



DATE: 01/22/14
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission members
FROM: Dan Efsseff, Park and Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: 2013 Annual Report

2013 ANNUAL PARK DIVISION AND STREET TREES DIVISION REPORT

Overview

The year 2013, posed significant challenges to the Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways, and Preserves Division (Park Division) and the Street Trees and Public Plantings Division (Street Trees).

Reorganization of the divisions and City Departments resulted in the supervision of the Street Trees and Public Landscapes Division shifting to the Parks and Natural Resource Manager. The Urban Forest Manager (UFM) position was held open with the retirement of Denise Britton. The Divisions are now under the Public Works Department (the Department represents a consolidation of General Services and parts of other City Departments).

The biggest challenge and impact have been the reduction in staff, and consequently services, resulting from City-wide budget cuts. The combined staffing levels for both divisions is just over half of what was available in 2009. With these challenges, staff have been focused on providing basic services and implementing creative solutions to take care of our Natural Resources. Some examples include:

- Increased donations (over \$20,000 in comparison to about \$8,000 last year) associated with an inaugural fundraising event and other activities.

- Use of Butte County Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) and Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) to aid with Park work and help keep Caper Acres open.

The changes and development of new solutions to handle the work load have taken precedence over many of the goals in the workplan and efforts laid out last year. While we have made progress in many areas, progress has been delayed as we develop new solutions to handle workload and redefine staff responsibilities. Staff hopes that with stability, that 2014 will see the continuation of several efforts.

The Parks Division and Street Trees Division are pleased to share this annual report to the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission and the public. In the following pages, we will highlight our accomplishments, but also trace out a framework from which we need to address fundamental issues in the City. Expect us to continue to "sacredly guard" the Park, but also expect us to ask for help and donations to take care of it. We will continue to build partnerships every day. We look forward to working with the community toward solutions in 2013!

Division Description

The City of Chico's Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways, and Preserves Division (Park Division) is under the Public Works Department. The Division's major responsibilities include maintaining and operating City Parks, open space, and recreational areas, including Bidwell Park (one of the largest municipally owned parks in the United States), Children's Playground, City Plaza, Lindo Channel, Little Chico Creek greenway, 1st and Verbena, Bidwell Ranch, Teichert Ponds, and other preserves. The Parks Division is organized into the following programs:

- Administrative and Visitor Services
- Maintenance and Infrastructure
- Natural Resource Management (planning, monitoring, trails, and vegetation management).
- Outreach and Education
- Ranger and Lifeguard

Volunteer and Donations

We should note that employees work in an integrative fashion and may complete tasks in multiple programs. For example, to meet vegetation management goals on a particular project we may utilize volunteers to help remove plants and provide visitor information during a prescribed burn, maintenance crew to oversee fuels thinning and complete a planting, and Rangers to coordinate a prescribed burn.

The City Street Trees Program, is also under the Park Division and with the loss of our Urban Forest Manager (Denice Britton) the functions have been integrated with the Parks Division, this report reflects that change and Street Trees information is now folded into this report. The program cares for and manages approximately 37,000 trees (urban forest) and many of the maintenance districts and public landscape areas within Chico. The City's Park Rangers, Park Maintenance Crew, and Park Services Coordinator all work within the Park Division.

Table 1. Comparative Statistics for the City of Chico and State and National Numbers Regarding Parks.

Factor	Amount	Source
Chico Area	33.2 square miles 21,248 Acres	Chico GIS Department
Chico Population		
– City	86,187	US Census 2010; California Department of Finance 2011 Data
– Urban Area	107,000	
Ranking – City Size California	84 th largest 14 th Largest Metropolitan Area	California Department of Finance, Table of January 2012 City Population Ranked by Size, Numeric and Percent Change; 2010 US Census.
Bidwell Park		
– Area	3,670 acres,	City of Chico; The Trust for Public Land, 2012 City Park Facts
– Ranking Municipal Parks	3rd in California and 14th in the US.	
Park, Recreation, and Open Space Area managed by Park Division	5,053 acres	City of Chico GIS Department Inventory, 2012
Percentage of Parkland of Total City Area		
– Median US Cities ^a	7.9 %	The Trust for Public Land, 2012 City Park Facts; City of Chico.
–Chico ^b	>24 %	
Area of Parkland per 1,000 Residents		
–Median US Cities ^a	13.1 Acres	The Trust for Public Land, 2012 City Park Facts; City of Chico.
–Chico ^b	59 Acres	

^a Estimate includes city, county, metro, state, and federal acres within the city limits.

^b Estimates include City of Chico Park Division managed property only.

Resources

Most of the Operating Budget (Table 2) for the Park Division is derived from the General Fund). Park funds are complemented by donations and volunteer support. Lessees also take care of certain park facilities. Donations provide critical support for interns, habitat restoration work and materials, invasive plant removal, and benches. The Parks/Open Spaces (682) budget supports staff time, contracts, maintenance and repair not only for Bidwell Park, but for greenways (Lindo Channel, Little Chico Creek, and Comanche Creek), Depot Park, City Plaza, Children's Playground, Teichert Ponds, and Preserves.

More detailed reports on staffing impacts were presented to the BPPC last year with an annual comparison summarized in Figure 1. To provide some perspective on these numbers some ratios may help (for comparison to major cities, the reader may refer to the Trust for Public Land, 2012 City Park Facts, not that our numbers do not include CARD expenditures):

Total Spending on operations per resident: City of Chico Parks and other properties: \$20.21. Cities on the TPL list: high of \$222 in San Francisco; to lows of \$21 in San Bernardino and Tulsa).

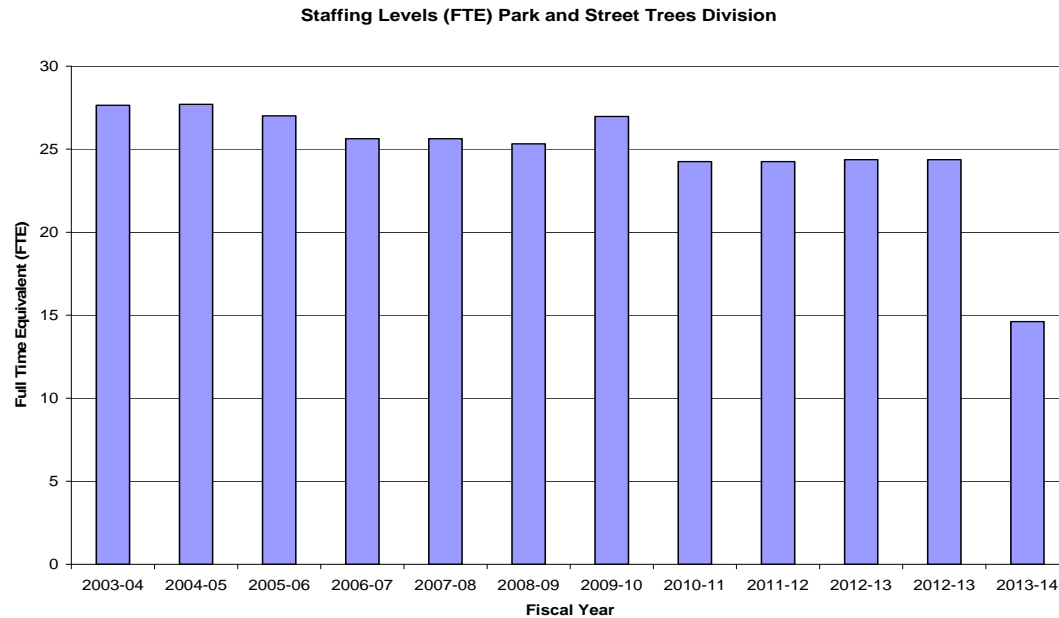
Employees per 10,000 residents: City of Chico: 1.0. Cities on the TPL list: high of 16.5 in Seattle; to a low of 0.8 in Tulsa.

Table 2. Annual Staff Budget Comparison.

	FY 1988-1989	FY 2007-2008	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014
Operating Budget						
Park Division	\$594,148	\$1,799,037	\$1,848,137	\$1,817,833	\$1,805,759	\$1,742,016
Street Trees Division		\$1,131,143	\$971,276	\$1,019,987	\$1,073,079	\$839,941
Total General Fund Budget		\$49,310,955	\$41,282,457	\$42,995,996	\$43,048,493	\$43,413,923
Staffing ^a						
Park Division	14	13.5+	13	12	12	8.75
Street Trees	2	11	9	8	6	3

^a The Street Tree program was considered part of the Park Division in 1988. The lifeguard program is not part of this estimate but in 2010-11 and 2011-12 amounted to 3.75 FTE. Adjusted for inflation, the budget for FY 1988-1989 is \$1,153,109.

Figure 1. Comparison of Staffing Levels.



Bidwell Park and Playground Commission 2012 – 2013 Work Plan

Staff provided a detailed work plan update at the December 2012 BPPC meeting. Currently, many items on the work plan are in progress. An update on this progress will be reported before the end of the next fiscal year.

Table 3. Current Status of 2013-2014 Work Plan

Goal/Subgoal	Status	Comments
<p>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: Develop a Trail Plan for the Park and provide public opportunities for progress updates and input as projects move forward. Update the Trails Manual. Update of the Natural Resources Management Plan (including vegetation management plan, management units, and an Adaptive Management framework). Complete an inventory of Park Infrastructure.</p>	In-Progress	Work delayed at beginning of fiscal year (lost key staff members including ones that were working on the GIS aspect of the Trails and Natural Resources Management Plans, and the lead on the infrastructure inventory). Staff hope to restart efforts and bring information to the Natural Resource Committee by Summer 2014.
<p>Finalize the Wet Weather Plan.</p>	Completed	Plan adopted by BPPC.
<p>Complete review of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP), including Environmental Review.</p>	In progress.	Preliminary draft reviewed by Tree Committee in May. Review the Short Term Objectives described in the UFMP and prioritize those that can be done within current budgetary constraints. Add consideration for large trees.
<p>Assess needs and prioritize renovation projects for Caper Acres (developing funds and renovation plans for improved infrastructure and new play equipment).</p>	In-progress	The Natural Resources Committee kicked off a public input meeting for
<p>Explore funding opportunities to better support Park Division projects and programs. Priority items would help: Establish a park event(s) to celebrate the park, raise community awareness of issues and needs, and develop funds. Explore the feasibility of a community funded, interpretive, interactive memorial to the significance and scale of the Hooker Oak. Explore adequate funding sources for infrastructure and operations to implement the Comanche Creek management plan and improvements (including grants, donations, creation of a maintenance district, etc.).</p>	In-progress	<p>The Division made significant progress on 5a and 5c.</p> <p>5a – Staff worked with key partners to complete the inaugural Bidwell Park Birthday Bash.</p> <p>5b – Minimal progress: collected documentation, conducted preliminary conversations with CSUC professors, and moved the remaining wood in storage.</p> <p>5c – BPPC supported Council adoption of a Housing Related Parks grant at the 12/16/13 meeting. Council later adopted the resolution. Citizens have worked on the proposal and also developing operational funding for the opening of the area.</p>
<p>Provide increased management focus on other City properties, including: Develop management plan concepts for all City Greenways. Seek funding to develop a Master Management Plan for Lindo Channel. Receive information on ongoing mitigation bank efforts on Bidwell Ranch. Report on progress and explore development options for Lost Park.</p>	In Progress	<p>6a – Work delayed due to the precedence of other priorities.</p> <p>6b – Work post-phoned. Staff from other Departments working on funding options have been cut and no longer with the City.</p> <p>6c – Staff anticipates information on Bidwell Ranch options will be brought before Council in 2014.</p> <p>6d – In progress. While early in the process, Staff is exploring options on revised parking options and sidewalk.</p>

Administrative and Visitor Services

a. Program Description

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 (especially the Park and Natural Resource Manager and the Park Services Coordinator) 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.

b. 2013 Highlights

Closure of Park Areas – In response to the cuts in staff, Park Hours were reduced to better match resources with work load. Staff prioritized services on peak days (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) with no changes in park hours on those days. As a result some park gates and restrooms remained closed. The South One Mile gates and restroom and Middle Park Gates and Horse Arena Gate remained on past schedule (the Golf Course opens those gates). Five Mile Recreation Area parking and restroom, North One Mile gate and restroom, and Peterson Drive gates remain closed during Monday-Thursday. Caper Acres was closed (Tuesday-Thursday), but has been since reopened due to assistance from Serve-Pro and now the Butte County Sheriff's ACS program. Some measures have been completed to attenuate impacts (such as portable restrooms). We should note that only access to the Park via vehicle has been impacted and other than the restrooms, patrons that enter the park via other means have not been impacted.

Service Requests - Park Staff received approximately 84 service requests. The majority of requests were related to fallen trees, graffiti and general vandalism to park signs and infrastructure. Service requests related to homeless encampments saw a sharp spike with XX requests.

BPPC Support – Staff supported 12 BPPC meetings, 2 Natural Resource meetings, 3 Policy Advisory meetings, and 4 Tree Committee meetings,

Economic Contribution - The Park Division processed \$571,248 in payments to over 114 vendors that provided professional services, materials, and supplies for the management of the Park and greenways. Approximately, 61% of the vendors are local suppliers based in Chico. Another 20% of payments are to regional vendors between Redding and Sacramento. However, the economic benefit is small relative to the contribution to quality of life and local economic well being that Parks provide in enhanced real estate values, sporting equipment sales, event sales, health benefits, and venues for supporting non-profits.

Research Tracking – Individuals from various agencies, including CSU, Chico students requested permission to conduct six research projects in Bidwell Park in 2013. Some of the studies undertaken included: study of the dispersal methods of noxious weeds; Catalpa Tree herbicide pilot project; an Upper Park tick survey; sampling rattlesnake and ground squirrel tissue and a study of the walnut twig beetle, which carries a fungus that threatens native walnut trees.

Park Leases – the Park Services Coordinator sent out requests for annual reports in December, Attached are annual reports from park lessees - Bidwell Park Municipal Golf Course, Chico Rod and Gun Club, and the One Mile Concession Stand (Dog House). As of the time of this report, we have not received reports from – Chico Creek Nature Center, Chico Equestrian Association, Chico Outsiders (ORAI), Chico Community Observatory, CARD

New contracts – The City developed selected several contracts including emergency tree services contract, tree removal contract, completion of the 5 Mile septic system, and others.

Park Permits - City of Chico parks provide many ideal venues for family picnics and community events, offering a safe, picturesque environment for thousands of people annually. Some salient features include:

Staff tracked the number of permits and participants for both public and private events, including Caper Acres (Figures 1 and 2). Staff issued a total of 644 permits (103 public events, 238 private events, and 303 reservations at Caper Acres). After a 3 year rise, total public event participation declined (Figure 2) from last year (81,472) to this year's (49,551). The largest decrease appears right after the start of the Fiscal Year (July and August and seems to rebound after that). The reduced levels may be associated with public perception on reduced hours and staffing levels. The estimates do not include spectators, which could increase the numbers significantly.

Figure 2. Monthly Total of Park Permits Issued (2012)

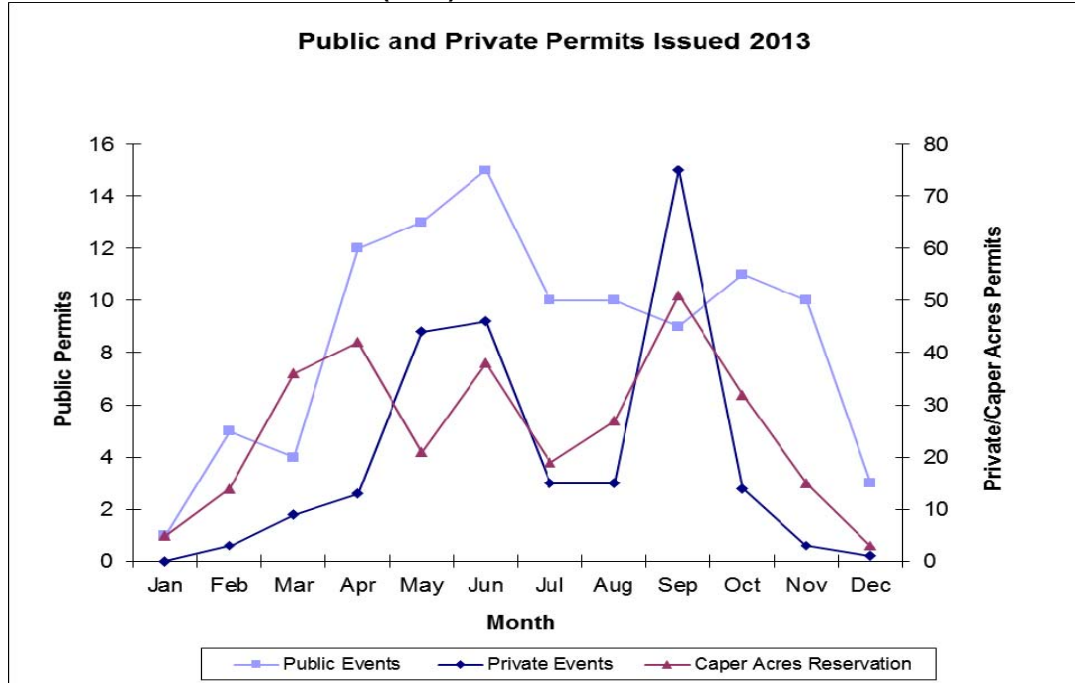
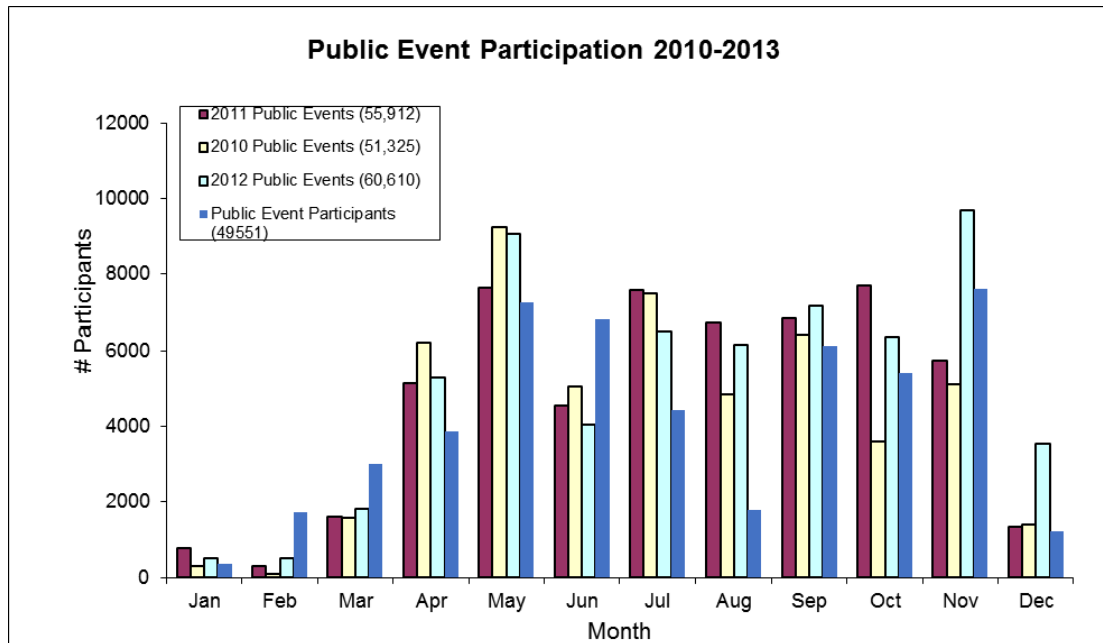


Figure 3. Monthly Total of Public Event Participation (2010-2012)



Bidwell Park Traffic Counts – During the 2012 calendar year, staff installed portable traffic counters at locations in throughout Bidwell Park. During the first three months of 2013, traffic counts appeared to be higher than 2012 (176,171 to 153,436). Unfortunately, with the staffing changes this program was ceased. We hope to restart the effort in 2014.

Visitation Estimates – The traffic counts were the cornerstone to provide a means of estimating visitorship in Bidwell Park. In 2012, park visitorship was estimated at over 1.9 million visits. With the cessation of the traffic count collection, the uncertainty of any estimate climbs greatly. The changes in gate hours and

services also change the pattern of use in unknown ways and without some quantification and estimate is inappropriate. Therefore, we did not provide an estimate of visitorship in 2013.

Planning and Monitoring

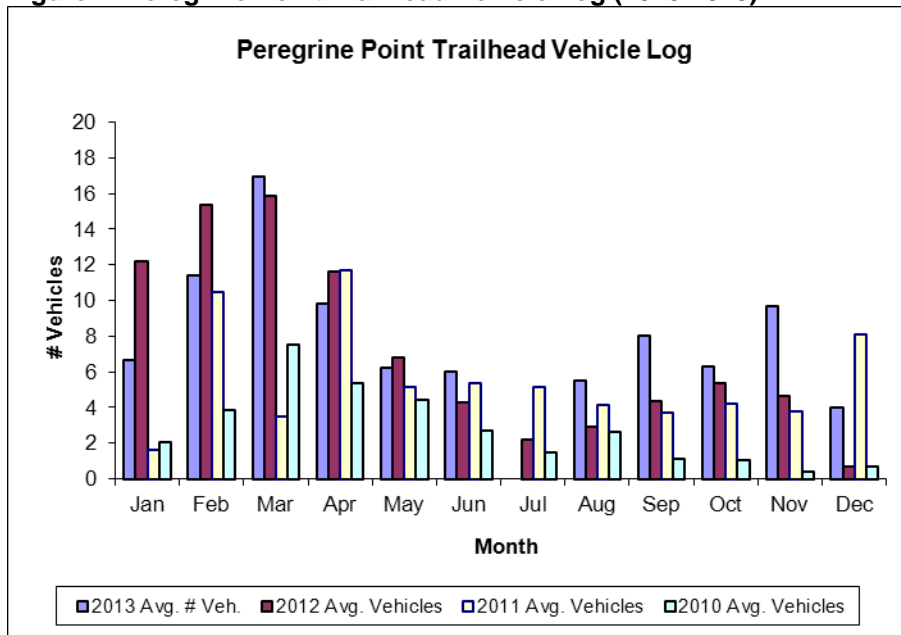
Program Description

Many of the tasks associated with Planning and Monitoring are conducted by the Park and Natural Resource Manager with support from all other programs and even other departments and outside entities.

2013 Highlights

Peregrine Point Monitoring Report – Staff issued the second annual monitoring report for the disc golf course in 2013. Rangers have been monitoring visitation at the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course since 2009. During patrol of the area, rangers document number of vehicles, course condition, weather conditions and misc. observations (no observations were recorded in July). Generally, the average number of vehicles per observation has steadily increased over the past 3 years (Figure 9).

Figure 4. Peregrine Point Trailhead Vehicle Log (2010-2013).



Trails and Natural Resources Plan – Last year Staff reported progress in working with the Natural Resource Committee and the public on initial inventory maps, estimate of trail totals, and the development of Management Units; and noted anticipated drafts completed in 2013-2014. Staffing issues have prevented the restart of those efforts, but we now anticipate that these efforts will be restarted before the end of the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year and draft plans completed by Fall 2014.

Caper Acres – Significant efforts began work on developing a 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. Staff anticipates a plan will be completed for BPPC review by Fall 2014

Maintenance and Infrastructure

Program Description

Park maintenance staff is responsible for the care and maintenance of Bidwell Park and other assigned parks, view sheds 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 three maintenance workers, one senior maintenance worker, and a field supervisor. Park staff duties include cleaning, safety inspection, graffiti removal, and maintenance of park grounds, facilities, and play areas. Park Maintenance is also responsible for the trails program, wild land restoration and maintenance.

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

- 6 reservation areas,
- 36 individual picnic sites,
- 7 park buildings that house 25 restrooms stalls
- 8 porta pottie locations,
- 3 shower facilities,
- Numerous lighting systems,
- 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, wild land 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 wild land restoration through the planting of native plants and grasses.

2013 Highlights

2013 has been an interesting if not trying year with crews cut, parks reduced hours, morale out the window and trying to implement volunteers to keep areas open with limited success. In spite of all this turmoil we managed to make limited headway on the different fronts.

Trail Program - The trail program has seen the completion of the ADA section of the trail grant and near completion of the trail grant itself, along with the start of the reroute of monkey face trail and the rehabilitation to remove all the scaring and erosion to area of the of the monkey face butte. Volunteers in conjunction with staff installed multiple grade reversals on North Rim trail to divert water away from the blue oak trail head. Total new trail tread work for all projects mentioned is 2,504 feet for 2013.

Removal of Potential Hazardous Materials - Toxic telephone pole barriers removal project is almost complete with 1,395 feet remaining to be removed in 2014 from the Centennial Avenue, Five Mile way and picnic site 24 locations.

Native Plantings - Native Planting sites completed in 2013 include the Five mile levee, two sites on south park entrance and one site at the North One Mile Bridge.

Fuel reduction and prescribed burns in the park both the CCC and Salt creek worked on fuel reduction in Middle Park this year.

Infrastructure replaced, retrofitted or removed - staff installed two new drinking fountains one at Five Mile and one Cedar Grove to replace the badly worn ones, staff also rebuilt and installed a replacement on Peterson drive by the old nursery. Staff removed one observation deck from World of Trees and set up volunteers to replace with a less maintenance intensive type. Staff added over one hundred feet of new fence at Lot E to help preserve the integrity of the storage cell by keeping the public on the trail. The Five Mile septic system was completely replaced this summer with a more up to date system to handle the spikes in usage from the spring, summer, and fall schedules.

Natural Resource Management

Program Description

Although we began listing this as a program area in 2012, natural resource 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. However, at this point its important to have this listed as a priority area because of its importance and the fact that we are better integrating the Division to work more complementary on efforts than previously. For example, the recent burns in the park represent efforts from administrative staff (planning and public notice), to rangers (safety and securing permits), to maintenance (site

prep and oversight of crews), to volunteers (Park Watch provided information during the event), and even beyond to other City Divisions (Fire) and other entities (CDF). We include in this program area, Park Division efforts with project and park planning, projects, and monitoring.

2013 Highlights

Wet weather – At the October 28, 2013 meeting, the BPPC reviewed the 2012-2013 data and adopted the “Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan”. This item has been on the BPPC workplan for several years. Revisions will be made to this document based on public input and we anticipate an annual review of the program.

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. A prescribed burn occurred in October. Several areas have fuels reduction piles that will be burned, if wet weather and favorable fire conditions return.

Monkey Face Reroute-

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.

Catalpa Herbicide Trial Project – was initiated in the Fall of 2013 as a partnership between CA State Parks, Friends of Bidwell Park and Park Division. This multi-year project will help determine which herbicides, herbicide application method and application time of year are most effective in killing catalpa trees of varying diameters.

Outreach and Education

Program Description

Community outreach and education is an important element of Park Division work to encourage appropriate use and appreciation of parks and resources. Although the Rangers typically take a key role in this function, the visible nature of our work means that all staff provides information to park users. With our focus on proactive enforcement of rules and protection of resources, it is important that our efforts in this area continue to improve:

2013 Highlights

The following is a summary of the notable activities:

The Bidwell Park Pulse continued quarterly publication, with positive feedback from citizens. The newsletter is predominately distributed electronically.

Staff continued quarterly *Park Talk* opportunities for the public (One Mile, Trails walk thru, National Night Out, Caper Acres).

The Parks Division continued uploading content on the Facebook page ([City of Chico—Parks Division](#)) and Twitter feed ([@ChicoParks](#)), as another way to connect with Park users.

Staff continued to develop a relationship with the Chico Creek Nature Center and established a satellite ranger office. Additionally, Park Watch volunteers continued to volunteer at the Nature Center acting as docents, giving visitors information and guidance about the park while staffing shifts at the Nature Center’s Howard Tucker Hall.

Rangers, along with other City staff participated in the 911 Safety Pals show again this year. The show has been well received by the students, teachers, and parents.

This past year, the rangers were involved in numerous outreach efforts, including conducting a number of interpretive programs and staffing several information booths (e.g. Endangered Species Faire, Snow Goose Festival, Wildcat Welcome and the Bidwell Bark).

The Park Services Coordinator provided on-going education and park information for school students through annual programs, such as Associated Students Community Action Volunteers in Education Adopt-A-Park Program (each semester); CSUC Upward Bound High School Summer Program (6 weeks); Chico High School Horticulture Class Native Plant Project (full school year) and the Adopt-A-Picnic Site program (through out the year).

The Parks Division hosted the 3rd annual National Night Out event (08/07/12) at Sycamore Pool in the One Mile Recreation Area. The well-attended event drew over 200 people, plus members from support and sponsor groups like Target (who donated a bicycle as a raffle prize), Park Watch, Kids and Creeks and the Blaze Radio station. Park staff, lifeguards and Park Watch volunteers provided information about park safety and organized fun activities for kids,

including a dunk tank. Fire and ambulance personnel gave tours of emergency medical vehicles and helpful tips on emergency situations.

Approximately 20 news releases were released in 2013, providing valuable information to the public on upcoming management efforts and volunteer opportunities as well as education on park resources.

Ranger and Lifeguard

Program Description

The mission of the Park Rangers is to protect, promote and enhance the natural and cultural resources of Bidwell Park, community and neighborhood parks, greenways and open space for present and future generations. We achieve this mission by providing education to the public, professional customer service, as well as consistent and fair enforcement of the law.

Park Rangers maintain and protect park resources and educate the community. Rangers patrol the City parks, playgrounds and greenways to enforce rules, laws and regulations; respond to emergencies; provide visitor assistance; report damage and safety concerns; assist with event coordination; address illegal encampment issues; develop outreach materials; conduct educational and interpretive programs; implement various monitoring programs; assist with the natural resource management program; as well as open/close park gates and facilities. The rangers maintain high visibility during their patrols to help deter crime and provide visitor assistance and work closely with Police, Fire, Code Enforcement and other State and Federal public safety and natural resource based agencies. Two full-time and one permanent seasonal park ranger (0.75 FTE) were on staff this past year. The rangers have performed well, despite limited financial and staff resources, and pride themselves in responding professionally and promptly to their varied responsibilities.

The Park Ranger program also coordinates the Park Watch volunteers, which began in 1995 and is similar to a neighborhood watch program. Park Watch members are ambassadors of the park; they provide visitors with information, foster a safe environment, and advise park staff about damage, hazards, vandalism, or other concerns. As avid park users, Park Watchers incorporate their volunteer duties into their regular walking, biking, running, or horseback riding. In 2013, 10 new members were added to the program, bringing the total membership to 124 who donated an estimated 11,000 hours.

In addition, Rangers assist in the oversight of the approximately 15 lifeguards (3.75 FTE) that staff the Sycamore Pool from 11 am - 7 pm six days a week. Lifeguards are on staff from Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend. Lifeguards monitor pool and lawn activities, encourage safe behavior, perform rescues and provide first aid. The pool is much beloved and at any one time swimmers can exceed 100 with twice the number of lawn patrons. During the 2013 season it was estimated that a total of 41,752 park visitors utilized the pool and surrounding area. Rescues performed were about average this season, amounting to 7 total, same as number as last year. The lifeguards also provided treatment to another 11 visitors for bee stings, falls, abrasions and cuts. Due to the diligence of staff and good fortune there were no major injuries this year at the pool. The Lifeguard staff is essential to encourage safe behavior in the water during busy summer months. Lifeguards also provide important information to rangers and police. That information has resulted in the arrest of several potentially dangerous people.

2013 Highlights

Community outreach and education plays an important part in Ranger duties. Outreach by rangers is intended to increase community interactions as well as foster stewardship and appreciation of the parks and recreational resources. In early 2013 rangers were able to establish a satellite office at the Chico Creek Nature Center. The satellite office has enabled the rangers to establish a stronger relationship with the staff at the CCNC and be more visible to the public. Rangers hosted the 3rd annual National Night Out event, contributed to the quarterly newsletter, staffed several information booths, and participated in 911 Safety Pals. These programs provided valuable information that enhanced park users' enjoyment and safety while also promoting the protection of our natural and cultural resources.

The balance of outreach and enforcement tilted in 2013. Staffing reductions at the Chico Police Department had a direct impact on the Rangers who were tasked with responding to a sharp increase in vandalism, violence and illegal camping activities in the parks and greenways. Rangers were creative in reaching out to other agencies for assistance. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and CA State Parks provided ranger and warden staff as they were available. Rangers were also able to make connections with the Butte County Sheriff's Office Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) and Sheriff's Work Alternative Programs (SWAP). The Sheriff's work programs have been a tremendous help in the clean-up of illegal encampments.

Rangers continued to play a major role in management and monitoring projects. Rangers were involved in prescribed burns and vegetation management projects. Due to reductions in staffing and other factors, rangers were unable to be as involved with monitoring as they were in 2012.

The combined enforcement and resource management efforts, coupled with a strong educational and outreach program have culminated in the rangers' ability to continue to effectively protect and promote the City of Chico's natural and cultural resources.

City Accident/Damage/Theft Reports - are prepared for every instance of accident involving City property and/or damage/theft of City property (Table 7). Rangers are the first responders to many incidents in the park and in 2012 they assisted with several multi-agency medical responses and rescues. Notably, rangers were first on scene and initiated appropriate first aid to a choking park user, provided scene security and logistical support on a suicide incident, responded to a 3 fires, and assisted with numerous rescue and missing persons operations. There was decrease in damage to City property this past year. Accidents, vandalism and major graffiti incidents all decreased.

Table 5. Accident, Damage, and Theft Reports (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.)

Report Type	2010 Reports	2011 Reports	2012 Reports	2013 Reports
Injury Accident/EMS	19	19	18	14
City Property Damage	5	7	26	9
Fire	3	6	13	3
Wildlife	1	2	1	0
Other	1	1	1	1
Total	29	35	59	27

Citations and Warnings – We use a voluntary compliance and education enforcement strategy; therefore rangers issue a large number of warnings (Table 6). Citations from animal control, code enforcement, or police officers are not included.

Table 6. Summary Citations and Warnings by Violation 2013

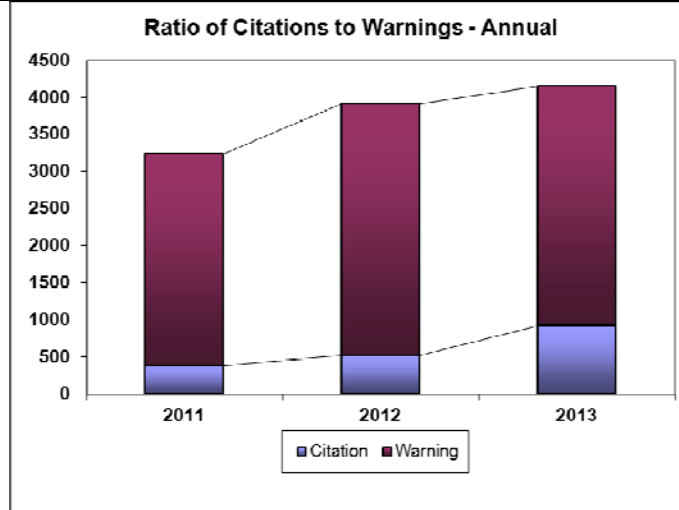
Violation	2013 Total Citations	%	Rank	2013 Total Warnings	%	Rank
Alcohol	203	22%	2	286	9%	4
Animal Control Violations	73	8%	6	545	17%	3
Bicycle Violation	4	0%	11	929	29%	1
Glass	77	8%	5	151	5%	6
Illegal Camping	111	12%	4	125	4%	8
Injury/Destruction City Property	6	1%	9	22	1%	11
Littering	5	1%	10	55	2%	9
Other Violations	28	3%	7	206	6%	5
Parking Violations	258	28%	1	138	4%	7
Resist/Delay Park Ranger	10	1%	8	29	1%	10
Smoking	150	16%	3	737	23%	2
Total	925	100.0%		3223	100.0%	

Table 7. Summary Citations and Warnings by Place 2013

Location	2013 Citations			2013 Warnings		
	Total	%	Rank	Total	%	Rank
Lower Park	275	29.7%	2	1714	53.2%	1
Middle Park	64	6.9%	4	210	6.5%	4
Upper Park	249	26.9%	3	497	15.4%	3
Specialty Parks/Greenways	337	36.4%	1	802	24.9%	2
Totals	925	100.0%		3223	100.0%	

Figure 4. Monthly Citation/Warning Comparison (2011, 2012, 2013).

Type	2011	2012	2013
Citation	386	523	925
Warning	2861	3392	3223



Police Incident Reports and Calls for Service – The Police Department tracks incident reports and calls for service. This past year, police officers, fire personnel and rangers responded to 2311 calls (398 reports) in City parks, open spaces and greenways. Because of staffing at P.D. and a break in tracking the calls for service and incident reports for 2013, the entire year is not completely depicted.

Figure 5. Summary Police Incident Reports and Calls for Service 2012 and 2013

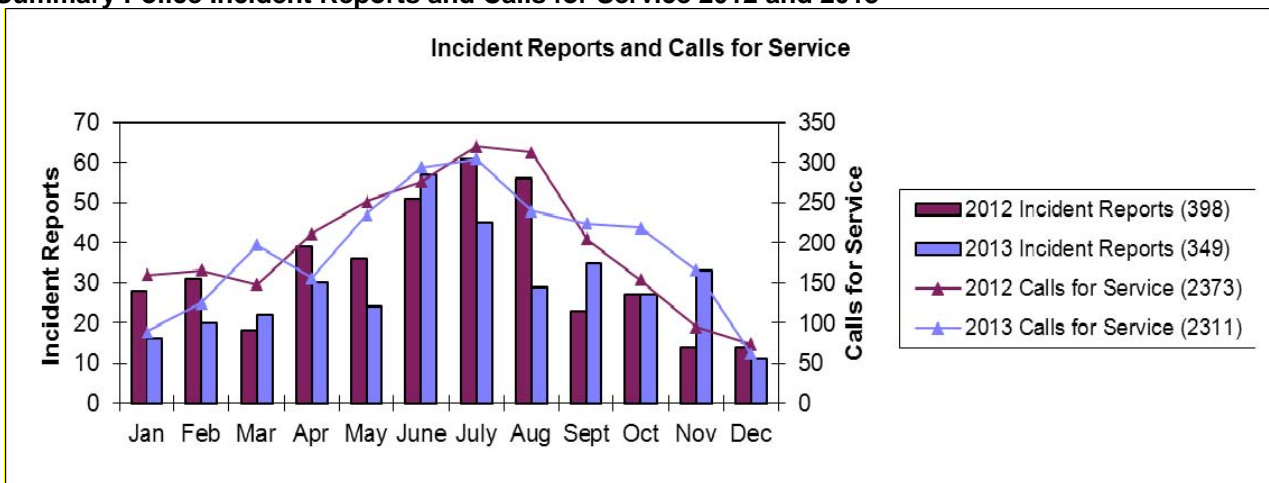


Table 6. Type of Police Incident Report (2010-2013).

Incident Report Type	2010 Reports	2011 Reports	2012 Reports	2013 Reports
Arson	0	2	0	0
Assault	13	23	13	24
Burglary	2	3	4	2
Drug Related	11	12	32	13
Drunk In Public	51	43	65	28
Larceny	31	47	44	41
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	2	1	1
Other	123	97	138	158
Parole/Prob. Violation	8	7	15	4
Rape	2	1	1	3
Resist/Obstruct/False Info	13	8	13	10
Robbery	3	7	5	6
Vandalism	3	3	2	5
Warrant	44	43	55	53
Weapons Violation	2	4	10	1
Total	307	302	398	349

Homeless Encampments – Issues associated with homeless activities continued to increase, specifically impacting City Plaza, Lower Park and certain greenways. Several measures have been implemented to address homeless camp activity, including opening up densely vegetated areas and consistent, regular identification and clean-up of active camps. Rangers took a lead role in the program this past year, assisted by Public Works crews, ACS and SWAP crews, CA State Parks, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and Chico P.D.

Street Trees And Public Plantings

Program Description

At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Parks Division absorbed the functions of the Street Trees and Public Plantings (landscapes) Division.

2013 Highlights and General Summary

Tree Crew Efforts – The tree crew was an important part of taking care of the City trees. However the crew was cut in FY 2013-2014. Work noted below (prior to July is associated with the Crew).

City Plaza Efforts - We started out the year 2013 by taking down the Menorah and the Christmas lights from the community Christmas Tree at the Downtown Plaza. Once the crews completed the project they did a formative prune on the 49 trees in the Plaza. The main focus as we have done in the past was to establish a strong central leader that will encourage a lower maintenance and better structured tree.

Formative Pruning - Early spring the crews started on formative pruning. They spent 685 hours to trim 1364 trees located throughout the City. The totals for 2012 were 953 hours to prune 1376 trees.

High Priority Service Requests - From April to June the focus was on high priority service requests, routine elevating, traffic safety pruning, irrigation of newly planted trees, the clean up of down limbs and hangers.

New Model set up for FY 2013-2014 - July was very challenging with the entire Tree Crew being laid off and the retirement of the Urban Forest Manager.

Through a bid process we managed to hire a local tree service, Petersen Tree Care to handle our emergency work. During August to September we used the contractor for emergency hangers, broken limbs, and safety pruning.

The cost for these two months was \$29,554.34.

Modification of model - Since that time, Staff will Council approval, hired Aaron Holt back as a Senior Tree Maintenance Worker (November 12th). He was assigned to respond to emergency down limbs and hangers as well as smaller removals and traffic safety pruning. Work completed by Mr. Holt during November to December. The idea was that this may serve as a more cost-effective means that utilizing the emergency services contract exclusively.

- Traffic Safety Pruning- 222 trees
- School Zone Pruning- 94 trees
- Smaller dead/dying removals- 27 trees

During this time Petersen Tree Care was not used. Staff will be completing a cost/workload analysis to see if this arrangement is cost effective.

Projects Completed

- 551 Service Requests- 762 hours a detailed list is available.
- Brush Chipping and Clean Up- 39 hours.
- Unauthorized Camp Clean Up- 14 hours.
- Christmas Tree and Menorah take down- 50 hours.
- Down Limbs and Hangers- 677 hours.
- Downtown Plaza- 80 hours (49 trees pruned, 2-removed by Veterans Memorial).
- Routine Elevating- 86 hours.
- Equipment Maintenance- 238 hours.
- Grates and Cages- 13 hours.
- Irrigation- 833 hours.
- Planting- 41 hours (6-trees in the downtown area with grates and cages).
- Prep Time and DOT Inspections- 537 hours.
- Formative Pruning- 685 hours (1364 trees).
- Park Pruning- 28 hours.
- Traffic Safety Pruning- 199 hours.
- Priority Removals- 116 hours.
- Safety Meetings- 62 hours.
- School Zone Pruning- 173 hours.
- Storm Damage Clean Up- 42 hours.
- Training- 88 hours.
- Call Outs- 55 (all call outs required follow up assessment, pruning or removal).
- Permits- 28 pruning/removal permits approved from July to December.
- Emergency Tree Work- 133 hours (\$30,004.34).
- Removal Contract Work- 60 trees (\$30,000.00).

Trees

Completed its 29th year as a Tree City USA.

Continued upgrading of the City's Street Tree Inventory as work is done on various trees.

Street tree crews concentrated 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

In 2012, the crews pruned 1376 young street trees, compared to 847 trees in 2011. This increase is partly due to weather differences which allowed more time for young tree pruning in spring, 2012.

The tree removal contractor removed 125 dead and dangerous street trees. The tree crew removed another 45 trees, adding to our backlog of stumps with the Right of Way (ROW).

[update..only has up to Denise's departure....

Project Type	Description	<u>2011</u> Hours	<u>Percent</u> Time	<u>2012</u> Hours	<u>Percent</u> Time
Scheduled Maintenance	DCBA, traffic safety, School zones, young tree pruning	2553	26%	3059	32%
Service Requests	High Priority Requests	2333	24%	1952	20%
Emergency or Urgent Work	Storm Damage, down limbs, call out cleanup	1205	12%	1251	13%
Planting	Arbor Day, Planting Program Assist	31	0.3%	89	0.9%

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>2011 Hours</u>	<u>Percent Time</u>	<u>2012 Hours</u>	<u>Percent Time</u>
Equipment and Yard Maintenance	Includes Required DOT inspections	1527	16%	1442	15%
Assisting other Departments	DPW, Fire, Parks, Unoccupied Camp Cleanup	486	5%	332	3%
Safety Meetings and Training	Electrical Hazards, Aerial Rescue, Climbing	468	5%	345	4%
Other	Sick, Vacations, Holidays, Leave	1219	12%	1097	11%
Total Hours		9822	100%	9567	100%
FTE	2080 hours	4.72		4.60	
Formative pruning	Number of young trees pruned	847		1376	
Trees Removed	Number of trees	110		170	
Call outs	Number of call outs	47		48	
Damage Reports	Number of Reports	23		34	

City Landscapes

Program Description

There are over 200 public landscape sites ranging from very large and spread out to small in size. Our city landscapes include locations such as backups to subdivisions, roadway medians and right of ways, municipal buildings, city parks and greenways. Each year due to the possible acceptance of new subdivisions, sites may be added to the city's responsibilities and placed under contract.

2013 Highlights

Landscape Contract – This is the largest annual contract for the City. The city contracts maintenance services to Carson Landscape Industries and their local subcontractor, Sierra Landscape Maintenance Inc. This year's annual contract amounts to \$633,600.07 for services being paid out over 115 different fund accounts. The City's Landscape Inspector communicates daily with the landscape contractor, promoting contract compliance and efficient quality services.

Overall Duties – Although a variety of issues may come up throughout the year, the seasons strongly influence tasks. To provide a bit of an overview, staff provides the following general description:

Winter - In January, the maintenance focus turns to pruning shrubs to reduce size, if necessary and thin to maintain natural shape and relevance within each individual landscape. Once the annual pruning is done, the shrubs are attended to monthly for general maintenance. Late winter is also when irrigation systems are given a full check so they are ready to be used in the spring season, when occasional irrigation may be necessary. The landscapes have irrigation controllers with multiple programs being monitored and adjusted through out the year to conserve water and still provide for the health of the plants. Each December the controllers are turned off through the winter to help insure water conservation.

Winter/Spring - Fertilizers are applied and follow-up to pre-emergent applications from previous Summer/Fall. Weed control is ongoing, month to month. Records are kept regarding chemicals applied. Some sites have annual plant "color" beds that are changed out quarterly and reinforced through out the year.

Spring/Summer - Mulch is reestablished and chip mulch generated from tree work is utilized to save money. Mulching helps to control weeds, reduce water evaporation and moderate soil temperatures. There is a consistent focus on water conservation with weekly irrigation checks and repairs performed during all months when systems are operating. As a part of the attention to conservation, water quality is also important. Protecting the water supply from contamination is assured by testing every Backflow Prevention Device associated with a

City of Chico property. Weather is predictable during this growing season. Many tasks are routine such as mowing, trimming and litter removal.

Fall – Fall’s cooler nights, reduces evapotranspiration, so the irrigation programming is reduced (many systems are on remote computerized control). This conserves water resource, water costs and provides for better plant health. Fall fertilization of turf and other plants occurs. Wood chips continue to be placed in planters to cover bare soil. With the season leaf drop, hauling is a daily routine in Fall/Winter.

Other impacts - There has been an impact to some sites due to vandalism vagrancy and/or illegal encampment. Throughout the year, repairs and maintenance to related facilities are accomplished. Some examples are repairs to picnic tables and benches, lamp light and electrical, irrigation, sound walls and restrooms. In high impact public use places, there is daily patrolling for trash and litter pick up, graffiti removal and need for surface cleaning. Landscape maintenance is an integrated service and each year cycles through tasks that orient to each season.

Plan and Field Checks - Inspections of landscapes prior to accepting new developments are required to insure proper installation and success of the landscape’s growth and maturity. Staff plans to better integrate public planting efforts with efforts in the Park.

Evaluation of plantings – On a routine basis, Staff works on evaluating the need for replanting and water conservation measures. In 2014, Staff will be exploring the potential to set up a conservation demonstration area that will convert high maintenance, high water use landscaping into native, low input landscaping.

Volunteer and Donations

Program Description

When citizens take the opportunity to give time and energy to Bidwell Park and our City greenways, their investment in and respect for Chico’s unique resources grows deeper. *The Bidwell Park Volunteer Program’s objective is to enlist the help of the local community in managing Park resources and expand volunteerism in as many aspects of enhancing Bidwell Park as possible (BP Volunteer Manual, April 2007).* Volunteers currently assist the Park Division in trail maintenance and repair, painting, litter removal, Park office tasks, control of invasive weeds, native plant seed propagation and planting in volunteer habitat restoration areas throughout Bidwell Park. Volunteer projects now are scheduled regularly in the City’s greenways as well.



In 2013, volunteers contributed 19,056 hours of work to Bidwell Park and other Chico Greenways. In addition to these tasks, the Park Services Coordinator and Park Intern also include educational components focusing on Park history, and ecology; implement photo monitoring measures for restoration sites so that improvements can be seen over time and assist with the natural resource management program through the donation of thousands of hours of weeding invasive species and planting native plant species. The incorporation of vegetation management for years as the major portion of weekly and annual work sessions has helped supplement and offset the Park’s maintenance crew time. With reduced staff, volunteers dedication to helping cleanup encampments and trash has been vital for keeping our watershed cleaner.

2013 Highlights

Volunteer Hour overview - Overall volunteer hours were down 1% from 2012 (Table 9). Volunteers donated a 8,999 hours with even more hours focused in City greenways and open spaces in addition to Bidwell Park.

Large annual park work days remain popular events that school students, families, individuals, CSUC and Butte College students, community service groups and church groups participate in (Table 10).

Table 7. Summary of Volunteer Program Hours.

Category	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Trend
Park/Greenway Work	5,129	7,891	6,317	9,677	11,228	10,474	10,991	8,172	
Park Watch	11,913	10,866	10,455	10,061	8,788	6,901	8,810	10844	




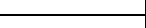
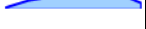
Patrol									
Total Hours	17,042	18,757	16,772	19,738	20,016	17,375	19,801	19,056	

Table 8. Summary of Volunteer Annual Event Hours.

Event	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Trend
Earth Day	88	371	515	705	448	638	262	906	
Make a Difference Day	124	389	302	495	409	1,154	1,042	1120	
Upward Bound Work Day	473	536.5	0	370.5	347	503	446	730	
Trail Work Days	216	471	581	353	18	146	121	137	

The Park Division and **Chico High School Native Plant Project** has started its 6th year with 4 new students beginning in the 2013-14 school year. Students have cultivated and cared for over 12 native plant species, and have experimented with different growing techniques and seed preparation. Park volunteer Michael Stauffer and Paula Shapiro (in the Spring 2013) advised on the project and worked with students. The class had two field days a year, in the fall to collect cuttings and in the winter to plant in the Park.

The Park Division and CSU, Chico's **Community Action Volunteers in Education (CAVE)** have partnered through the Adopt-A-Park Program for its eighth year. In Spring 2013, there were 27 CAVE students and in the Fall 22 CAVE students worked in Bidwell Park and our City greenways.

The Park Division and **CSU Chico's Upward Bound (UB)** high school program completed its 8th year with 10 high school students working in the Park 4 days a week for six weeks during the summer under the guidance of Park Intern Heidi Ortiz.

Volunteer **Adopt-A-Park Site Program** has been in existence since the Fall of 2008.

Sigma Chi Fraternity marks its 4th year of monthly work at site 40. The group planted native plants at their last spring and has continued to water and care for the site throughout the summer. Their new Philanthropy Chair Tanner Heath is an awesome coordinator and very committed to having the fraternity out several times a month.

Two of Sierra View Elementary School's 4th grade classes (6th year) held a work session in November at site 27. The group weeded and planted native plants.

McCabe Family (9th year) continued weeding sites 11 and 12.

Rangel Family (4th year) removed vinca at site 32 and planted native plants in the winter of 2013.

Blue Oak Elementary 8th (3rd year) grade class planted native plants and weeded.

Friends of Bidwell Park adopted Lost Park and has conducted monthly trash and weed removal sessions, giving this area beneficial attention. The Friends are excited about helping with the restoration of this area.

7. Friends of Comanche Creek have offered monthly work sessions at Comanche Creek greenway.

Weekly Volunteer Workdays in the Park & Greenways -- This program provides important follow-up work restoration, weed control and trash removal and trail work opportunities in various Park sites such as Annie's Glen, Cedar Grove, Five Mile Recreation, Lost Park, One Mile (north and south), Site 8, Site 24-25, Sycamore Restoration Site, and in the City's greenways, including 9th & Hazel Park, Children's Playground, Comanche Creek, Humboldt Park, Little Chico Creek, Lindo Channel, Memorial Way and Teichert Ponds. Funds raised through donations pay for an hourly Park Intern, who leads some of these sessions, which are in high demand as extra-curricular and mandated class community service components by Butte College and CSUC classes and organizations. Citizens unable to afford to pay their misdemeanor fines are able to work in the Park in place of paying.

The Park Division's **Crew Leader Program** and volunteer leaders of independent groups have increased the number of weekly sessions to provide pro-active care for sustaining and restoring a variety of locations in the City's greenways and open spaces and Bidwell Park. The Park Division conducted its second crew leader

training in March 2013 and several active crew leaders schedule weekly sessions with support from the Park Division. *Crew Leaders who have scheduled weekly or monthly sessions include: Elaine Elsmore (Annie's Glen and Five Mile); Michael Bruhn (Lost Park); Steve Overlock (Yahi Trail for CNPS); Michael Stauffer (Chico High Native Plant Project and other asundry work days!); Timmarie Hamill (Stream Team at Five Mile and with School groups); and Caitlyn Reilly (Chico Creek Nature Center).*

Independent Groups, with many of the leaders participating in the Crew Leader Training and program, have expanded out the Park's Volunteer Program as a reliable, knowledgeable labor force.

Throughout 2013, **Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP)** volunteer sessions were planned and led by long time Park and greenway volunteer, Susan Mason. Invasive weed removal projects (olive trees, privet, bladder senna, pokeweed, silver dollar plants, yellow starthistle, puncturevine and much more) were conducted throughtout Bidwell Park. Susan and volunteers devoted many hundreds of hours to starthistle removal in Lower and Middle Park.; olive removal from the World of Trees; ailanthus herbicide treatment support; and the removal of invasive weeds at Memorial Way. The Friends removal of weeds at the North One Mile entrance speaks for itself (see photos).

FOBP sewed native plant seeds near the walnut orchard area where starthistle used to thrive. FOBP have logged over 15,767 hours since 2003. In 2013 FOBP donated to the Park, providing three 40 yard vegetation dumpsters; \$500.00 toward the Park Intern stipend; \$1,920 to a certified herbicide applicator to treat invasive weed trees; and is partnering with the Park Division and the State of California Parks Department on a trial herbicide project to control invasive Catalpa along Big Chico Creek.

In 2013 the **CA Native Plant Society, Mt. Lassen Chapter (CNPS)** expanded their work in the greenways led by Susan Mason, the group's invasive weed coordinator. Donating thousands of hours by offering numerous weekly sessions, volunteers have worked 9th & Hazel Park; Humboldt Park; Little Chico Creek; Memorial Way; Teichert Ponds; and Verbena Fields. Privets and trash removal are primary as well as other noxious weeds.

A group of CNPS members, led by Crew Leader Steve Overlock continued the removal of starthistle and trash, the pruning back of poison oak and brushing the Yahi Trail for its 6th year of adoption. Adrienne Edwards researched, and has drafted wording for the interpretive signs along the Yahi Trail in need of replacement.

Friends of Comanche Creek has 2-3 Crew Leaders who now conduct semi monthly work sessions for community volunteers. The group has been instrumental in removing trash and in vegetation management efforts. Janet Ellner, Elizabeth Stewart, and Susan Mason coordinate and lead these sessions. This year the group has paid a certified herbicide applicator to treat the large Ailanthus trees so that they can be removed.

CA Urban Stream Alliance "Stream Team" continue to conduct monthly water quality monitoring sessions at Five Mile utilizing volunteers.

Kids and Creeks hosted a week's worth of volunteer sessions at Vebena Fields with elementary school students helping collect native plant seeds and removing invasive weeds and trash.

Butte Environmental Council hosted the Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks Cleanup for over 10 years with 270 volunteers engaged in helping cleanup the City's waterways and park.

Donations

In calendar year 2013, citizens provided over \$20,767 in park cash donations, including \$1,594 devoted to Caper Acres (see Table 11). Donations, both cash and in-kind, have helped save the Park Division needed financial resources. This represents a substantial increase over last years total (\$8,695).

In-kind donations valued at over \$40,000 from area businesses and local organizations as well as in-kind labor provided by the CA Conservation Corps and community volunteers provided hundreds of thousands of dollars (see Table 11) in support of Park projects. Of note are contributions from Serve-Pro to help keep Caper Acres open and the new Parks relationship with Butte County Sherriff's programs (ACS and SWAP).

Through the years, the community has contributed funds to memorial benches, plaques, vita course stations, Caper Acres bricks and toward equipment and facilities. The Park staff and the BPPC will finalize the Park Donation Policy in the Spring of 2014 to clarify how our community may support Bidwell Park and to raise needed funds as the City moves forward. The policy will also include annual fund information, as well as a new Memorial Tree Giving Program. Donations are tax deductible and may be given to the Park Division to fund separate costs centers: Caper Acres/Nico Project; separate fund for Park and Greenway donations that can be carefully tracked.

Table 9. Summary of Park Donations and In-Kind Service Donations (2013).

Donations	Project or Event	Value	2012 Value
<u>Cash Donations</u>			
Oureach, Education and Special Events	Birthday Bash Proceeds	\$3,284	
Caper Acres	Includes brick sales	\$1,594	
General Improvements	Jake Early T-shirts	\$6,253	
Infrastructure		\$120	
Intern		\$1,000	
Trails		\$1,640	
Vegetation Management		\$97	
	*Funds are divided and allocated to the Park accounts above for intern, habitat restoration, trails and park upkeep	\$6,779	
Annie B's Fund Drive			
Total Donations		\$20,767	\$8,695

<u>In-Kind Donations</u>		
Organization	Activity	Value
Butte County Sheriff (SWAP and ACS programs)	Clean-ups, Caper Acres, vegetation work (Cost \$235/day, 2 times a week, plus crew of 6 for 3 hours)	\$6,805 ^a
CA Conservation Corps	Volunteer hours (1014 hours @ CCC labor fair market value \$18.77)	\$19,033
Costco	Breakfast foods for Earth Day and Make a Difference Day	\$400
Friends of Bidwell Park	3 vegetation dumpsters; and herbicide treatments	\$2,520
Friends of Comanche Creek	Herbicide for Ailanthus	\$500
Home Depot	Tools for Bidwell Park Earth Day & Make a Difference Day	\$900
Recology	8 green waste dumpsters (volunteer projects on large workdays and 4 at Comanche Creek)	\$1,600
Rotary of Chico	Native Plants for Caper Acres	\$80
Serve-Pro	Janitorial services and Caper Acres work.	\$15,246 ^a
Soroptimist	Native Plants for the Bidwell Park entrance	\$65
Starbucks	Coffee for Earth Day and Make a Difference Day	\$400
Teichert Ponds	Private donations for 6 vegetation bins	\$1,200
Waste Management	2 green waste dumpsters (volunteer project)	\$400
Total In-Kind Donations		\$49,149

^a Based on costs + estimated hours x State volunteer rate (\$24.75)

Both cash and in-kind donations support the Park Intern program; numerous vegetation management projects and bins for trash removal as well as annual volunteer workdays. Friends of Bidwell Park has provided support for greenwaste dumpsters, funds for the Park Intern position as well support for herbicide treatment by a certified applicator. Both Rotary of Chico and Soroptimist International of Chico have donated native plants based on planting plans provided by the Park Division. City-wide volunteer annual workdays, like Earth Day in Bidwell Park & Greenways and Make a Difference Day, are made possible through the support of long-time business donors Costco, Home Depot, Recology, Starbucks and Waste Management.

The Chico community has been generous and as we move into the future, the care and well-being of Bidwell Park and other city properties will depend on this generosity. Park staff conducted its first Special Event – the Bidwell Park Birthday Bash for raising funds for the Park, which included a 5K run as well as other fun family activities. While the Bash raised funds and awareness, the Park Division believes that a change in the event's date to Fall will mean that more community members can participate to support their Park.

Economic Value of the Volunteer Program

With limited financial and staff resources, Park and office volunteers remain an important asset to the health and well-being of Bidwell Park and the City's greenways. In 2013, the Volunteer Program has helped oversee efforts in the City of Chico's greenways as well as Bidwell Park. This facet has helped guide more community members and greenway neighbors who wish to contribute their part to the well being of the City's natural resources.

Traditionally, the financial worth of volunteer time has been estimated using a single dollar value for all types of volunteering. The Independent Sector updates annually the *Value of Volunteer Time* on its website <http://www.independentsector.org>. The current rate is \$24.75 per hour for the State of California (the volunteer rate is from 2010 and is the most up to date available). Using this rate, the Park's volunteer hours of 19,056 is equivalent to \$471,636. According to the IS website, "*The value of volunteer time presented here is the average wage of non-management, non-agricultural workers. This is only a tool and only one way to show the immense value volunteers provide to an organization.*" The Park Services Coordinator also solicits support of in-kind contributions from area businesses and organizations to help supplement the Volunteer Program and additional Park programs projects in the Park (see Table 11. Summary of Park Donations and In-Kind Service Donations (2013).

Challenges Encountered

Staffing challenges – the largest challenge is posed by the diminished resources available to the Divisions. Staff have made some strides in streamlining efforts, but this will take some time to implement. Some activities, such as related to the Urban Forest Manager may be contracted out to reduce workload.

Infrastructure – The diminished resources come at a time when Park infrastructure continues to decline.

Homeless Encampments – Encampments clean-ups and related enforcement issues were a significant part of all duties of the park division, which to address have caused opportunity costs on other endeavours.

Upcoming Issues

One thing that is clear from compiling the information related to this annual report is the remarkable breadth of tasks and long list of accomplishments that the Division completed last year despite the immense challenges. We hope that some of these efforts (such as draft Trails and Natural Resource Management Plans) will come to fruition during the 2014. Parks staff intends to:

- Complete draft Trails and Natural Resource Management Plans.

- Accept reservations and permits on-line.

- Complete the ADA trail and install trail kiosks at Horseshoe Lake. Complete the initial trail and erosion work at Monkey Face.

- Complete the Caper Acres Master Plan and begin to seek funding for urgent repairs.

- Support progress on the work plan for the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC).

Attachments:

- Detailed Maintenance Tasks 2013.

- Tree daily reports

Annual reports from leases