



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

Regular Meeting Agenda  
January 17, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Conference Room 1

---

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. Revision to the Park Division Fees – Fee Schedule 80.020.

Park Division Fees contains park reservation permit fees and other fees related to the use of Bidwell Park and other City parks. Except for minor adjustments, the fees have not been analyzed and revised to reflect actual reservation costs in several years. In addition, a clear fee schedule will simplify the implementation of an online reservation system that is underway. While the current fee schedule also includes fees to donate a park bench and to plant City trees, Staff proposes to move those items to separate schedules. **Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Commission approve and forward to the City Council for approval the proposed revisions to the Park Division Fees - Fee Schedule 80.020.

2.2. Consideration of Wet Weather Management Plan and Annual Report

In December 2009, the BPPC adopted an Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan. At the December 17, 2012 BPPC meeting, staff presented the 2011-2012 annual report and unveiled a draft update to the plan for BPPC and public input. The BPPC recommended that it be reviewed by the PAC and to allow more time for public input. Once revised, the plan will return to the BPPC for consideration. **Recommendation:** *Review and comment on the annual report and draft "Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan".*

**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**

Adjourn to the next regular meeting on February 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in conference room 1, Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).



---

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



DATE: 12/10/12  
TO: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)  
FROM: Linda Herman, General Services Administrative Manager & Jessica Erdahl, Sr. Park Ranger  
SUBJECT: Recommendation of Revisions to the Park Division Fees – Fee Schedule 80.020.

## Recommendation

*Committee recommends that the Commission approve and forward to the City Council staff's proposed revisions to the Park Division Fees - Fee Schedule 80.020.*

## Background

City of Chico Fee Schedule 80.020 – Park Division Fees contains park reservation permit fees and other fees related to the use of Bidwell Park and other City parks. The Schedule also includes fees to donate a park bench and to plant City trees. Except for some minor adjustments each year based on increases in employee wages or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), it has been several years since these fees have been analyzed and revised to reflect actual costs involved in the administration, preparation, coordination, monitoring, and clean up after the reservation.

In addition, the City will be implementing a more convenient online reservation system after the first of the year, and it has become apparent that the City's current reservation fees and permit process need to be clarified and simplified. As Chico's population and the popularity of the park increases for races and other public events, there is a also need to have distinct separate levels of fees between private events and public events due the amount of time and coordination that is needed for public events, not to mention their inherent impact on City park facilities.

## Discussion

As part of this process, staff reviewed fees collected by other agencies such as the Chico Area Park and Recreation (CARD), the cities of Redding, Yuba City, Sacramento and several other agencies. Staff also consulted administrative, ranger, and park maintenance staff as part of this review. The proposed fee schedule revisions are attached both in annotated form (Exhibit "A") and in a clean formatted form (Exhibit "B"). The proposed revisions and the rationale for these revisions are summarized as follows:

### I. General Formatting and Language Clarifications

The current version has two separate fee sections, one for private events, and one for public events and is quite repetitive. The revisions involve moving sections of the fee schedule to group fees for both events under specific categories, such as application fee, park reservation fee, deposits etc. with fees for both types of events listed below each category.

- A. Changed the term "basic park fees" to "park reservation fees" or "additional park reservation fees" to make the terminology consistent throughout the document.
- B. Added a provision that large public events provide additional trash and recycling service and portable restrooms.
- C. Current policy is if an applicant cancels an event, the applicant is entitled to receive a full refund for the reservation fee and other additional park use fees (the application fee is nonrefundable). Because of the time and effort involved in preparing for a reservation, staff is proposing establishing a new policy for applicant-initiated cancellations. Staff is proposing that if the applicant cancels a public event within 5 days of the event, that only 50% of the fees be refunded, and that if a private event is canceled within 2 days of the event that the fees not be returned. However, reservation and additional park use fees will be refunded in full for cancellations within these time frames due to inclement weather or for other reasons not initiated by the applicant
- D. Removed the following fees from the Fee Schedule:

1. Wildwood Park Ballfield Fees because this facility has been transferred to CARD.
  2. Tree Planting Fees (to be moved to Fee Schedule 80.030)
  3. Memorial Bench Fees (this will be handled under a separate fee schedule upon the finalization of the donation policy)
- E. Renamed the Fee Schedule from “Park Division Fees” to “Park Reservation Fees.”
- F. Staff wanted to receive feedback on the concept of adding a “Special Use Fee” and an additional fee for larger events to support staff (i.e. ranger, event coordinator, park attendant, or administrative staff) to aid with the event. We anticipate these may be part of future fee revisions.
1. In the past, the Parks Division would employ an hourly park attendant to support events in the Park and City Plaza. The staff member would conduct pre-event calls and coordination (or even pre-event site visits), support set-up (including access to closed areas of the park), assist with breaking down the event, and completing an event evaluation. This position has not been hired since 2010 as part of budget cuts. However, many of these functions are now completed by rangers, which takes them away from patrol or alternatively, if calls come in, they are unable to support the event.
  2. The Special Use Fee would capture City costs associated with non-routine events. The application would likely consist of a non-refundable application fee and fees determined by a staff time analysis (for example, additional preparation of an area, monitoring after an event, ranger or attendant support). Some of the additional fees may become a flat rate (for example, we have a good idea as to the costs associated with weddings at Picnic Site 37).
  3. Current code outlines different fees associated with public and private events. In many respects the distinction between public and private events is arbitrary, as a large private event will have the same impacts on a facility as a similarly sized public one. Staff would like to explore a simpler fee structure (and code) that would have fees tied to event size.

## **II. Revisions to the Park Reservation Fees**

- A. One of the main revisions being proposed is to change the private reservation fees. The changes include:
1. Changing from a reservation fee based on per person to a flat fee per facility. The proposed reservation fee for use of most park facilities is \$25, except for Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater which is \$50. Staff determined these rates after reviewing the numbers of participants, types of events, fees paid for private events in previous years, and the maximum seating capacity and amenities offered at each location.
  2. Limiting reservations to 5-hour blocks of time: from 1) 9:00 am to 2:00 pm or from 2) 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Currently, a private or public event under 100 people can reserve an entire facility for 10 hours for \$10.50. Private event applicants that opt for using a facility for a longer period of time, must pay for and reserve the facility for the additional block of time.
- B. For public event reservations, the changes include:
1. The fee category for public events that do not charge participants has been deleted so that there is no difference in fees for public events that charge and do not charge participants. The reason for this change is that City staff costs and the impacts on the facilities is the same regardless of whether the applicant charges a participant fee or not.
  2. Fees will still be based on the number of participants using the current pricing of \$0.40/person; however, the schedule contains fewer fee categories, reducing the number of categories from 13 to 4. This will make it easier for both the public and staff to determine fees due.

## **III. Revisions to the Additional Park Use Fees**

- A. Provides for the collection of a \$100 damage deposit for all public and private events that exceed 100 people. This deposit is refundable if no damages are sustained as a result of the event
- B. Adds a flat fee of \$29.00 for use of 100 amp electrical service at those facilities that have this service. Currently, this fee applies only for City Plaza, and this service is available at Cedar Grove and other locations.

- C. Updates the fees based on actual costs for the use of additional City Staff or equipment that is not part of the normal park reservation process. An example of this is if the permittee requires early entry into the park, then an hourly fee for the Park Ranger to open the gates and meet with the permittee would be charged.

**Fiscal Impact**

Staff's intent with these revisions was to simplify the fee schedule, equitably adjust the fees to try to capture a larger portion of the actual costs associated with reservations, and to minimize large changes to the fees from current park permit charges. However, with the change to a flat reservation fee per facility and limiting reservations to 5-hour time blocks for private events, and changes to the public event reservation fees, there will likely be increased revenues received. These additional revenues will help defer staff and maintenance costs associated with park reservations.

**Attachments:**

Exhibit "A": Annotated Copy of the Fee Schedule Revisions

Exhibit "B": Unannotated Copy of Fee Schedule

**Distribution:** BPPC

## PARK DIVISION RESERVATION FEES

AUTHORITY: Resolution No. 57 79-80 adopted 11/6/79; Chapters 12R.08 and 12R.10 Chico Municipal Code; Budget Policy E.5.

AMENDMENTS: Resolution Nos. 68 79-80 adopted 12/04/79; 69 82-83 adopted 11/18/82; 8 86-87 adopted 07/01/86; 154 92-93 adopted 04/07/93; 07/01/94 per Section IV. below; Resolution No. 111 94-95 adopted 02/07/95; 07/01/98 per Section IV. below; Resolution No. 95 99-00 adopted 02/15/00; 07/01/01 per Section V. below; 10/06/03 per Section V. below; 07/01/06 per Section VI. below; Resolution No. 63-06 adopted 06/20/06; 07/01/07 pursuant to Section III. below and Resolution 110.07 adopted 09/04/07; 07/01/08 per Section VII below and Resolution No. 42-08 adopted 06/03/08; 07/01/09; 07/01/10 per Section VII below; administrative update 09/20/10; 07/01/12 per Section VII below.

### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The following provisions apply to the fees set forth in Sections II. ~~thru V.~~ ~~and III.~~ below:

#### A. Cancellations:

##### 1. All Events

When an event is canceled due to inclement weather, or for other reasons not initiated by the applicant, the City shall **fully** refund the **park reservation fee** ~~basic park use fees,~~ and ~~vendor fee,~~ **additional park use fees** upon request by the applicant.

##### 2. Public Events

**If a cancellation is initiated by the applicant and made later than five (5) business days before the event date, 50 % of the park reservation or additional park use fees will be non-refundable.**

##### 3. Private Events

**If a cancellation is initiated by the applicant and made later than two (2) business days before the reservation date the park reservation fee will be non-refundable.**

B. For events taking place on more than one day, or for a series of events, the applicant has the option of either submitting one application covering all the days of the event or all the days of the series, or of submitting one application for each day of the event.

C. **Applicants requesting a permit for a public event with more than 200 participants shall provide the following:**

1. Additional trash and recycling service as well as portable restrooms during the event. Applicant may provide trash and recycling services, or obtain the service from one of the City's two permitted solid waste collectors.
2. One assessable portable restroom for each additional 400 participants, with the exception of events held in City Plaza.

II. PUBLIC EVENT FEES—APPLICATION FEE

All persons requesting to hold a public or private event pursuant to Section 12R.08.050 of the Chico Municipal Code shall pay the following fees upon filing of an application with the Park Division:

- A. Application Processing Fee \$18.50

The application fees set forth above shall cover the administrative costs involved in processing an application and is non-refundable.

III. B. ~~Park Reservation Fee~~—PARK RESERVATION FEE

A.1. Public Events:

In addition to the application fee in Section II.A. above, fees will be charged based on the total number of participants and/or spectators. If the event for which the reservation fee is being charged takes place on more than one day, or is a series of events, the total number of participants and/or spectators shall be the total for all days of the event or series of events. The fees set forth below shall be paid to the Park Division prior to the issuance of a permit: ~~at time of approval of an application:~~

Number of Participants/Spectators	Fee	Number of Participants/Spectators	Fee
<del>1—25</del>	\$10.50	<del>251—300</del>	\$142.50
<del>26—50</del>	\$15.00	<del>301—500</del>	\$171.00
<del>51—75</del>	\$28.50	<del>501—750</del>	\$286.00
<del>76—100</del>	\$42.50	<del>751—1000</del>	\$428.50
<del>101—150</del>	\$57.50	<del>1001—1250</del>	\$571.00
<del>151—200</del>	\$86.00	1251+	\$571.00 + 50¢
<del>201—250</del>	\$114.00		per participant exceeding 1251

<u>Number of Participants/Spectators</u>	<u>Fee</u>
<u>1-500</u>	<u>\$200</u>
<u>501-1500</u>	<u>\$600</u>
<u>1501-3000</u>	<u>\$1200</u>
<u>3001 +</u>	<u>\$1200 + \$0.40 per participant exceeding 3000</u>

1. In cases where the number of spectators/participants/vendors in attendance at the event is less than or greater than the number estimated on the application, the reservation fee shall be adjusted accordingly.
2. An installment plan for payment of basic park use fees may be implemented by the General Services Director for events which occur over a period of several days or for a series of events.
3. Pursuant to Chico Municipal Code Section 12R.08, reservation fees may be waived or refunded for public events where the primary purpose of the event is to exercise free speech rights.

**B. Private Events**

In addition to the application fee in Section II.A. above, park reservation fees for the exclusive use of park facilities shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit based on the fees set forth below:

Fee includes reservation for a five (5) hour block from either 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, or 2:00PM - 7:00 PM.

<u>RESERVATION AREA</u>	<u>FEE/5 Hrs</u>
<u>Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
<u>Campfire Council Ring</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>Cedar Gove Picnic Area</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>Cedar Grove Meadow</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>Depot Park</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>Five Mile Picnic Area</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>One Mile Oak Grove A</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>One Mile Oak Grove B</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>Non-reservation Areas</u>	<u>\$25.00*</u>

*\*Reservations requests for nonreservable areas require review and approval by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission.*

**B. Caper Acres Birthday Rings**

An applicant requesting to reserve the birthday ring located within the Caper Acres area in Bidwell Park shall be exempt from payment of all park fees. Reservations shall be limited to a two hour block.

**C. Reservation For Filming Purposes**

In addition to the above application fee, park reservation fees for the exclusive use of park facilities for filming purposes shall be paid to the Park Division prior to the issuance of the permit based on the fees set forth below. All fees shall be assessed and computed on a per day basis.

	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Damage Deposit (Refundable)</u>
<b>a. <u>Intensive Use Areas</u></b>		
Partial Day (4 hours or less)	\$174.00	\$100.00
Full Day (over 4 hours)	\$348.50	\$100.00
<b>b. <u>Non-Intensive Use Areas</u></b>		
Partial Day (4 hours or less)	\$ 174.00	\$ 500.00
Full Day (over 4 hours)	\$ 348.50	\$ 500.00

**b. Park Reservation Fee for Events Which Do Not Charge Spectators/Participants**

Number of Participants/Spectators	Fee	Number of Participants/Spectators	Fee
—0—100	\$ 10.50	—501—1000	\$142.50
101—250	\$ 28.50	1001+	\$286.00
251—500	\$ 70.00		

- ~~2. In addition to fees set forth in Section II.B.1. above, a \$5.50 per vendor fee shall be paid by the applicant for all public events at which food, beverages, merchandise, or services shall be sold or solicited.~~
- ~~3. In cases where the number of spectators/participants/vendors in attendance at the event is less than or greater than the estimated number contained in the application, the basic park use fee shall be adjusted accordingly.~~
- ~~4. An installment plan for payment of basic park use fees may be implemented by the General Services Director for events which occur over a period of several days or for a series of events.~~



~~5. Under certain circumstances, park use fees may be waived or refunded pursuant to Chico Municipal Code Section 12.R.08.250.C.~~

~~6. Applicants requesting a permit for a public event with more than 200 participants shall provide additional trash and recycling service during the event. Applicant may provide this service, or obtain the service from one of the City's two permitted solid waste collectors.~~

#### IV. LIABILITY INSURANCE FEE

A.C. Public Event: Insurance Fee: -All persons requesting a public event permit shall obtain liability insurance for such event using the following options set forth in IV.D. and paying the following fees upon filing of an application with the Park Division.

B. Private Event (if applicable) - All persons requesting a private event permit with 100 or more participants shall obtain liability insurance for such event using the following options set forth in IV.C. and paying the following fees upon filing of an application with the Park Division.

#### C. Liability Insurance Options

1. Applicant obtains insurance from the City's Special Event Liability Insurance Program and pays processing and/or other fees as set forth in Fee Schedule No. 11.080

or

2. Applicant obtains insurance from a private insurance company. Provided, however, in the event the private insurance company certificate initially submitted does not comply with City requirements and requires additional review prior to issuance of the permit, an additional non-refundable fee in the amount of \$39.00 will be charged.

When an applicant obtains insurance from a private insurance company, a certificate of insurance must be submitted to the Risk Manager's office at least two weeks prior to the date of use.

#### V. ~~D. Additional Park Use Fees/Rates~~ **ADDITIONAL PARK USE FEES/RATES**

##### A 1. **Damage Deposit**

1. **Public Events:** ~~In addition to the basic park use fees,~~ ~~†~~ The General Services Director may require the collection of an additional deposit in the amount of ~~50 percent of the basic park use fee~~ ~~or \$100~~ in order to ensure that funds are available in cases where it is anticipated that more participants/spectators will attend the event than was originally estimated, and/or where the event may result in above normal damage to

the Park. The deposit shall be returned to the applicant after an event, less any deductions for the number of participants/spectators over the number originally estimated and/or for the cost of repairing damage resulting from the event.

**2. Private Events- The General Services Director may require the collection of an additional deposit in the amount of \$100 for reservations with 100 or more participants. The purpose of this deposit is to ensure that funds are available in cases where the reservation may result in above normal damage to the Park. The deposit shall be returned to the applicant after an event, less deductions for the cost of repairing any damages resulting from the event.**

**B. Vendor Fee**

**A vendor fee shall be paid by the applicant for all public events at which food, beverages, merchandise, or services shall be sold or solicited.**

**\$5.50/Vendor**

**C. Electrical Service (100 amp)**

**\$29.00**

**An electrical service fee set forth above shall be paid to the Park Division for the use of 100 amp electricity service prior to issuance of the permit for the use of the following park facilities: Cedar Grove, Children’s Playground and City Plaza.**

**D City Plaza Event Restrooms**

**\$92.00**

**An event restroom fee set forth above shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit for Reservations with more than 200 participants at City Plaza.**

**E. Employee Pay Rates**

**1. 2. Additional park use fees as required pursuant to Section 12R.08.260 of the Chico Municipal Code, and as estimated by the General Services Department, Fire, and Police Departments, shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit based on the rates set forth below:**

- a. Park Division
  - 1. Maintenance Aide ~~\$25.50~~**\$29.83**/hour
  - 2. Maintenance Worker ~~\$28.50~~ **\$35.15**/hour
  - 3. Senior Maintenance Worker ~~\$34.00~~**\$40.32**/hour
  - 4. Field Supervisor ~~\$41.50~~**\$50.79**/hour
  - 5. Park Ranger ~~\$31.00~~**\$34.87**/hour
  - 6. Senior Park Ranger** **\$39.20/hour**
  - 7. Landscape Inspector** **\$48.22/hour**
  - 8. Park and Natural Resources Manager** **\$66.57/hour**
  - ~~69.~~ **Urban Forester/Forest Manager** ~~\$57.50~~**\$50.89**/hour
  - ~~710.~~ **Administration** 10% of Personnel Cost

**811. Equipment**

- a. Pickup Truck (rates as set forth in City Fee Schedule 60.020 - Engineering Fees)
  - b. Trailer
  - c. Dump Truck
  - d. Chip truck & chipper
  - e. Aerial tower
- b. Fire Department Division
- 1. Fire Inspector and Vehicle \$42.50/hour
  - 2. Administration 10% of Personnel Cost
- (Rates as set forth in City Fee Schedule 40.040 – Cost Recovery Fees)**
- c. Police Department Division
- 1. Reserve Officers (rates as set forth in City Fee Schedule 30.030 - Police Officer Services Fees)
  - 2. Regular Officers (Police Officer and Police Sergeant Overtime)
  - 3. Administration
  - 4. Patrol Vehicle
- d. All hourly fees set forth above shall have a one-hour minimum fee.
- e. For work in excess of one hour, the fee shall be prorated for each half-hour increment or portion thereof (i.e., work which takes one hour and ten minutes would be one and one-half times the hourly rate).

**III. PRIVATE EVENT FEES**

All persons requesting to reserve a park facility pursuant to Sections 12R.10.050 and 12R.10.080 of the Chico Municipal Code shall pay the following fees upon filing of an application with the Park Division:

A. Application Processing Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ \$1850

B. Park Reservation Fee

In addition to the above application fee, park reservation fees for the exclusive use of park facilities shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit based on the fees set forth below:

<u>Number of Participants/Spectators</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Number of Participants/Spectators</u>	<u>Fee</u>
0—100	\$10.50	501—1000	\$142.50

101-250	\$28.50	1001+	\$286.00
251-500	\$ 70.00		

C. ~~Insurance Fee (if applicable):~~

~~Liability insurance is required for reservations with more than 100 or more participants, or if amplified sound is used during the event. If insurance is required, the applicant may choose one of the following options:~~

- ~~1. Applicant obtains insurance from the City's Special Event Liability Insurance Program and pays processing and/or other fees as set forth in Fee Schedule No. 11.080~~

~~or~~

- ~~2. Applicant obtains insurance from a private insurance company. Provided, however, in the event the private insurance company certificate initially submitted does not comply with City requirements and requires additional review prior to issuance of the permit, an additional non refundable fee in the amount of \$38.50 will be charged.~~

~~When an applicant obtains insurance from a private insurance company, a certificate of insurance must be submitted to the Risk Manager's office at least two weeks prior to the date of use.~~

IV. ~~OTHER PARK FEES/RATES:~~

a. ~~Caper Acres Birthday Ring~~

~~An applicant requesting to reserve the birthday ring located within the Caper Acres area in Bidwell Park shall be exempt from payment of park fees. Reservations shall be limited to two hours.~~

a. ~~Reservation Fee for Filming Purposes~~

~~In addition to the above application fee, park reservation fees for the exclusive use of park facilities for filming purposes shall be paid to the Park Division prior to the issuance of the permit based on the fees set forth below. All fees shall be assessed and computed on a per day basis.~~

	<del>Fee</del>	<del>Damage Deposit (Refundable)</del>
<del>1. Intensive Use Areas</del>		
<del>a. Partial Day (4 hours or less)</del>	<del>\$174.00</del>	<del>\$100.00</del>
<del>b. Full Day (over 4 hours)</del>	<del>\$348.50</del>	<del>\$100.00</del>

~~2. Non Intensive Use Areas~~

a. Partial Day (4 hours or less)	\$ 174.00	\$ 500.00
b. Full Day (over 4 hours)	\$ 348.50	\$ 500.00

b. City Plaza Reservation Fees

In addition to the above application fee and park reservation fees for the exclusive use of park facilities, the following additional fees shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit for the use of City Plaza:

1. Additional Restroom Fee:

Reservations with more than 200 participants for which additional restrooms are needed:	\$92.00
--	---------

2. Stage/Sound Fee: \$29.00

c. Wildwood Park Ballfield Fees

In addition to application fee and park reservation fees for the exclusive use of park facilities, the following additional fees shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit for the use of Wildwood Park ballfields and lights:

i. Ballfields:	\$5.50 per 1.5 hours of use
ii. Ballfield Lights:	\$26.50 per hour

VI. V. TREE PLANTING FEES

Any person requesting the City to provide and install street trees (15 gallon) shall, upon submittal of the request to the Park Division, pay the appropriate fee as set forth below:

A. Planted in open landscape areas:

1. Street tree only	\$150.00
2. Tree with wrought iron tree guard	\$499.00

B. Planted in existing 4' x 4' concrete cut-out:

1. Tree with cast iron grate	\$682.00
2. Tree with cast iron grate and wrought iron tree guard	\$1,138.00

C. Planted in area requiring cutting and removal of 4' x 4' concrete cut-out:

1. Tree with cast iron grate	\$917.00
------------------------------	----------

~~2. Tree with cast iron grate and wrought iron tree guard \$1,293.00~~

VI. MEMORIAL BENCH FEE

~~Any person requesting the City to install and dedicate a memorial bench shall, upon submittal of the request to the Park Division, pay the following fee:~~

~~Memorial Bench and Plaque \$2,000~~

VII. AUTHORIZATION TO ANNUALLY ADJUST FEES

The City Manager is authorized to annually review and adjust the fees set forth herein without further Council action as follows:

- a. To reflect personnel compensation adjustments previously authorized and approved by the City Council (BP E.5.).
- b. To adjust the fees set forth in Sections II. A., II. D., III. A., IV. C., **and** V., ~~and VI.~~ to ensure the charges reflect the current labor, equipment, and materials costs.

## PARK RESERVATION FEES

AUTHORITY: Resolution No. 57 79-80 adopted 11/6/79; Chapters 12R.08 and 12R.10 Chico Municipal Code; Budget Policy E.5.

AMENDMENTS: Resolution Nos. 68 79-80 adopted 12/04/79; 69 82-83 adopted 11/18/82; 8 86-87 adopted 07/01/86; 154 92-93 adopted 04/07/93; 07/01/94 per Section IV. below; Resolution No. 111 94-95 adopted 02/07/95; 07/01/98 per Section IV. below; Resolution No. 95 99-00 adopted 02/15/00; 07/01/01 per Section V. below; 10/06/03 per Section V. below; 07/01/06 per Section VI. below; Resolution No. 63-06 adopted 06/20/06; 07/01/07 pursuant to Section III. below and Resolution 110.07 adopted 09/04/07; 07/01/08 per Section VII below and Resolution No. 42-08 adopted 06/03/08; 07/01/09; 07/01/10 per Section VII below; administrative update 09/20/10; 07/01/12 per Section VII below.

### I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The following provisions apply to the fees set forth in Sections II. thru V. below:

#### A. Cancellations:

##### 1. All Events

When an event is canceled due to inclement weather, or for other reasons not initiated by the applicant, the City shall fully refund the park reservation fee and additional park use fees upon request by the applicant.

##### 2. Public Events

If a cancellation is initiated by the applicant and made later than five (5) business days before the event date, 50 % of the park reservation or additional park use fees will be non-refundable.

##### 3. Private Events

If a cancellation is initiated by the applicant and made later than two (2) business days before the reservation date the park reservation fee will be non-refundable.

B. For events taking place on more than one day, or for a series of events, the applicant has the option of either submitting one application covering all the days of the event or all the days of the series, or of submitting one application for each day of the event.

C. Applicants requesting a permit for a public event with more than 200 participants shall provide the following:

1. Additional trash and recycling service as well as portable restrooms during the event. Applicant may provide trash and recycling services, or obtain the service from one of the City's two permitted solid waste collectors.
2. One assessable portable restroom for each additional 400 participants, with the exception of events held in City Plaza.

**II. APPLICATION FEE**

All persons requesting to hold a public or private event pursuant to Section 12R. of the Chico Municipal Code shall pay the following fees upon filing of an application with the Park Division:

- A. Application Processing Fee \$18.50

The application fees set forth above shall cover the administrative costs involved in processing an application and is non-refundable.

**III. PARK RESERVATION FEE**

- A. Public Events:

In addition to the application fee in Section II.A. above, fees will be charged based on the total number of participants and/or spectators. If the event for which the reservation fee is being charged takes place on more than one day, or is a series of events, the total number of participants and/or spectators shall be the total for all days of the event or series of events. The fees set forth below shall be paid to the Park Division prior to the issuance of a permit:

<b>Number of Participants/Spectators</b>	<b>Fee</b>
1-500	\$200
501-1500	\$600
1501-3000	\$1200
3001 +	\$1200 + \$0.40 per participant exceeding 3000

1. In cases where the number of spectators/participants/vendors in attendance at the event is less than or greater than the number estimated on the application, the reservation fee shall be adjusted accordingly.



2. An installment plan for payment of ~~basic park use~~ fees may be implemented by the General Services Director for events which occur over a period of several days or for a series of events.
3. Pursuant to Chico Municipal Code Section 12R.08, reservation fees may be waived or refunded for public events where the primary purpose of the event is to exercise free speech rights.

**B. Private Events:**

In addition to the application fee in Section II.A. above, park reservation fees for the exclusive use of park facilities shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit based on the fees set forth below:

Fee includes reservation for a five (5) hour block from either 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, or 2:00PM - 7:00 PM.

<b>RESERVATION AREA</b>	<b>FEE/5 Hrs</b>
Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater	\$50.00
Campfire Council Ring	\$25.00
Cedar Gove Picnic Area	\$25.00
Cedar Grove Meadow	\$25.00
Depot Park	\$25.00
Five Mile Picnic Area	\$25.00
One Mile Oak Grove A	\$25.00
One Mile Oak Grove B	\$25.00
Non-reservation Areas	\$25.00*

\*Reservations requests for nonreservable areas require review and approval by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission.

**B. Caper Acres Birthday Rings:**

An applicant requesting to reserve the birthday ring located within the Caper Acres area in Bidwell Park shall be exempt from payment of all park fees. Reservations shall be limited to a two hour block.

**C. Reservation For Filming Purposes:**

In addition to the above application fee, park reservation fees for the exclusive use of park facilities for filming purposes shall be paid to the Park Division prior to the issuance of the permit based on the fees set forth below. All fees shall be assessed and computed on a per day basis.

	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Damage Deposit (Refundable)</u>
a. Intensive Use Areas		
Partial Day (4 hours or less)	\$174.00	\$100.00
Full Day (over 4 hours)	\$348.50	\$100.00
b. Non-Intensive Use Areas		
Partial Day (4 hours or less)	\$ 174.00	\$ 500.00
Full Day (over 4 hours)	\$ 348.50	\$ 500.00

#### IV. LIABILITY INSURANCE FEE

- A. Public Event - All persons requesting a public event permit shall obtain liability insurance for such event using the following options set forth in IV.D. and paying the following fees upon filing of an application with the Park Division.
- B. Private Event (if applicable) - All persons requesting a private event permit with 100 or more participants shall obtain liability insurance for such event using the following options set forth in IV.C. and paying the following fees upon filing of an application with the Park Division.
- C. Liability Insurance Options:
1. Applicant obtains insurance from the City's Special Event Liability Insurance Program and pays processing and/or other fees as set forth in Fee Schedule No. 11.080

or

  2. Applicant obtains insurance from a private insurance company. Provided, however, in the event the private insurance company certificate initially submitted does not comply with City requirements and requires additional review prior to issuance of the permit, an additional non-refundable fee in the amount of \$39.00 will be charged.

When an applicant obtains insurance from a private insurance company, a certificate of insurance must be submitted to the Risk Manager's office at least two weeks prior to the date of use.

#### V. ADDITIONAL PARK USE FEES/RATES

- A. Damage Deposit:
1. Public Events - The General Services Director may require the collection of an additional deposit in the amount \$100 in order to ensure that funds are available in

cases where it is anticipated that more participants/spectators will attend the event than was originally estimated, and/or where the event may result in above normal damage to the Park. The deposit shall be returned to the applicant after an event, less any deductions for the number of participants/spectators over the number originally estimated and/or for the cost of repairing damage resulting from the event.

2. Private Events - The General Services Director may require the collection of an additional deposit in the amount of \$100 for reservations with 100 or more participants. The purpose of this deposit is to ensure that funds are available in cases where the reservation may result in above normal damage to the Park. The deposit shall be returned to the applicant after an event, less deductions for the cost of repairing any damages resulting from the event.

B. Vendor Fee: \$5.50/Vendor

A vendor fee shall be paid by the applicant for all public events at which food, beverages, merchandise, or services shall be sold or solicited.

C. Electrical Service (100 amp): \$29.00

An electrical service fee set forth above shall be paid to the Park Division for the use of 100 amp electricity service prior to issuance of the permit for the use of the following park facilities: Cedar Grove, Children's Playground and City Plaza.

D. City Plaza Event Restrooms: \$92.00

An event restroom fee set forth above shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit for Reservations with more than 200 participants at City Plaza.

E. Employee Pay Rates:

1. Additional park use fees as required pursuant to Section 12R. of the Chico Municipal Code, and as estimated by the General Services Department, Fire, and Police Departments, shall be paid to the Park Division prior to issuance of the permit based on the rates set forth below:

a. Park Division	
1. Maintenance Aide	\$29.83/hour
2. Maintenance Worker	\$35.15/hour
3. Senior Maintenance Worker	\$40.32/hour
4. Field Supervisor	\$50.79/hour
5. Park Ranger	\$34.87/hour
6. Senior Park Ranger	\$39.20/hour
7. Landscape Inspector	\$48.22/hour
8. Park and Natural Resources Manager	\$66.57/hour
9. Urban Forest Manager	\$50.89/hour

- 10. Administration 10% of Personnel Cost
- 11. Equipment
  - a. Pickup Truck (rates as set forth in
  - b. Trailer City Fee Schedule 60.020 -
  - c. Dump Truck Engineering Fees)
  - d. Chip truck & chipper
  - e. Aerial tower
  
- b. Fire Department Division
  - 1. Fire Inspector and Vehicle (Rates as set forth in City Fee
  - 2. Administration Schedule 40.040 – Cost Recovery
  - Fees)
  
- c. Police Department Division
  - 1. Reserve Officers (rates as set forth in
  - 2. Regular Officers (Police Officer and City Fee Schedule 30.030 -
  - Police Sergeant Overtime) Police Officer Services Fees)
  - 3. Administration
  - 4. Patrol Vehicle
  
- d. All hourly fees set forth above shall have a one-hour minimum fee.
  
- e. For work in excess of one hour, the fee shall be prorated for each half-hour increment or portion thereof (i.e., work which takes one hour and ten minutes would be one and one-half times the hourly rate).

VII. AUTHORIZATION TO ANNUALLY ADJUST FEES

The City Manager is authorized to annually review and adjust the fees set forth herein without further Council action as follows:

- a. To reflect personnel compensation adjustments previously authorized and approved by the City Council (BP E.5.).
- b. To adjust the fees set forth in Sections II. A., II. D., III. A., IV. C., and V. to ensure the charges reflect the current labor, equipment, and materials costs.



DATE: 1/14/13  
TO: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)  
FROM: Natural Resources Committee/Park Division Staff  
SUBJECT: Consideration of Wet Weather Management Plan and Annual Report

---

## REPORT IN BRIEF

At the 12/17/12 BPPC meeting, Staff presented the 2011-2012 annual report and unveiled a draft update to the plan for BPPC and public input. The BPPC concurred with staff to provide an additional opportunity for input and review to the PAC. After review, the revised Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan will return to the BPPC for approval.

Materials from the December meeting are attached.

**Attachments:** Item 4.3 from 12/17/12 BPPC meeting. Consideration of Wet Weather Management Plan and Annual Report

**Distribution:** BPPC



DATE: 10/20/11  
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)  
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager  
SUBJECT: Review of Interim Wet Weather Use Policy

## Recommendation

Staff recommends BPPC review of the 2011-2012 data and review and comment on the draft "Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan". The revised plan will be considered for adoption.

## Background

For many years, an informal method was used to determine whether trails in Middle and Upper Park were open to equestrians and mountain bicycles. No restrictions are currently placed on pedestrians. At its 9/28/09 meeting, the Commission reviewed and discussed a new procedure, developed with the help of Chico Environmental, to determine whether trails for equestrian and bicycle use, more recently Hwy 32 disc golf course play, should be curtailed during wet weather in Middle and Upper Bidwell Park. The methodology uses available information on the amount of rain fall, soil moisture, and on-site analysis for a site in the Horseshoe Lake area for Middle and Upper Bidwell Park and the Disc Golf Course Area/Trailhead on Highway 32. The approach is based on measurable information that can be tracked and is adaptable so that adjustments may be made as needed.

In September 2011, the BPPC examined the year end report and authorized changes to the plan. Attached to this report, for BPPC review is a revised "Wet Weather Trails Management Plan" that formalizes these changes and removes the "interim" status of the plan.

The revised plan makes several changes to simplify the processes such as relying on weather data from the US Forest Service Chico weather Station (CHI) instead of using field measurements and removing the soil moisture probe requirement. The protocol still uses a trigger of 0.25" to close trails and the Peregrine Point Course and visible footsteps in the trail tread. The Interim plan noted that these policies work best for well-spaced storm events, which allow time for soil to dry out in between. Following any rain event, trails should remain closed for at least one day after the event and if there is a high (70% or higher) possibility of precipitation on that day (and thus no reason to field check the sites). If no foot steps within the trail tread are visible, the trails may be opened. Guidance for the plan notes that while staff will continue to evaluate and monitor site conditions, there will still be times when a judgment call has to be made based on both observations and data.

The adaptive nature of the plan called for the review of the data and a report back to the BPPC summarizing the data collection, and providing recommendations. This report provides a summary of the year.

## Data Collection

During the 2011-2012 season, park rangers conducted an assessment of the Upper/Middle Park trails and the Peregrine Point Disc Golf course to determine trail openings and closings. Data collected included: observer id; time; Chico weather station precipitation (available at the California Data Exchange, <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/>); rain forecast exceeding 70%; footprint imprints (Horseshoe Lake and Hwy 32/Disc Golf); comments, and trail/disc golf status (open or closed). At the end of the year, additional information was downloaded (daily average temperature, daily rainfall amount, and cooling degree day).

## Results

We provide a monthly summary of trail closure dates and weather conditions (Table 1) and trail closures versus daily precipitation (PPT) and average temperature for both sites (Figures 3 and 4) from August 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. As recommended in the last report, in the future, we will consider the monitoring period from October 1<sup>st</sup> to the following September 30<sup>th</sup>. For this transition report, we also included August and September 2011, since they were not included in the last report.

Over the 427 day time period, Upper and Middle Park trails were closed to bikes and equestrians 69 days (16% of the time) while the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course was closed 67 days (16%). Precipitation fell on approximately 60 days (14%), with 32 days (7%) with events that exceeded 0.25 inch.

**Table 1. Summary of Closures Between Years.**

Measure	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Days in Monitoring Period	242	396	433
Days Upper and Middle Park trails closed to bikes and equestrians	139	148	69 (16%)
Days Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course closed	131	157	67 (16%)
Days with PPT	83	97	60 (14)
Days with PPT >0.25"	37	43	32 (7%)
Average Daily Rainfall (inch/day)	0.12	0.09	0.05

In sum, 2012 was a dryer year than 2011 and 2010 with far fewer closures. Some observations are noted below (where noted the data were analyzed using Minitab statistical software):






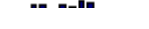



1. No closures occurred during the dry season (May-September).
2. March (20), April (13), January (12) and November (11) were the months with the highest number of closure days.
3. Staff observations suggest that some unauthorized use still occurs; however, overall compliance during wet weather appears to be improving and they expect it to continue over time as we ramp up education and enforcement and improve signage.
4. We observed no statistical difference between the closures of trails and the disc golf course ( $p = 0.32$ ), using a paired t-test.
5. There was not a statistical difference ( $p = 0.88$ ) between the daily precipitation (starting at midnight) and the 24 hour precipitation (counted from the time that the assessment is done or in some cases when the rainfall amount exceeds 0.25") from the Chico weather station (CHI). In other words, it is unlikely that use of the 24 hour data would have resulted in any difference in the number of days trails were closed.
6. During the monitoring period, we also collected data on the closure of Upper Park Road. Separating out Mondays and Sundays, for the most part, the road closure corresponded well with the trail closure with only 2 days (in March) where the road was open, but trails were not.
7. Removal of the soil moisture probes and collection of field data from the protocol made for speedier assessments.

### Actions

In addition, some recommendations from last years report were implemented, these include:

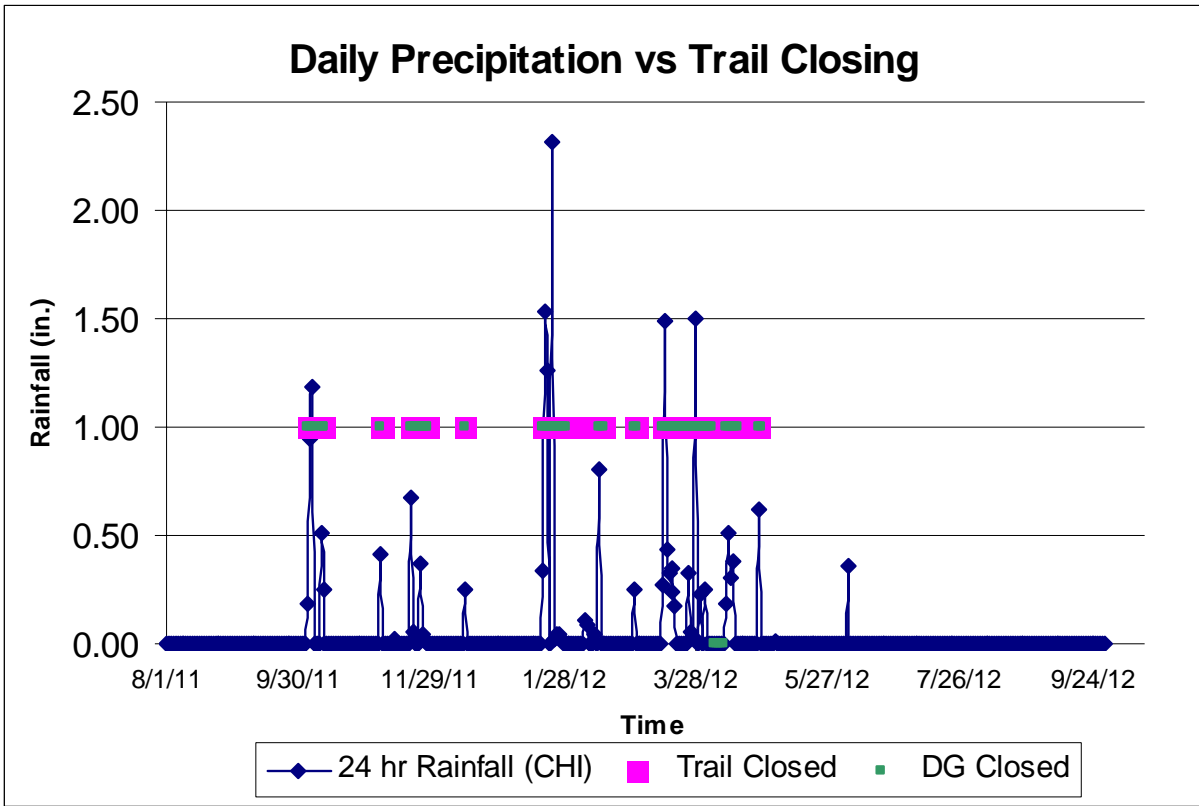
1. Staff adopted the following protocol changes:
  - o We use data from the US Forest Service Station (available through <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/> using station CHI) instead of field collected weather data.
  - o Use 24 hour rainfall totals at the time of assessment or closing.
  - o Soil moisture probes are not recorded. We have not found alternative soil moisture measures as part of the Field Assessment),
  - o Maintained separate assessments for Disc Golf and Trails for openings.
  - o Report to the public and BPPC on an annual basis (this report).
2. Improve current methods to notify the public of trail openings including more noticeable signs. Staff have painted the closed signs a noticeable color (blue and yellow) and have been using Facebook and Twitter postings when trail status changes. Notification continues on the webpage ([http://www.chico.ca.us/General\\_Services\\_Department/Park\\_Division/Bidwell\\_Park.asp](http://www.chico.ca.us/General_Services_Department/Park_Division/Bidwell_Park.asp)) and trail hotline ((530) 896-7899).
3. We continued education efforts to help the public comply with the wet weather closures.
4. Completed for BPPC review, the "Adaptive Wet Weather Trails Management Plan" (attached), and an annual report based on "water year" (October to September).

Table 1. Monthly Summary of Chico Weather Data and Trail Closures.

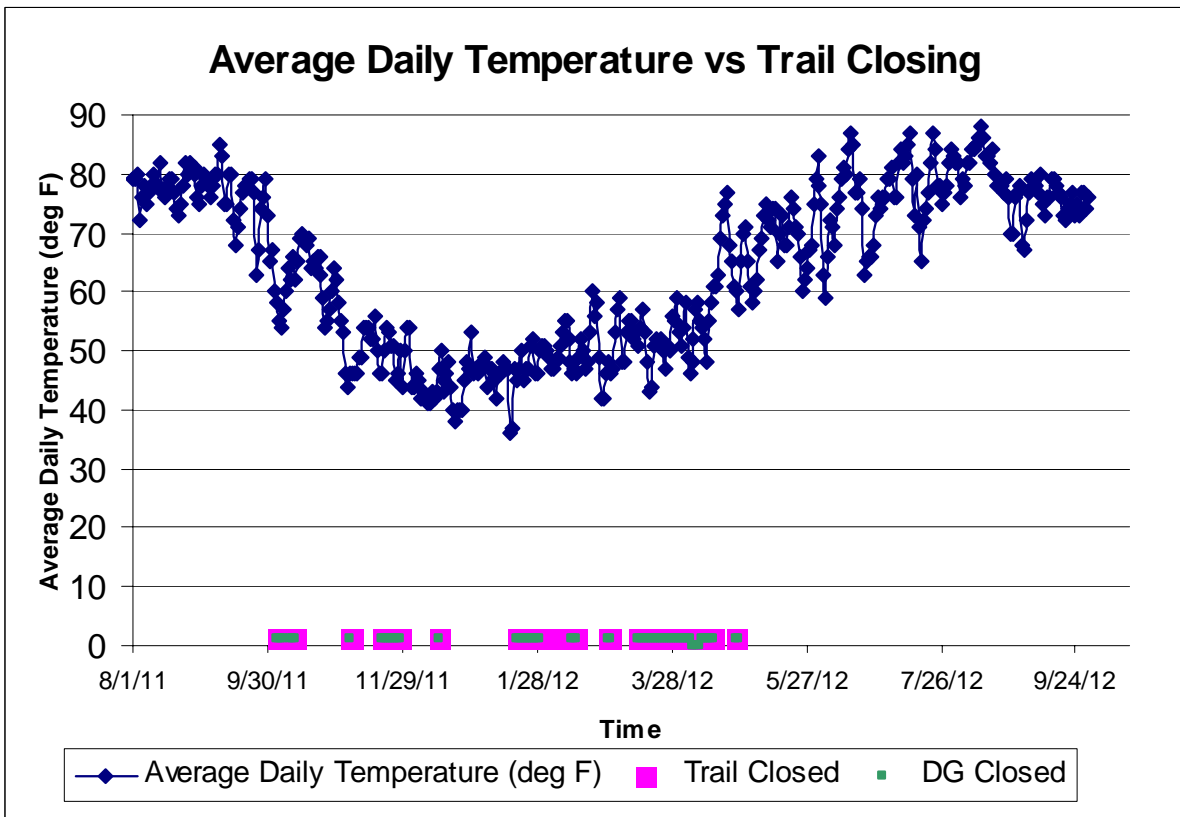
Month	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Summary	Total
	08/11	09/11	10/11	11/11	12/11	01/12	02/12	03/12	04/12	05/12	06/12	07/12	08/12	09/12		
Days	In Month	31	30	31	30	31	29	31	30	31	30	31	31	30		427
	with PPT	0	0	5	10	2	8	6	13	8	1	2	0	0		55
	Rainfall > 0.25 in	0	0	3	3	1	4	2	9	4	0	1	0	0		27
	Road Closed	9	8	16	13	9	12	15	21	20	8	8	10	8		165
	Trails Closed	0	0	7	11	1	12	5	20	13	0	0	0	0		69
	PP Disc Golf Closed	0	0	7	10	1	11	4	20	14	0	0	0	0		67
	Ave. Daily Temp. (oF)	78	76	62	50	45	47	50	52	59	69	74	79	80	75	
Average CDD	19	18	5	0	0	0	1	0	4	10	15	20	21	16		9.34
Ave. Daily Rainfall (in.)	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.05	0.01	0.18	0.04	0.20	0.08	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.05

Ave. = Average. CDD = Cooling Degree Day for 60 °F (average temp – 60). PPT = precipitation. Temp. = Temperature. UP = Upper and Middle Park Trails. PP= Peregrine Point/ Highway 32 trailhead and disc golf course area.





*Figure 1. Graph of Trail Closures Versus Daily Rainfall Amounts.*



*Figure 2. Graph of Trail Closure versus Average Daily Temperature.*

## Recommendations

Staff recommends the following (some recommendations are modified from last year):

1. Review the Draft Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan (attached). The revised plan is based on the "Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan" (CESP [Chico Environmental Science and Planning] 2009) and recommendations from last year's review. Although the document should be reviewed in its entirety, some notable changes include:
  - a. Removal of "Interim" and addition of Trail to the title "Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan".
  - b. Addition of the Upper Park Road to the policy. Current practice is for a separate assessment to be completed to protect the road; staff recommends that the road protocol be added to the plan.
  - c. The plan notes that assessments will be conducted 1 time per day, but that the trails will be closed if precipitation goes past 0.25" in the previous 24 hours.
  - d. We modified the text to reflect both Upper and Middle Park for trail closures.
  - e. We define wet weather trail closure as prohibiting horses and bicycles on any trail, and encourage pedestrians to use only designated trails. Similarly, we define the disc golf closure as closing the Peregrine Point disc golf course and restricting pedestrians to designated trails.
  - f. Develop new trail assessment routes for Horseshoe Lake and the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course.
2. Continue to disperse trail information through multiple media. Improve current methods to notify the public of trail openings including more noticeable signs. Use email and social media notification for trail status changes.
3. Continue education efforts (awareness of wet weather damage, wet weather options) and enforcement of closures.
4. Refine the "footsteps" step of the protocol into a Trails field assessment that can use other tools (such as permanent probes that can be calibrated over time with trail closures). Develop a percentage of the trail walk area to match with field conditions. For example, the assessment could suggest closure when 25% of the trail has puddles, muddy, or leaves imprints.
5. Include a new assessment route to capture disc golf fairway conditions, rather than the current trail based route.
6. Explore the use of a model that might provide an estimated opening date. Variables for the model may include: evapotranspiration, temperature, and days to last rainfall, Butte Creek flow, and precipitation. The information could be listed on the web page (i.e. "Estimated number of days for trail opening: 3.").
7. Compare trail and disc golf closures since the closure policy went into affect. The simplification of the closure (trails closed to bikes and equestrians, and the disc golf course closed at the same time) holds some appeal. Even though we did not observe a statistical difference between the trails and disc golf closure in 2011-2012, we recommend looking at the past few years to determine any significant patterns.
8. Revisit current closure areas (all trails in Middle and Upper Park) with the completion of the Trails Plan and further trails work (i.e. look at trails that may be permissible to allow access during wet conditions).

## References

[CESP] Chico Environmental Science and Planning. 2009. Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan. Prepared for City of Chico, General Services Department, Parks and Open Space Division. December, 2009. Chico, California.

Attachments: 1) Draft Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan

# Draft Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan

Bidwell Park, Chico, California

December 12, 2012



---

## City of Chico

General Services Department – Parks Division

965 Fir Street  
Chico, CA 95927

Phone: 530-896-7800  
Fax: 530-895-4731

[www.chico.ca.us](http://www.chico.ca.us)

## Table of Contents

<b>I.</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Environmental Setting</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>Trail Conditions Assessment</b> .....	<b>2</b>
	A. Protocol to Close Middle and Upper Park Trails and the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course .....	2
	B. Protocol to Open Middle and Upper Park Trails and the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course .....	3
	C. Middle and Upper Park Trail Assessment Route .....	5
	D. Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course Assessment Route .....	5
	E. Wet Weather Policy for Upper Park Road.....	5
	F. Notification .....	7
	G. Monitoring and Data Collection .....	7
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b> .....	<b>8</b>

### List of Tables

Table 1. Standard Operating Procedure for Estimating Precipitation in Middle Park/ Horseshoe Lake Trailhead Area (CESP 2009).....	2
---	---

### List of Figures

Figure 1. Revised Trail/Disc Golf Closing Procedures.	4
Figure 2. Revised Trail/Disc Golf Opening Procedure.	4

### List of Appendices

Appendix A. Maps. 1) Trail Signs and Assessment Routes for 2) Trails and 3) Peregrine Point.

### Suggested citation:

City of Chico. 2012. Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan. Bidwell Park, Chico, California. Draft report. December 12, 2012. General Services Department, Parks Division. Chico, California.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In December 2009, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) adopted the revised “Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan” (CESP 2009). The Parks Division applied the protocol from 2009 to 2011. In October 2011, as part of the 2010-2011 annual report, the BPPC adopted several recommendations including revisions to the protocol and development of a plan to supersede the interim plan (CESP 2009). Much of the information developed in this Adaptive Wet Weather Trail Management Plan originates from the original Interim plan (CESP 2009).

Bidwell Park contains over 50 miles of trails for recreation including hiking, running, horse back riding, and mountain biking (CESP 2009). A sustainable trail system provides quality recreational opportunities and access to Bidwell Park’s points of interest without diminishing the natural resources. Due to the nature of the soils in the park, and year-round heavy traffic from multiple uses, a plan is needed to mitigate and minimize damage to trails and natural resources.

CESP (2009) noted that when wet, trails with natural tread surfaces are “often subject to severe damage from trail users such as equestrians and mountain bikers. Horses and mountain bikes leave depressions and ruts in and around the trails, and compact soils leading to pools or channelization of runoff. Many trails in the park have been widened beyond what is necessary, and eroded down to bedrock, which has reduced vegetation coverage. “

The primary purpose of this plan is to outline a clear protocol to open and close Middle and Upper Park Trails and the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course, in order to protect against resource degradation. This plan also outlines the procedures for public communication, monitoring, and developing recommendations.

The Plan is meant to complement the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (EDAW 2008), Bidwell Park Trails Manual (Chico 2006), and the forthcoming Trails Plan (in progress) as an adaptive tool to manage wet weather use of Bidwell Park. As part of the adaptive management approach, we anticipate annual reports to the BPPC.

## **II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Bidwell Park and Chico experience a Mediterranean climate, characterized by hot, dry summers, and wet rainy winters. Approximately, 27 inches of rain falls annually with nearly all of it falling between December and April.

Steep slopes and thin soils characterize most of Upper and part of Middle Bidwell Park. Slopes on the ridges vary between 3-15%, with steeper slopes in the canyon between 30-50% (CESP 2009). While the soil depth and type varies greatly in the Park, many areas have a shallow depth to bedrock of only 2-20 inches (CESP 2009). Elevations in the park range from 200 – 1600 feet above mean sea level (CESP 2009). Trails within the park meander through sensitive areas of annual grassland, oak woodland, and

riparian vegetation with few of these trails designed for sustainable use. Bidwell Park is home to several endangered species and their critical habitat.

### III. TRAIL CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

Several revisions simplify the protocol outlined in CESP (2009); making it easier for the public to understand and to apply in practice. Assessments are conducted to close and to open the trails. To make the closure policy objective and transparent to the public, the closures will be based on publicly available data.

#### A. Protocol to Close Middle and Upper Park Trails and the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course

Trail closures will follow the protocol depicted in Figure 1. When precipitation reaches 0.25 inch in any 24 hour period (from the CHI gauge, below), Middle and Upper Park trails and the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course will be closed.

As defined under this plan, wet weather trail closure prohibits horses and bicycles on any trail. During trail closures, we will encourage pedestrians to use only designated trails. Similarly, we define the disc golf closure as closing the Peregrine Point disc golf course to play and restricting pedestrians to designated trails that may be able to better accommodate wet condition use.

CESP (2009) acknowledges that emergency or special circumstances/events may warrant closure at the discretion of the parks' staff. Note that Figure 1 also provides for a field assessment (explained further below) to determine the closure. This is intended to provide discretion for occurrences where weather conditions (cool temperatures, persistent precipitation, high humidity, etc) may create wet conditions, but precipitation does not exceed the threshold.

Precipitation data available on the California Data Exchange Center web site (<http://cdec.water.ca.gov>) will be used (note: daily precipitation will differ than the total from any 24 hour period). The Chico (CHI) gauge placed at the USDA Experimental Forest is approximately 4.1 miles due south of Horseshoe Lake. This gauge will be used as a surrogate for the park even though elevation or field conditions on individual trails or parts of the course may be very different. Table 2 lays out the procedure noted in CESP (2009) for accessing the data.

Generally, the closure policy should be applied no more than once per day (before 11 am). However, trails will be closed when the 24-hour precipitation total crosses the 0.25" threshold values, if this occurs after the assessment for the day.

**Table 1. Standard Operating Procedure for Estimating Precipitation in Middle Park/ Horseshoe Lake Trailhead Area (CESP 2009).**

- |  |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Navigate to <a href="http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/staMeta?station_id=CHI">http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/staMeta?station_id=CHI</a> (or go to <a href="http://cdec.water.ca.gov/">http://cdec.water.ca.gov/</a> and search for the station "CHI")</li><li>2. The 9th sensor from the top of the page is described as "<b>PRECIPITATION, ACCUMULATED</b>, inches</li></ol> |
|--|

(hourly)(RAIN)SATELLITE"- click on the (hourly) icon.

3. Record the latest value (reported in inches) in the first column "Rain- inches" and note the time of that reading.

4. Click on the "earlier" icon and locate the entry 24- hours prior to the value from **Step 3**.

5. Subtract the earlier value from the later value to obtain the depth of precipitation (in inches) for the previous 24-hour period. This value will serve as a best estimate for the amount of precipitation in the Middle Park/ Horseshoe Lake Trailhead area.

**Note:** The CHI (Chico) station is located approximately 4.1 miles due south of Horseshoe Lake. This station represents the closest publicly accessible precipitation gauge to Middle Park/ Horseshoe Lake Trailhead.

Chico- [http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/staMeta?station\\_id=CHI](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/staMeta?station_id=CHI)

**Station ID** CHI

**Elevation** 230' ft

**River Basin** BUTTE CR

**County** BUTTE

**Hydrologic Area** SACRAMENTO RIVER

**Nearby City** DURHAM

**Latitude** 39.7120°N

**Longitude** 121.7830°W

**Operator** CA Dept of Forestry

**Data Collection** SATELLITE

## **B. Protocol to Open Middle and Upper Park Trails and the Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course**

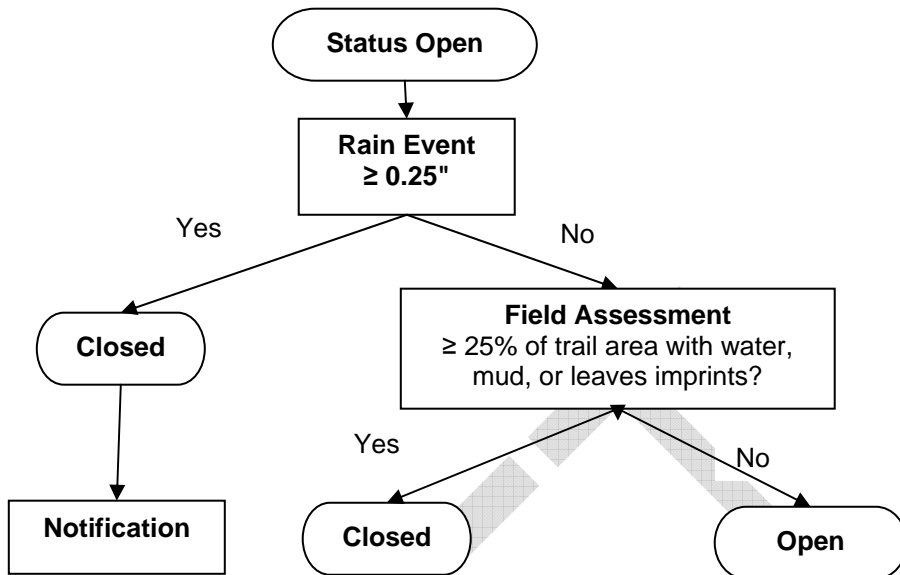
While wet weather and a clear threshold (0.25" of precipitation) initiates the closure of trails and disc golf course, we should note that the trail opening is governed by the soil conditions.

Cool temperatures, relative humidity, saturated soils, plant moisture demand, day length, and many other factors can influence the opening of the trails. For example, it may take several days and even weeks for the soil to dry sufficiently in January as opposed to less than a day for a mid-summer rainfall event.

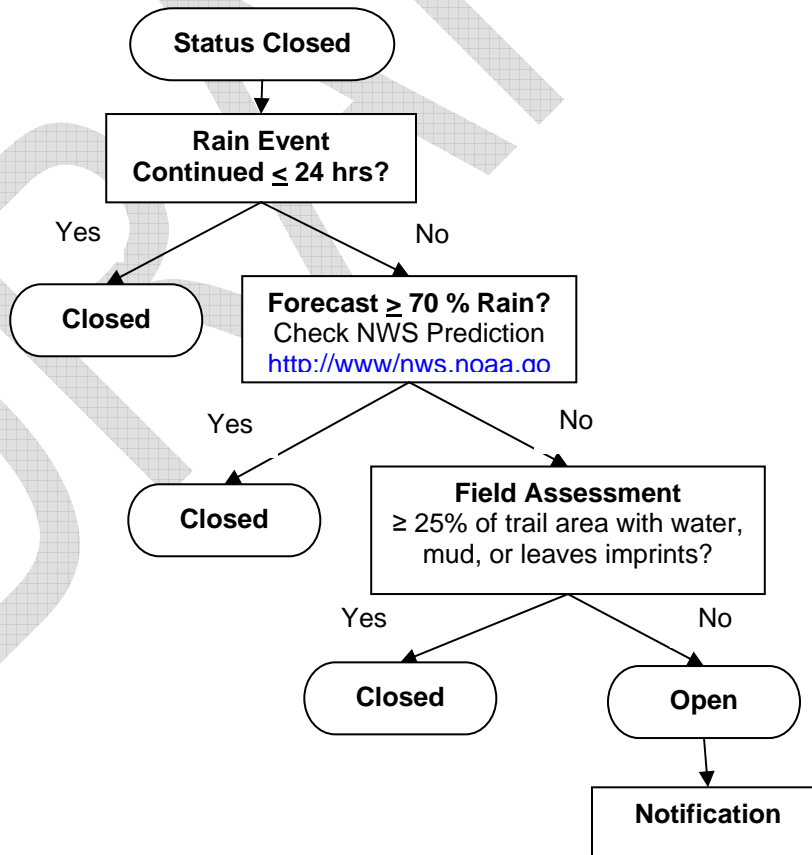
The protocol may be summarized as follows:

1. If trails are closed and the rainfall event continued after the initial closure, the trails remain closed.
2. If the rain stopped in the previous 24 hours, but the forecast calls for a 70% or greater chance of precipitation, the trails remain closed.
3. If the forecast does not call for additional rainfall than a field assessment is conducted.

Once the trails are open, assessments are not likely to be conducted until additional precipitation falls.



**Figure 1. Revised Trail/Disc Golf Closing Procedures.**



**Figure 2. Revised Trail/Disc Golf Opening Procedure.**



### **C. Middle and Upper Park Trail Assessment Route**

From the Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, a park employee should walk along the Middle Trail and observe the impact of their footprints, then cross (down a connector trail) to Lower Trail and return to the parking lot (CESP 2009) (Appendix A).

If the assessment reveals more than 25% of the trail has puddles, mud, or the observer leaves imprints of more than 0.5 inches, then the trails remain closed. If less than 25 % of the trail matches these conditions, then the trails are likely suitable for non-pedestrian use.

As soon as one of the threshold values is reached or exceeded, the observer may terminate the observation and make a determination without completing the route.

In the short-term, Staff will retain the current assessment route, but would like to explore a new route and report back to the BPPC on any suggested route changes. The new route may be recalibrated (the 25% rule modified). For example parts of the existing trail are damp during most of the wet season, while other areas are on rock that does not make an imprint even if completely saturated.

Time to complete Task: 5- 30 minutes (600 meter walk)

### **D. Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course Assessment Route**

The current assessment route is the one CESP (2009) notes:

“From the “long course” kiosk, a park employee should walk north towards the Tee area for Hole 1, proceed east down Hole 1 past the pin towards the “short course” staying on existing pathways and observe the impact of their footprints. The employee should then proceed south across the short course passing holes 9, 7, 8, 2 and 1 (in that order) to the entrance of the short course.”

Because the short course has been closed, a new assessment route to capture conditions on the long course area, rather than the current one (Appendix A) seems more appropriate. This route would also be reported back to the BPPC or included in the next version of the plan.

Like the Middle and Upper Park trail assessment, if the assessment reveals more than 25% of the area walked has puddles, mud, or the observer leaves imprints of more than 0.5 inches, then the Course remains closed. If less than 25 % of the trail matches these conditions, then the Course is opened.

Time to complete Task: 5- 25 minutes (800 meter walk)

### **E. Wet Weather Policy for Upper Park Road**

The unpaved portion of Upper Park Road (past Parking Lot E/Horseshoe Lake) has historically been closed during and following inclement weather. Upper Park Road is closed on Sundays and Mondays to vehicles.

Upper Park Road is a thinly graveled surface with poor drainage in places. During and after rain events, vehicles on the road cause considerable damage (rutting) and can easily slide off the road. Upper Park Road is closed to ensure safety, protect against road degradation and reduce costs associated with maintenance. When trails are closed, park users are allowed on Upper Park Road for recreational activities. For purposes of the code, Upper Park Road is considered a trail when the road is closed to vehicles; however, horses and bikes are permitted to use Upper Park Road.

The current policy may be articulated as follows:

1. The gate at the Diversion Dam will be seasonally closed from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> annually.
2. An assessment of road conditions should occur daily during wet conditions, before 7:30 am.
3. When more than 0.25 inches of precipitation falls within a 24-hour period or if tire impressions are evident while driving on the road, the road shall be closed to vehicles.
4. If the National Weather Service indicates a 70% chance or greater of precipitation that day, the road will be closed to vehicles.
5. To open, the surface should be firm with few puddles present.
6. In addition, emergency, weather damage, or special circumstances or events may warrant closures at the discretion of Parks Staff.

The policy tracks fairly closely with the current trail closure, except that conditions typically dry more rapidly than the trails and the road opens earlier. As part of this plan, we recommend modification of the protocol so that the opening of Upper Park Road be tied into the trails assessment. In other words, when Middle and Upper Park Trails are closed to bikes and equestrians, the Upper Park Road is closed to vehicles. Reasons for this change include:

1. Consistency and easier communication to the public.
2. When the trails are closed, more bikes and equestrians use Upper Park Road; removing cars may improve safety and trail closure compliance (some offenders say that they did not feel safe on the road and use the trails).
3. Allows for more centralized access points: Minimizes use of parking areas deeper in the Park (i.e. Bear Hole), when trails are wet, and removes the temptation to bring in a bike in a vehicle to access closed trails in Upper Park.

For the 433 day monitoring period (2011-12), we experienced only 2 days (3/23-3/24/12) in which the trails were closed and the road was opened. We began collecting data during the 2011-2012 monitoring period, and cannot compare the road and trail closures during past years. We anticipate that the discrepancy between the trails and road closures would have been greater in wetter years such as 2010-2011, although the gate closure on Sundays and Mondays would minimize the effect.

## **F. Notification**

Once the trail status changes, staff will update:

1. Trail status signs throughout the park (Appendix A).
2. GSD administrative staff who often get calls from the public on trail status.
3. The trails hotline (530) 896-7899
4. The Bidwell Park webpage –  
[http://www.chico.ca.us/General\\_Services\\_Department/Park\\_Division/Bidwell\\_Park.asp](http://www.chico.ca.us/General_Services_Department/Park_Division/Bidwell_Park.asp)
5. The Park Division Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/CityofChicoParks>) and Twitter Account (<https://twitter.com/ChicoParks>).

## **G. Monitoring and Data Collection**

During the 2009-2010 season, park rangers conducted an assessment of the Upper/Middle Park trails and the Highway 32 disc golf courses to determine trail openings and closings. Data collected included: observer id; time; Chico, Paradise, and Cohasset weather station precipitation (available at the California Data Exchange, <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/>); rain forecast exceeding 70%; rain gauge measurements (Horseshoe Lake and Hwy 32/Disc Golf), footstep imprints; soil moisture probe readings, comments, and trail status (open or closed).

During the first couple of seasons, staff evaluated several questions related to the protocol (for example, whether there was a statistical difference between field collected data and the weather station data at the Chico airport). Over time, we anticipate the analysis to become more routine (for example, just a simple reporting of the number of days that trails were closed each month). While we suspect that other statistical questions may arise (such as whether a predictive equation may be developed as years of information accumulate), the annual summary should contain the following:

1. A summary of weather data and number of days closed each month,
2. A graphical display of rainfall events and trail closings, and
3. A graphical display of average daily temperature and trail closings.

Other information, especially related to compliance issues such as enforcement or educational efforts, may also be summarized in the report. Each annual report should also provide recommendations to the protocol and to improve compliance.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

This plan is an evolution of the Interim Plan developed in 2009 (CESP 2009), based on recent data and suggestions from the past 3 seasons. These policies work best for well-spaced storm events which allow time for soil to dry out in between. Parks staff should monitor the National Weather Service (NWS) website ([nws.noaa.gov](http://nws.noaa.gov)) for Chico to determine when rain is predicted. During periods of alternating weather conditions, the NWS prediction can be used to eliminate the need to field check the sites for opening. When enough precipitation is recorded to close the trails, it is highly likely that the ground would not have sufficient time to dry by the next day. Upper Park Trails, the

Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course, and Upper Park Road should not be reopened if there is a high (70% or higher) possibility of precipitation on that day, and thus, no reason to field check the sites. During extreme precipitation events (greater than 1.5" of precipitation in Chico in 24 hours, or snow within the Park), trails should remain closed for at least one day after the event (without field observations).

## V. REFERENCES

[CESP] Chico Environmental Science and Planning. 2009. Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan. Prepared for City of Chico, General Services Department, Parks and Open Space Division. December, 2009. Chico, California.

[www.cdec.water.ca.gov](http://www.cdec.water.ca.gov)

[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)

S:\Park\Programs\Monitoring\Trails\_Monitoring\Wet\_Weather\Revised\_wet\_weather\_plan\Adaptive\_Wet\_Weather\_Plan\_11\_1029.doc  
Last printed 12/13/2012 10:50 AM

# Appendix A. Maps. 1) Trail Signs and Assessment Routes for 2) Trails and 3) Peregrine Point.

