



CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE
(Grist (Chair), Haar and Smith-Peters)
Regular Meeting Agenda
June 19, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Chico Municipal Center Council Chamber Building
421 Main Street
Conference Room 2

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.1. CONSIDERATION OF SURVEY OF THE VEGETATION IN THE NATURE CENTER AREA

At its 5/20/19 meeting, the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) approved the Natural Resource Committee's recommendation to restore the Nature Center area in Lower Bidwell Park as a Valley Oak Woodland, and to conduct a baseline survey of the vegetation in the area prior to restoration efforts. The Committee will consider a survey performed by Dempsey Vegetation Management and recommended actions.

Recommendation: That the Committee recommend BPPC approval of the immediate treatment of the nonnative invasive weeds in the Nature Center Area until a restoration plan is developed.

2.2. CONSIDERATION OF A 2019-20 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN

The Committee will consider a draft 2019-20 Vegetation Management Work Plan for Bidwell Park and other City parks and greenways. The Work Plan lists the types of nonnative and invasive plants and trees targeted at each location and the proposed control methods that may be used over the year.

Recommendation: The Committee is requested to review the proposed Work Plan and provide any suggestions or recommendations.

3. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

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

4. ADJOURNMENT

Unless otherwise noticed, adjourn to the next regular meeting on July 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2, Chico Municipal Center Council Chamber Building located at 421 Main Street, Chico, California.



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



BPPC Natural Resource Committee Report

Meeting Date 6/19/19

DATE: 6/14/19
TO: BPPC Natural Resource Committee (Commissioners Grist (Chair), Haar, and Smith-Peters)
FROM: Linda Herman, Parks and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF SURVEY OF THE VEGETATION IN THE NATURE CENTER AREA

REPORT IN BRIEF:

At its 5/20/19 meeting, the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) approved the Natural Resource Committee's (NRC) recommendation to restore the Nature Center area in Lower Bidwell Park as a Valley Oak Woodland, and to conduct a baseline survey of the vegetation in the area prior to restoration efforts. The NRC will consider a survey performed by Dempsey Vegetation Management and recommended actions.

Recommendation: That the Committee recommend BPPC approval of the immediate treatment of the nonnative invasive weeds in the Nature Center Area until a restoration plan is developed.

BACKGROUND:

At its 5/15/19 meeting, the NRC continued its review of options to restore the cleared area near the Nature Center in Lower Bidwell Park. The Committee recommended that the area be restored as a Valley Oak Woodland demonstration site. The Committee also recommended that the area be surveyed to determine the types and locations of the different vegetation on site, which would be used for baseline comparisons to determine the success of restoration efforts.

DISCUSSION:

The Park Division currently has a contract with Dempsey Vegetation Management, who has vast experience and expertise in vegetation management and restoration. Jim Dempsey conducted a survey of the Nature Center area on 6/2/19 to identify both native and non-native species onsite and to provide observations and recommendations that could be used to determine when and how restoration should begin. A summary of the survey and observations is attached as Exhibit A.

During the survey, Mr. Dempsey determined that there are an abundant of nonnative weedy plants, such as Bladder Senna, that should be treated with herbicide or manually removed as soon as possible to prevent the spread of seeds in the area. He recommended this invasive weed abatement prior to any restoration efforts. Other items, such as sprouting stumps, could wait to be treated until the fall. Mr. Dempsey also noted that waiting a minimum of three complete growing seasons after an initial year of weed control and nonnative stump treatments will be needed for an effective and successful restoration project.

Mr. Dempsey also thought the area could provide an opportunity for an outdoor laboratory to teach school children and the public about nature, habitat restoration, and the benefits of species diversity.

Dempsey provided a GPS map of his survey travels but recommended that a detailed vegetation map be prepared as part of the comprehensive restoration plan development process. Staff is recommending that Dempsey Vegetation Management treat the area for invasive weeds now and draft a restoration plan for the Committee's and BPPC consideration. The area will be cordoned off and signed, and the Nature Center will be notified prior to the treatments.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: 6/2/19 Survey Summary

ITEM 2.1 EXHIBIT A
SURVEY OF VEGETATION IN THE NATURE CENTER AREA

(Conducted by Jim Dempsey Vegetation Management on 6/2/19)

VEGETATION TYPE	LOCATION AND OBSERVATIONS	RECOMMENDED ACTION
NON-NATIVE ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS		
Rubus armeniacus = Himalayan blackberry	Abundant more in open understory areas or clearing edge. Actively growing.	Recommend herbicide control asap while small or as long as actively growing to avoid collateral damage, outcompeting natives, and avoid buildup of thicket biomass later. Otherwise treat after fruiting is done in September until frost.
Vinca = periwinkle	Two patches — behind Nature Center Lab approximately 50'x20', and behind the Nature Center building patch is of similar size.	If herbicide control is desired this would be during active new growth starting late January - May, and can take a couple of years. Manual control would involve substantial root removal over similar period, releasing seed bank (weeds) from soil disturbance.
Silibum - milk thistle	Present, not currently abundant.	Should be eliminated ASAP before producing seed that would love to spread into the disturbed area.
Cirsium = bull thistle	Present, not currently abundant.	Should be eliminated ASAP before producing seed that would love to spread into the disturbed area.
Exotic weedy grasses (Bermuda, Italian ryegrass, squirrel tail etc.)	Present west side of Lab and between the Center and Lab	These seed sources could easily spread to the disturbed area, hence consider mowing short with a bagged lawnmower ASAP to collect and dispose of this season's seed production.
Exotic vetch	Could be an abundant colonizer in the disturbed area within 5 years if left alone,	Whether a priority for control depends on what is desired to accomplish and how, could compete with desired plantings.
Bur chervil (or similar various species)	This plant is a hassle for visitors, burrs in socks etc. A likely abundant colonizer in the disturbed area if left alone	Whether a priority for control depends on what is desired to accomplish and how, e.g. could compete with desired plantings.
Pigweed, dandelion, other common weeds	Potential abundant colonizers in the disturbed area if left alone	Candidates for control ASAP before spreading seed into the site.
Colutea = bladder senna	Potential abundant colonizers in the disturbed area if left alone	Should be manually removed with weed wrenches ASAP since this is starting to bloom and will set seed soon.
NON-NATIVE WOODY TREES AND SHRUBS		
Crataegus = Hawthorne	A proven invasive in lower park, abundantly resprouting from cut stems up to 8" diameter.	Suggest letting it resprout through summer, herbicide with foliar treatment in fall. A few standing saplings bearing fruit should all be removed.
Catalpa	Target of the tree removals; Most or all stumps are resprouting. A half dozen standing large trees near the Center along E 8th St,	Suggest letting them resprout through summer, herbicide in fall. May take a couple years to kill resprouting for such large stumps. Consider creating standing snag habitat with individuals along 8th street if not a fall hazard to the fence etc.
Pistache	A 9" dbh tree stands behind the Center amidst elderberries	This individual should be phased out as part of any actionable restoration.
Juglans = black walnut	Some sprouting from up to large stumps.	Suggest letting them resprout through summer, herbicide in fall. May take a couple years to kill resprouting for such large stumps.
Juglans x hindsii = northern Ca black walnut .	Not native to this part of the State, probably hybrid from ag root stock. Four 1 to 2 foot diameter standing individuals behind Lab	No urgency if considering conversion to snag habitat or removal.
Oliva = olive	Resprouting stumps	Suggest letting it resprout through summer, herbicide in fall.

ITEM 2.1 EXHIBIT A
SURVEY OF VEGETATION IN THE NATURE CENTER AREA

(Conducted by Jim Dempsey Vegetation Management on 6/2/19)

VEGETATION TYPE	LOCATION AND OBSERVATIONS	RECOMMENDED ACTION
Celtis = hackberry	Resprouting Stumps. Significant seedlings present, especially near Cedar Grove Way entrance. Three mature trees (two 6" dbh, one 10" dbh) stand behind the Center.	Suggest letting it stumps resprout through summer, herbicide in fall. Seedlings could be manually removed with a weed wrench tool only after complete removal of Bladder Senna. Suggest phasing out mature trees as part of any restoration action.
Prunus = ornamental purple plum	A 10" dbh stump is resprouting along with multiple root sprouts, behind Center.	Suggest letting it resprout through summer, herbicide in fall.
NATIVE ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS		
Aristolochia calif = Calif pipevine	Abundant mostly in open understory, some along perimeter of clearing.	
Vitis = native grape	Abundant mostly in open understory, some along perimeter of clearing.	If active restoration is desired on this site, because of its vigor the grape could become a candidate for control to allow the full complement of restoration species to get established.
Juncus = rush	Present in open understory, doubt an indicator of wetland soils in this case	
NATIVE WOODY TREES AND SHRUBS		
Umbellularia = Ca bay	A number of cut stumps are vigorously resprouting on west side of clearing	No action.
Quercus lobata = Valley oak	Minority of cut stumps resprouting so far. Only noticed two first-year seedlings present, one in the open clearing.	No action.
Toxicodendron = poison oak	Abundant; dominant understory plant on south and west side.	No action.
Calocedrus = incense cedar	Not really native to the Valley floor, mature individuals were no doubt planted, and now we have seedlings volunteering nearby. Between the Nature Center and Lab there are a cluster of these crowding a large Valley oak	Suggest which individuals to keep for Nature interpretive purposes, but these are not in the natural character of lower Bidwell Park and otherwise should be removed in my opinion as they could become a gradual shade tolerant localized 'invasive'. Cedars near the Valley Oak should be removed at some point.
Fraxinus latifolia = Oregon ash	Good	No action.
Heteromeles arbutifolia = toyon	More a foothill than Valley species, probably here due to seed sources from nearby residential yards.	No action.
Quercus wislizenii = interior live oak	One mature tree and a couple of saplings between SW end of the area and road.	No action.
Sambucus = elderberry	Protected species	No action.
Solanum = nightshade	Need to ID species to determine if this is native or exotic.	Inviting looking berries are poisonous, possibly should be removed since it is near a Nature Center visited by swarms of children.



BPPC Natural Resource Committee Report

Meeting Date 6/19/19

DATE: 6/15/19
TO: BPPC Natural Resource Committee (Commissioners Grist (Chair), Haar, and Smith-Peters)
FROM: Linda Herman, Parks and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A 2019-20 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN

REPORT IN BRIEF:

The Committee will consider a draft 2019-20 Vegetation Management Work Plan for Bidwell Park and other City parks and greenways. The Work Plan lists the types of nonnative and invasive plants and trees targeted at each location and the proposed control methods that may be used over the year.

Recommendation: The Committee is requested to review the proposed Work Plan and provide any suggestions or recommendations.

BACKGROUND:

At its 5/20/19 meeting, the Bidwell Park & Playground Commission (BPPC) approved the Policy Advisory Committee's recommendation that Staff prepare an annual work plan outlining vegetation management activities and projects proposed each year. The BPPC directed the Natural Resource Committee to review and provide recommendations on the annual work plan.

DISCUSSION:

The Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) and accompanying Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) are guiding documents for vegetation management and maintenance in Bidwell Park, which includes the removal and control of invasive and nonnative species using various methods. The approved management plans for both Teichert Ponds and Comanche Creek Greenway also provide for control and removal of nonnative invasive vegetation. The Park Division has also followed the same goals and objective in these guiding documents for vegetation management in City greenways.

For many years, the Park Division has used staff, contractors, agency partners, and volunteers to control nonnative invasive vegetation through herbicide treatments, grazing, and mechanical or manual removal. Long-time dedicated volunteer Susan Mason has assisted the Park Division in identifying and locating problem vegetation on City properties and has been instrumental in reducing and eradicating invasive species throughout the City.

Attached as Exhibit A is a draft matrix prepared by Ms. Mason that identifies the types of invasive nonnative vegetation that have been found at various locations in Bidwell Park and other City-owned parks and greenways. The matrix also prioritizes targeted species based on the California Invasive Plant Council (CIPC) rankings and includes the control methods and time of year these methods are applied for each species.

The matrix is not yet complete for all species but provides the majority of information needed to outline a work plan for the next year. The plan is being presented before complete because time is of the essence for some of these species and control methods. Staff is recommending that the Committee review the draft 2019-20 Vegetation Management Work Plan and provide any suggestions or recommendations.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Draft 2019-20 Vegetation Management Work Plan

DRAFT 2019-20 Vegetatuion Management Work Plan For City Properties

Invasive Plant Common Name	Priority	Method	When	Annie's Glen	BP Lower	BP Mid	BP Upper	Camellia Way	CCG	Bidwell Ave	Bidwell Bowl	Deer Pen	Lindo Channel	Lost Park	Little Chico Creek	Preser. Oak	Teichert Ponds	Verbena Fields
Almond		H M	3 1 2		x	x	x		x				x				x	x
Bamboo		M	1 2 3 4						x						x			
Barbed goatgrass	1	H M	1 2			x	x											
Black locust	3	H	3	x				x		x	x		x		x			
Black mustard	3	M	1 2		x				x				x					
Bladder senna	1	M H	1 2 4		x	x												
Bull thistle	1	M H	1 2						x			x						
Bur-chervil	3	M	1 2	x	x	x			x			x	x		x		x	x
Catalpa	2	H M		x	x	x			x	x			x		x			
Chinese pistache	2	H M	3		x				x	x			x		x			
Chinese tallowtree	1	H M	3		x				x				x		x		x	x
Concord grape		?							x									
Cork elm		H	3		x						x							
Creeping water primrose		H													x		x	
Curly dock	3	M	1 2	x	x				x			x						x
Elephant ears		?							x									
Eucalyptus		H			x							x						
European olive	2	H M	3		x	x	x		x						x		x	
Field bindweed		M H			x				x									x
Fig	2	H			x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x			
French broom	1	M	2		x	x			x									
Giant reed (<i>arundo</i>)	1	H M	3										x		x			
Hackberry	2	H	3		x	x	x		x				x		x			
Hawthorn	2	H	3		x	x												
Himalayan blackberry		H G M		x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x		x	x
Horehound	3	M							x			x						
Honey locust		H	3			x									x			
Italian thistle	1	M H	1		x	x	x		x			x						x
Ivy		M H		x	x	x			x	x			x		x			x
Japanese honeysuckle		H M			x				x						x		x	
Johnsongrass		M H		x					x			x						
Kalamathweed	3				x				x									
Lambsquarter	3	M	2 3						x									
Marestail	3	M	2 3						x									x
Medusahead		G			x	x	x		x									x

DRAFT 2019-20 Vegetatuion Management Work Plan For City Properties

Invasive Plant Common Name	Priority	Method	When	Annie's Glen	BP Lower	BP Mid	BP Upper	Camellia Way	CCG	Bidwell Ave	Bidwell Bowl	Deer Pen	Lindo Channel	Lost Park	Little Chico Creek	Preser. Oak	Teichert Ponds	Verbena Fields
Mexican fan palm	4	H													x		x	
Milkthistle	1	M H	1 2		x				x			x	x		x			
Mimosa		H	3		x												x	
Mulberry		H	3						x				x		x			
Mullein	3	M	1 2						x									
Oblong spurge	1	H				x							x					
Oleander	4	H							x									
Pampasgrass		H															x	
Photenia	3	M	1 2 3 4		x				x			x						
Pigweed	3	M	2 3						x									
Plum		H	3		x	x	x		x				x		x		x	
Poison hemlock	2	H M	1 2															
Pokeweed	2	M	1 2 3 4	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x			
Prickly lettuce		M	1 2		x				x			x	x		x			
Privet (any of 3 species)	2	M H	1 2 3 4		x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x
Puncturevine	1	M H	2		x	x	x		x				x		x	x		x
Pyracantha	2	H M	1 2 3 4		x				x			x			x		x	
Russian thistle (tumbleweed)		M	1 2						x									
Silver maple	2	H	3	x	x			x		x				x	x			
Spanish broom	1	H	2			x	x						x					x
Stinkwort	1		2 3															
Thornless blackberry		H M			x										x			
Tree of heaven	1	H M	3		x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x	
Vinca	3	M H	1 2 3 4	x	x				x	x					x			x
Virginia creeper	2	M H			x										x			
Water oak		M H																
Yellow flag iris		?							x									
Yellow starthistle	1	G M H	1 2		x	x	x		x			x	x		x	x	x	x
M=Manual																		
H=Herbicide																		
G=Grazing																		
1=Spring																		
2=Summer																		
3=Fall																		
4=Winter																		