duties in Bidwell Park alone include:

- 6 reservation areas,
- 36 individual picnic sites,
- 8 porta pottie locations,
- 3 shower facilities,
- 7 park buildings that house 25 restrooms stalls
- 21.5 acres of irrigated lawn that is mowed and trimmed each week in the summer and leafed each week during the fall, and of course

Over 10 miles of road ways and bike paths, Along with the seasonal cleaning and maintenance of Sycamore pool that runs on a weekly cleaning routine from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

In addition to these daily tasks, Staff is engaged throughout the year on the repair of the various parts of the park infrastructure from painting, plumbing and electrical to adding, replacing or fabricating equipment or fixtures such as signs, waste receptacles, benches, picnic tables and exercise equipment. In addition, staff prepares and posts reservation areas for over 300 private and public events each year. While Bidwell Park is the main focus of Staff, they also have duties on other City properties.

In the past couple of years, wildland and land management tasks have been incorporated into daily and seasonal tasks. Park staff maintains the natural beauty from Lost Park to the end of Ten Mile House road. This work ranges from pruning trees, applying herbicide, mowing road and trail edges, developing and planting native rehabilitation sites, prescribed burns, invasive plant removal, trail maintenance, and wildland restoration.

## Highlights

- Middle Trail Grant – Staff working with the California Conservation Corps continued their progress with armored creek crossings, rolling dips with nicks, along with trail tread hardening and water shedding work on connecting trails.

- Department Support—Staff continues with the responsibilities of opening gates, wet weather trail assessments, support of the volunteer program and partnering with other departments in GSD to complete projects in and out of the park, such as Alamo Street clean up and illegal camp clean up through out the city.

- Wildland Restoration—Staff continues to learn new skills and techniques which they apply daily to this newer piece of our park maintenance regimen of removing invasive plants, controlled burn piles, herbicide application from lot E to Bear Hole, along with replanting sites at lot C, One Mile and Five Mile, drilling native grass seed at Hooker Oak and at lot A in Middle Park, and repairing creek banks from beaver damage at Centennial and Manzanita bike path.

- Volunteer Support - Park staff supported Make a Difference day at One Mile with site preparation and pile removal. Staff regularly supports volunteer efforts with removal of invasive materials in Bidwell Park, Verbena Fields and Hazel Street Park.

- Daily Maintenance - Staffs approach to daily maintenance is to revisit the basics regularly so that we may deliver the best service possible period. Staff plans and evaluates each project for the best methods and

materials to use for a quality job, the end result whether it's cleaning a restroom or replacing a fixture is something we all can be proud of.

- Homeless Impacts and Vandalism – Staff have observed an increase in homeless issues impacting the Park. For example, encampments have been observed in all areas of the Park. Some facilities require additional cleaning as use has increased. The cleanup of graffiti and vandalism also is a daily task.
- Infrastructure Inventory – Late in 2012, Staff began an inventory of Park facilities. We are aware of no similar previous effort. The inventory will provide us a rationale basis on which to prioritize and estimate costs for future repairs and replacements. It will also provide us with an estimate of unfunded obligations and budget needs. There are many signs of the park of infrastructure's overdue maintenance (for example, the gravel portion of Upper Park Road, paved bike paths, and restrooms).
- Night Inspection - Park staff participated in the first night time safety inspection which surprisingly generated fewer issues than expected. Staff focused on safety and security issues and ideas to improve them (adequate reflectors, lighting in areas, signs, observation of users and numbers, overgrown vegetation, etc.). Improvements to these areas will be made before the next peak season.

*-Jimi Logsdon, Park Field Maintenance Supervisor, City of Chico*



*Parks Crew Member leading a volunteer day in Bidwell Park.*

*(Background: Parking Lot D – split rail installation to protect Blue Oaks.)*

# Spring 2013 Volunteer Training



Join us to get an overview of volunteer efforts in Bidwell Park and other City Properties. This meeting will provide an overview of the Volunteer program for new volunteers and detail other training opportunities. Follow – up training will be announced at the meeting. Three main volunteer efforts will be covered:

- **Park Watch**—As ambassadors of the park, Park Watch volunteers share information to visitors and advise park staff about damage, hazards, vandalism, or other concerns they encounter. Park Watch volunteer’s visible presence fosters a safe environment. Park Watch volunteers must be at least 18 years old, pass a criminal background check and volunteer a minimum number of hours.
- **Trail Volunteer Training**—The Park Division continues to build our Trail Volunteer Program where citizens may assist the City with trail maintenance. If you want to work on park trails you will need to attend a follow- up field training that will be announced.
- **Volunteer Crew Leader Training**—Dedicated volunteers may apply to be Volunteer Crew Leaders. These Leaders guide work sessions safely and have the tools and knowledge to remove invasive weeds and care for native plants and help teach others. Crew Leaders assist with big events and regular work sessions.

Please contact us for more information: Shane Romain (Park Watch) - [parkwatch@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:parkwatch@ci.chico.ca.us), or Lise Smith-Peters (Crew Leader and Trail Volunteer) - [ispeters@ci.chico.ca.us](mailto:ispeters@ci.chico.ca.us)

## **Get Involved! Have Fun! Parks Volunteer Meeting**

**When:** Tuesday - March 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00 - 9:00 PM

**Where:** City Council Chamber Bldg at 421 W. Main Street

**Contact:** To apply and RSVP, please call 530-896-7800.

## *2012 Park Division and Bidwell Park*

# 2012 By the Numbers

4,799	Chico township population in 1900.	\$1,799,000	Parks Division budget in Fiscal Year 2012-2013.
86,187	Chico population in 2010.	19,801	Volunteer hours donated.
212,968	Chico metropolitan area population (includes Oroville and Paradise) in 2010.	\$8,695	Tax-exempt donations to the Parks Fund.
		\$42,388	Value of In-kind service or material donations.
5,053	Total acres managed by the City of Chico.	523	Total Number of Ranger-Issued citations.
3,670	Total acres of Bidwell Park.	3,3392	Total Number of Documented warnings.
14	US Ranking of Bidwell Park among municipally owned parks.	398	Number of Police Incident reports in City Parks, open spaces, and greenways( 2012).
3	California Ranking of Bidwell Park among municipally owned parks.	302	Number of Police Incident reports in City Parks, open spaces, and greenways( 2011).
650,764	Annual estimate of vehicles that travel on Bidwell Park Roads.	59	Number of accident, damage, and theft reports ( 2012).
1,976,343	Preliminary estimate (best guess) of total visits to Bidwell Park.	35	Number of accident, damage, and theft reports ( 2011).
103	Total miles of trails in Bidwell Park.		
29%	Percentage of undesignated trails in Bidwell Park.		



Park Division  
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965 Fir Street | PO Box 3420  
Chico, CA 95927

*Another View*

# *Spirit of Bidwell Park*



Word cloud derived from the “Spirit of Bidwell Park” found in the Master Management Plan (EDAW 2008) using [www.Wordle.net](http://www.Wordle.net).

## View the Annual Report

Please visit: [http://www.chico.ca.us/government/minutes\\_agendas/bidwell\\_park\\_playground\\_commission.asp](http://www.chico.ca.us/government/minutes_agendas/bidwell_park_playground_commission.asp)

*Answer to “Where is it? : Do you see the primate? Monkey Face of course. In early 2012, Staff and the BPPC began collecting public input on trail planning to address erosion and trail issue.*