



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

April 16, 2014, **6:30 p.m. please note change in time**
Municipal Center - 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.chicoca.gov>

1. Call to Order

2. Regular Agenda

2.1 Introduction of Programmatic Tree Removal Permit

Staff will describe, and seeks feedback, on an outline of a program to help expedite permit requests for undesirable trees. The approach will allow for the administrative approval of discretionary trees on behalf of the BPPC (essentially pre-approval of permits that meet certain criteria). All other requests would still come before the BPPC for consideration. **Recommendation:** Provide feedback that will be incorporated into a more refined version of the protocol.

2.2. Draft Urban Forest Management Plan Update

Staff will provide an overview of progress to date on the Urban Forest Management Plan (Plan), and present an initial list of issues. Staff seeks Tree Committee input to identify data gaps, additional information needs, and refine goals to be incorporated into the next revision of the Plan. **Recommendation:** Provide an update to the BPPC on the status of the Plan, and identify the major items needed for the next revision.

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. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

4.1. Letter dated 3/27/14 from Charles Withuhn regarding the benefit of trees.

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

5. Adjournment

Adjourn to the next regular meeting on May 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2 at the Chico City Council 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: April 5, 2014
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: Programmatic Tree Removal Permit Application Protocol

Report in Brief

The BPPC directed the Tree Committee to consider a Programmatic Permit program to help expedite requests for undesirable trees. Staff seeks feedback on the approach before a protocol is developed to allow for the administrative approval of discretionary trees on behalf of the BPPC (essentially pre-approval of permits that meet certain criteria). All other requests would still come before the BPPC for consideration. The removals and replanting will be completed at the applicants cost.

Recommendation:

Provide feedback to Staff on the outlined Programmatic Removal Permit to help expedite requests for undesirable trees.

Background

Under City of Chico Municipal Code (CMC Section 14.40.120 Permits – Required) No trees or shrubs shall be planted in or removed from any planting area in the city unless the commission or the city council authorizes and the director issues a permit; or such planting or removal is required by order of the commission or the city council. The CMC states that the director shall bring all applications for permits to the attention of the commission and shall issue such written permit when and as directed by the commission or the city council. Trees that are dead or dying or pose an immediate public safety risk are not discretionary and staff may act to have those trees removed without BPPC action (CMC 14.40.270).

The CMC also provides for 1) the director to impose additional reasonable conditions, such as the replanting of a tree or shrub in place of that removed. (CMC 14.40.150 Permit - Conditions upon issuance); and 2) that the cost of removal of trees that are not dead or dying or pose a dangerous condition upon public property, the removal shall be deemed to be for the convenience of the property owner (CMC 14.40.170) and the cost shall be at the property owner's expense. (CMC 14.40.180).

At the November 25, 2013 meeting, the BPPC recommended that the Tree Committee consider a proposed protocol to set up a programmatic permit process to help landowners to securing a permit to remove targeted trees. The process would identify the conditions that are appropriate for such a program. The protocol essentially lays out the conditions for the pre-approval of permits so that permits may be handled administratively. The full BPPC will consider removal permits that do not meet the criteria. The administrative approval will streamline the process for landowners that may wish to remove trees that are obvious candidates and also indicate the City's support of removing undesirable species.

Discussion

The goal of the program is to identify and communicate to the public undesirable trees that meet clear criteria and City goals; expedite the permit process for landowners that may wish to remove undesirable trees and replace with appropriate ones; reduce administrative and opportunity costs. The idea is to establish guidelines in which to provide the basis for administrative permit decisions on behalf of the BPPC. The program would essentially provide for "pre-approval" of removal requests that meet certain criteria. The sections below lay out elements of the program for consideration.

a. Protocol

Staff proposes that the BPPC adopted protocol be transformed into an Administrative Policy and Procedures Memo (AP&P) to make the application of the protocol clear to staff. Staff recommends Tree Committee feedback on considerations for the protocol for the permit program. For example, some initial protocol considerations could include:

1. A pre-approved list of species and/or conditions for removal (see below).
2. Staff will report all removals to the BPPC in the monthly manager report.

3. Applicants will replace the trees at appropriate locations with trees that are appropriate for the planter size.
4. The removals and replanting will be completed at the applicants cost.
5. Costs of removal and replanting will be at the applicant's expense.
6. As there may be cases in which staff determines that the removal of a tree may not serve the public interest. If in dispute, Staff will bring forth the item to the BPPC for a determination.

b. Tree species eligible for program

Staff proposes a categorical approach to restrict the number of tree species that are eligible for this program. The categories include:

1. Noxious Woody Plants – Non-native invasive trees (i.e. tree of heaven) on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) noxious plant list (A or B level species) should be removed and replanted with an appropriate tree. Title 3, Section 5004, Food and Agricultural Code defines and lists noxious weeds and the determination to get on the list (we refer the curious reader to CDFA, 2010, and Kelch 2014, Attachment A). Without exception, these are clear cut candidates for removal.
2. List of Trees explicitly excluded from the Tree Preservation Code (CMC 16.66) – This part of the CMC regulates the removal and preservation of trees and promotes the advancement of public values related to trees (Street trees are covered in CMC 14.40). The Preservation Code applies to property that requires discretionary permits and requires that certain trees require a removal permit from the City. However, CMC 16.66 excludes certain trees from the permit requirement and these trees provide a good basis for trees that should be on the programmatic approval list for Street trees as well (CMC 16.66.050.C).
3. Trees incompatible as street trees based on local knowledge - There are several tree species that thru past experience or knowledge that should be added to the list. These plants have proven to be incompatible with infrastructure or produced problems as street trees. Many of the trees that fall in this category are future candidates for the CMC list above.

Trees that are state-wide invasive threats (on the CDFA or Cal-IPC lists) or demonstrate local invasiveness are clear-cut candidates for removal anyplace within the City, while other trees are not simply well matched for street tree locations. In other words, there are trees that should be removed under all circumstances (e.g. Ailanthus/Tree of heaven) and those that would be recommended for removal under particular circumstances (for example, Yarwood sycamore in small planters).

Yarwood sycamore is a good example of local experience and knowledge governing why it should be on the list. Although the the Yarwood Sycamore was once an approved street tree variety, this tree poses damage to infrastructure (water mains, sidewalks, and a gas main). This variety is favored in some areas of the country because it is relatively fast growing, but with Chico's good climate and areas of good soil; the tree can grow so fast that branches become weak and fail regularly. While some of the effects can be reduced with regular pruning, these trees are among the costliest in Chico to maintain. The roots can also be invasive and damage sidewalks and water pipes. Therefore, the tree should be replaced with a more appropriate species in most street tree locations. Still the tree could have application in certain areas where it has enough room to grow and does not pose a hazard. Another example is hackberry, where the City spends approximately \$16,000 on pesticide application for 1,200 non-native trees for aphid control; while certain varieties have escaped into Bidwell Park.

The following table is an example of the tree species that would fall under the programmatic tree removal permit.

Table 1. Example Matrix Table of Species Eligible for Programmatic (Pre-approval) Removal Permit Program

| Common name | Scientific Name | Invasive (CDFA/ CAL-IPC) | CMC list | Local Experience | Recommend for Program | Comments (Basis for inclusion, Conditions for removal) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ailanthus/Tree of heaven | <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> | A | Y | Y | Y | Noxious weed. Encourage removal within the city limits. |
| Yarwood Sycamore | | N | N | Y | Y* | Fast growing in Chico. Falling limbs, incompatible with urban infrastructure. Planter size < 6 ft or presence of infrastructure (utilities, sidewalks, driveways, etc). |

* Conditional upon location/use.

Staff recognizes that the BPPC may wish to exclude some of the individual trees species from the list above; or discuss the particular conditions for removal. An explicit list may help with that discussion. Therefore, staff recommends that the species list return to the Tree Committee for discussion.

c. Next Steps

Staff would like the Committee to provide direction as to the initial concept of the programmatic approach. If the direction and concepts that staff describes is acceptable, we propose to develop a list of trees that would be on the programmatic list. Staff will incorporate this information into a protocol in the next report.

References:

[CDFA] DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. 2010. PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE REGULATIONS Title 3, California Code of Regulations, Section 4500, Noxious Weed Species, INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW. www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/docs/4500ISR.pdf

Attachments:

- A. Kelch. Dean. 2014. RE: Noxious Weed Request. Email to Dan Efseaff on 2/21/14.
- B. Excerpt from Bidwell Park Invasive Plant inventory (Trees and Shrubs growth form).

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4/10/2014

ATTACHMENT A

Dan Efsaef

From: Kelch, Dean@CDFA <dean.kelch@cdfa.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2014 9:26 AM
To: Dan Efsaef
Subject: RE: Noxious Weed Request

Below I have listed all the woody plants (plus the giant knot weeds that are somewhat woody) that are listed on the California list of noxious weeds at this time (Section 4500 of CCR). Trees are starred. This is the list I would proceed with in any effort to control the planting of invasive woody plants (even though some will never be grown in Chico).

HTH,
Dean Kelch

CA woody noxious weeds

Acacia paradoxa*
Ailanthus altissima*
Alhagi pseudalhagi
Arundo donax*
Cytisus scoparius
Fallopia japonica
Fallopia sachalinensis
Genista monspessulana
Halimodendron halodendron
Hypericum canariense
Peganum harmala
Salsola damascena
Sesbania punicea
Solanum marginatum
Spartium junceum
Sphaerophysa salsula
Tamarix chinensis*
Tamarix gallica*
Tamarix parviflora*
Tamarix ramosissima*
Ulex europaeus
Viscum album
Zygophyllum fabago

Woody species I hope to be added soon to the 4500 list:

Galega officinalis
Saccharum ravennae
Euphorbia dendroides

Dean G. Kelch
Primary Botanist
California Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street, Room 349
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel. (916) 403-6650 Fax (916) 403-6787
dean.kelch@cdfa.ca.gov

From: Dan Efsaef [dan.efsaef@Chicoca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 4:17 PM
To: Kelch, Dean@CDFA
Subject: Noxious Weed Request

Hello,

ATTACHMENT A

We are trying to develop a list of trees (woody shrubs) that we hope to encourage landowners to remove from the City's Right of Way.

One of the criteria I was hoping to use was to separate out all A (and possibly B) rated noxious woody trees from the state list, but I did not see an easy way of doing that and hope that you can either tell or show me how to extract growth from the list (rather than doing it manually).

Thanks, please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Efseaff | Park and Natural Resource Manager
Public Works Department | City of Chico
965 Fir Street | Chico, California 95927
O 530.896.7801 | dan.efseaff@Chicoca.gov
www.chicoca.gov

Bidwell Park - List of Non-native Plants

From Cal-IPC database 3/25/10
<http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/weedlist.php?re> <http://www.friendsofbidwellpark.org/invasivetable.html>

Frequency (note 0,

BP Location

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Rating | Alert | Impacts | Invasiveness | Distribution | Documentation Level | CA-FP | CaR | GV | SN | Habitats of Concern and Comments | UP | MP | LP |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Cal-IPC | Cal-IPC | Cal-IPC | IPC | IPC | IPC | IPC | Cal-IPC | IPC | IPC | IPC | IPC | Cal-IPC | BP | BP | BP |
| Acacia dealbata | silver wattle | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 2.5 | N | N | N | N | Coastal prairie, riparian woodland, riparian forest, North Coast coniferous forest, closed cone coniferous forest. | | | |
| Acacia melanoxylon | black acacia, blackwood acacia | Limited | No | C | C | B | 2.7 | N | N | N | N | Coniferous forest, chaparral, woodland, riparian. Impacts are low in most areas. | | | |
| Acacia paradoxa | kangaroothorn | Eval No List | No | D | C | C | 2.5 | N | N | N | N | Does not spread in wildlands. | | | |
| Ailanthus altissima | tree-of-heaven | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 3 | Y | | | | Riparian areas, grasslands, oak woodland. Impacts highest in riparian areas. | X | X | |
| Albizia lophantha | plume acacia | Eval No List | No | U | C | C | 1.5 | N | N | N | N | Present in Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Need more information. | | | |
| Celtis australis | Mediterranean hackberry | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | X |
| Cordyline australis | giant dracaena, New Zealand cabbage tree | Limited | No | C | C | C | 2 | N | N | N | N | Coniferous forest. Two reports of horticultural escape into wildlands. Appears best suited to moist, cool climates. | | | |
| Crataegus monogyna | hawthorn | Limited | No | C | B | C | 3.4 | N | N | N | N | Riparian habitats, woodland. Limited distribution. Impacts appear to be minor. | X | X | X |
| Cupressus macrocarpa | Monterey cypress | Native | No | B | B | B | 2.3 | N | N | N | N | Native to Monterey area. Invades coastal prairie, desert scrub, riparian areas. | | | |
| Elaeagnus angustifolia | Russian-olive | Moderate | No | B | A | B | 3.3 | N | N | Y | N | Interior riparian. Impacts more severe in other western states. Current distribution limited in CA. | | | |
| Eucalyptus camaldulensis | red gum | Limited | No | C | C | C | 2.2 | N | N | Y | N | Mainly southern CA urban areas. Impacts, invasiveness and distribution all minor. | | | |
| Eucalyptus globulus | Tasmanian blue gum | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 2.8 | N | N | Y | N | Riparian areas, coastal grasslands, scrub. Impacts can be much higher in coastal areas. | | | |
| Ficus carica | edible fig | Moderate | No | B | A | B | 2.6 | N | N | Y | N | Riparian woodland. Can spread rapidly. Abiotic impacts unknown. Can be locally very problematic. | X | X | X |
| Fraxinus uhdei | evergreen ash, shamel ash, tropical ash | Eval No List | No | U | B | D | 3 | N | N | N | N | | | | |

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Rating | Alert | Impacts | Invasiveness | Distribution | Documentation Level | CA-FP | CaR | GV | SN | Habitats of Concern and Comments | UP | MP | LP |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|-----|----|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> | honey locust | Eval No List | No | D | B | C | 3.3 | N | N | Y | N | Impacts unknown and distribution very limited | | | |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | English holly | Moderate | Alert | B | B | C | 2.7 | N | N | N | N | North coast forests. Expanding range south from OR. | | | |
| <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> | Australian tea tree | Eval No List | No | D | C | D | 2.2 | N | N | N | N | Very limited distribution. | | | |
| <i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> | japanese privet | | | | | | | | | | | Riparian-Valley Oak woodland; widely planted horticultural shrub. 264 mapped sites in Bidwell Park alone. | X | X | X |
| <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> | glossy privet | Eval No List | No | D | B | C | 3.1 | N | N | N | N | May prove to be problematic in riparian areas. | | | |
| <i>Maytenus boaria</i> | mayten | Eval No List | No | D | C | D | 2.4 | N | N | N | N | Infestation on Angel Island, San Francisco Bay | | | |
| <i>Myoporum laetum</i> | myoporum | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 2.6 | N | N | N | N | Coastal habitats, riparian areas; mostly along the southern coast. Abiotic impacts unknown. | | | |
| <i>Nicotiana glauca</i> | tree tobacco | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 2.5 | N | N | Y | Y | Coastal scrub, grasslands, riparian woodland. Abiotic impacts unknown. Impacts vary locally. Rarely in dense stands. | | | |
| <i>Olea europaea</i> | olive | Limited | No | C | B | B | 2.5 | N | N | Y | N | A problem in Australia. Currently a rare escape in CA but is of concern due to the possibility of spread from planted groves. | X | X | X |
| <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> | Mexican Palo Verde | Eval No List | No | D | B | D | 2.2 | N | N | Y | N | Has not escaped into wildland enough to cause impacts. | | | |
| <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> | Canary Island date palm | Limited | No | C | B | D | 2.3 | N | N | N | N | Desert washes; agricultural crop plant. Limited distribution in southern CA. Impacts can be higher locally. | | | |
| <i>Pinus radiata</i> cultivars | Monterey pine | Native | No | B | B | B | 2.6 | N | N | N | N | Five populations native to CA. Invades coastal scrub and prairie, chaparral. | | | |
| <i>Pistachia chinensis</i> | Chinese pistache | Eval No List | No | U | C | D | 0.9 | N | N | N | N | Impacts unknown | X | X | X |
| <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> | Victorian box | Eval No List | No | D | C | D | 2.7 | N | N | N | N | Infestations in California are small. More problematic on north coast | | | |
| <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> | cherry plum | Limited | No | C | B | B | 1.8 | N | N | N | N | Riparian habitats, chaparral, woodland. | X | X | X |
| <i>Rhus Cotinus</i> | smoke tree | | | | | | | | | | | Limited distribution. Abiotic impacts unknown. | | | |
| <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> | black locust | Limited | No | C | B | B | 2.8 | Y | | | | Riparian areas, canyons. Severe impacts in southern states. Impacts minor in CA. | X | | X |
| <i>Sapium sebiferum</i> | Chinese tallowtree | Moderate | Alert | B | B | C | 3.2 | N | N | Y | N | Riparian areas. Impacts severe in southeast US. Limited distribution in California, but spreading rapidly regionally. | | | X |
| <i>Schinus molle</i> | Peruvian peppertree | Limited | No | C | B | B | 2.5 | N | N | Y | Y | Riparian. Limited distribution. Impacts largely unknown in CA. | | | |
| <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> | Brazilian peppertree | Limited | No | C | B | C | 2.6 | N | N | N | N | Riparian. Very invasive in tropics. Abiotic impacts unknown, but appear significant locally. | | | X |

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Rating | Alert | Impacts | Invasiveness | Distribution | Documentation Level | CA-FP | CaR | GV | SN | Habitats of Concern and Comments | UP | MP | LP |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|-----|----|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Tamarix aphylla | athel tamarisk | Limited | No | C | B | B | 3.5 | N | N | Y | N | Desert washes, riparian areas. Limited distribution. Impacts minor, but can be locally higher. | | | |
| Tamarix parviflora | smallflower tamarisk | High | No | A | A | B | 3.1 | N | Y | Y | Y | Riparian areas, desert washes, coastal scrub | | | |
| Tamarix ramosissima | saltcedar, tamarisk | High | No | A | A | A | 3.3 | N | N | Y | Y | Desert washes, riparian areas, seeps and springs | | | |
| Ulmus pumila | Siberian elm | Eval No List | No | D | B | B | 2.5 | N | N | Y | Y | Impacts unknown | | | |
| Washingtonia robusta | Mexican fan palm | Moderate | Alert | B | B | C | 2.7 | N | N | N | N | Desert washes. Limited distribution but spreading in southern CA. Impacts can be higher locally. | | | |
| Alhagi maurorum | camelthorn | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 3.2 | N | N | Y | N | Grassland, meadows, riparian and desert scrub, Sonoran thorn woodland. Very invasive in southwestern states. Limited distribution in CA. | | | |
| Alhagi pseudalhagi | camel thorn | Moderate | N | B | B | B | 3.2 | y | N | Y | Y | Herbaceous perennial or shrub (Fabaceae) found in the central valley, ...arid agricultural areas, grasslands, meadows and desert riparian areas. ...can spread rapidly (about 10 m per year)from its large creeping root system. ...resprout by fire. ...disperse over long distances. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Atriplex semibaccata | Australian saltbush | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 2.9 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Coastal grasslands, scrub, upper salt marsh. Limited distribution, but can be very invasive regionally. | | | |
| Berberis darwinii | Darwin barberry | Eval No List | No | U | B | D | 2.1 | N | N | N | N | Impacts unknown | | | |
| Buddleja davidii | butterflybush | Eval No List | No | D | B | D | 2.5 | N | N | N | N | Not known to be invasive in CA, although it is a problem in Oregon. | | | |
| Cestrum parqui | willow jessamine | Eval No List | No | U | B | C | 2 | N | N | N | N | Impacts unknown | | | |
| Cotoneaster franchetii | orange cotoneaster | Moderate | No | B | A | B | 2.6 | N | N | N | N | Coniferous forest. Limited distribution. Abiotic impacts largely unknown. | | | X |
| Cotoneaster lacteus | Parney's cotoneaster | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 2.1 | N | N | N | N | Many coastal habitats, mainly a problem from SF Bay Area north along coast but also in San Diego County. Limited distribution. Abiotic impacts largely unknown. | | | |
| Cotoneaster pannosus | silverleaf cotoneaster | Moderate | No | B | A | B | 2.5 | N | N | N | N | Many coastal habitats, mainly a problem from SF Bay Area north along coast. Limited distribution. Abiotic impacts largely unknown. | | | X |
| Cytisus scoparius | Scotch broom | High | No | A | B | A | 3.2 | Y | | | | Coastal scrub, oak woodland, horticultural varieties may also be invasive. | | | |
| Cytisus striatus | Portuguese broom | Moderate | No | B | B | B | 2.7 | N | N | N | N | Coastal scrub, grasslands; often confused with C. scoparius. Limited distribution. | | | |
| Genista monspessulana | French broom | High | No | A | A | B | 3.2 | N | Y | N | Y | Coastal scrub, oak woodland, grasslands. Horticultural selections may also be invasive. | | X | |

| Scientific Name | Common Name | Rating | Alert | Impacts | Invasiveness | Distribution | Documentation Level | CA-FP | CaR | GV | SN | Habitats of Concern and Comments | UP | MP | LP |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|-------|-----|----|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Lupinus arboreus | yellow bush lupine | Native | No | B | B | B | 3.5 | N | N | N | N | Invasive in NW coastal dunes. | | | |
| Nerium oleander | oleander | Eval No List | No | D | B | D | 2.6 | N | Y | Y | N | Not known to be invasive, although reported from riparian areas in Central Valley and San Bernardino Mtns | | | |
| Onopordum acanthium | Scotch thistle | High | No | B | B | B | 2.9 | Y | | | | Wet meadows, sage brush, riparian areas | | | |
| Pyracantha angustifolia, P. crenulata, P. coccinea | pyracantha, firethorn | Limited | No | C | B | B | 2.8 | N | N | N | N | Coastal scrub and prairie, riparian areas. Horticultural escape. Impacts unknown or minor. | | | X |
| Retama monosperma | bridal broom | Moderate | Alert | B | B | C | 1.8 | N | N | N | N | Coastal scrub. Can spread rapidly but largely if uncontrolled. Limited distribution in CA. | | | |
| Ricinus communis | castorbean | Limited | No | C | B | B | 2.5 | N | Y | Y | Y | Coastal scrub and prairie, riparian areas. Widespread in southern CA. Impacts locally variable. | | | |
| Rubus armeniacus | Himalaya blackberry | High | No | A | A | A | 3 | Y | | | | Riparian areas, marshes, oak woodlands | X | X | X |
| Sesbania punicea | red sesbania, scarlet wisteria | High | Alert | A | B | C | 3.2 | Y | | | | Riparian areas | | | |
| Spartium junceum | Spanish broom | High | No | A | B | B | 3.2 | Y | | | | Coastal scrub, grasslands, wetlands, oak woodland, forests | X | | |
| Ulex europaeus | gorse | High | No | A | B | B | 2.9 | N | Y | N | Y | Scrub, woodland, forest, coastal grassland | | | |



DATE: April 4, 2014
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: Update on the Urban Forest Management Plan

Report in Brief

Staff will provide an overview of progress to date on the Urban Forest Management Plan, and present an initial list of issues. Staff seeks Tree Committee input to identify data gaps, additional information needs, and refine goals to be incorporated into the next revision of the plan.

Recommendation: Provide an update to the BPPC on the status of the Plan, and identify the major items needed for the next revision.

Background

At the 7/25/11 BPPC Meeting, the Commission approved their biennial work plan priorities for 2011- 2012. At the 1/11/12 meeting, the Tree Committee began the discussion of the goals the plan should include.

Over the next few months key pieces of the plan were considered. The Committee goals of the plan continued and discussed using the format and web site toolkit from the CaUFC for the Plan, and:

- Initiated the definition of an Urban Forest and developing a Vision Statement (2/8/11);
- Reviewed a definition of Chico's Urban Forest and developed a Vision Statement (3/14/12);
- Considered background information on the current state of the Urban Forest for analyzing goals and developing a Mission Statement for the plan. (4/11/12);
- Began to define (5/9/12) and review (6/13/12) goals for the Management Plan; discuss the format of goals for tree resources; and
- Discussed goals of landscape resources (9/12/12).

Fewer meetings were needed in 2013 as Staff developed the information from the initial scoping phases:

- 3/13/13 - Staff provided an overview of progress and the Committee set up a general timeline for the next few months. Staff described the need for review by City compliance staff for environmental review.
- 4/10/13 - The Committee was provided an initial Draft UFMP, and Staff requested comments from the public on the Draft (Staff also noted preliminarily that the Plan may need limited environmental compliance because the general elements were reviewed under the City's General Plan and that the plan only includes maintenance of existing street trees).
- 5/15/13 – Staff noted that the draft UFMP was posted on the City web site. The Committee also considered some comments related to the draft (public notification of tree removals, etc).

Discussion

Chico's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) used an adaptive management approach and planning process as outlined by the Urban Forest toolkit handout (Attachment A originally handed out at the 4/11/12 Tree Committee meeting). The process notes that it is common to go back and forth between the first three steps several times before proceeding further. Staff highly recommends that participants review the preliminary draft at (http://www.ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/documents/ChicoFinalMgtPlan6-2013Web.pdf).

In addition, the City proceeded with public input as a cornerstone of the approach; therefore, the plan to date as developed in an incremental fashion. Like the Trails Plan and Natural Resource Management Plan, as Staff completed building blocks of the report, they would present them to the committee, gather feedback, and then move forward with the next building block. While this approach takes longer than the traditional process of receiving comments on draft reports and developing revisions, the continual feedback means that Staff and participants are more confident that the process carries forth accepted comments.

While tremendous progress has been accomplished, the next version of the UFMP would greatly benefit from addressing the following issues:

1. Committee Review of Revision - As part of the model (Adaptive/Toolkit) used to develop elements of the plan, is the concept that as new knowledge is added, previous parts of the document will need to be modified and refined. The Tree Committee should review and comment on a revised UFMP (only the 1st Draft have been reviewed). Staff have received comments on several major issues (for example, permitting notification, large trees) that should be considered in the revised document. In addition, the UFMP should reflect new resource realities imposed by recent staffing reductions. While this may not change some of the goals, it may change the means to achieve them.
2. General Plan/Environmental Compliance - Many of the goals listed delve into issues within the General Plan, and the UFMP would benefit from an analysis on potential conflicts and consistency with the General Plan. Staff preliminarily indicated that some of the elements in the UFMP may be covered by the CEQA documentation for the General Plan and "because the plan only includes maintenance of existing street trees and their locations". However, the scope of the document includes a larger definition of the Urban Forest than street trees. In addition, a number of the measures potentially impact other Departments and activities. Review from City Planning Staff would help refine the document on those issues and provide a better sense as to information required, refining goals, and integration with Planning Department activities.
3. Goal Refinement - The goals would benefit from adding more quantitative measures (use example on Attachment A). The application of "SMART principals" will help (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound).
4. Linkages and Next Steps - Some of the measures would benefit from indicating the next steps. For example, the UFMP notes the problem with vacant properties and turning off the water to landscaping, and that development of a policy or ordinance may help. This is an item that stretches beyond the purview of the BPPC; however, the document does not indicate the audience for this recommendation (should it be considered by Council, reviewed by the Planning Commission, explored by staff?). Measures that may be beyond the scope of the document, could be clearly identified as non-binding recommendations or as information gaps.
5. Review Completed Sections - The sections on implementation and monitoring should be developed and incorporated into the document. This should include a description of the overall Adaptive Management Approach.

Tree Committee members may have additional comments that may not have been shared at the previous review meeting. Addressing this issues will improve the UFMP and will make it much more likely that the principals will be implemented and achieved.

Staff recommends that the Tree Committee provide an update to the full BPPC and share the preliminary draft plan for comment. This will provide an opportunity for comments from a wider audience, and help develop a better timeline and a more complete document. At a future Tree Committee, Staff use that input to provide a more refined list of needs and data gaps on the first draft, and the list of needs and next steps including Committee attention to data gaps and refinements in the document and receive a more definitive answer to the environmental compliance issue.

Attachments:

- A. Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit excerpt from (<http://ufmptoolkit.com/>)

H:\Admin\BPPC\BPPC_Committee\Tree\2014_Tree\14_0312\BPPC_Tree_Permit_Protocol1_14_0224.docx
4/10/2014

ATTACHMENT A

Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit

[Sign Up](#) [Log In](#)

[Getting Started](#) [Management Planning Process](#) [UFMP Outline](#) [Resources](#)

HOME > Management Planning Process

What do you have?

What do you want?

How do you get what you want?

Are you getting what you want?

Comments

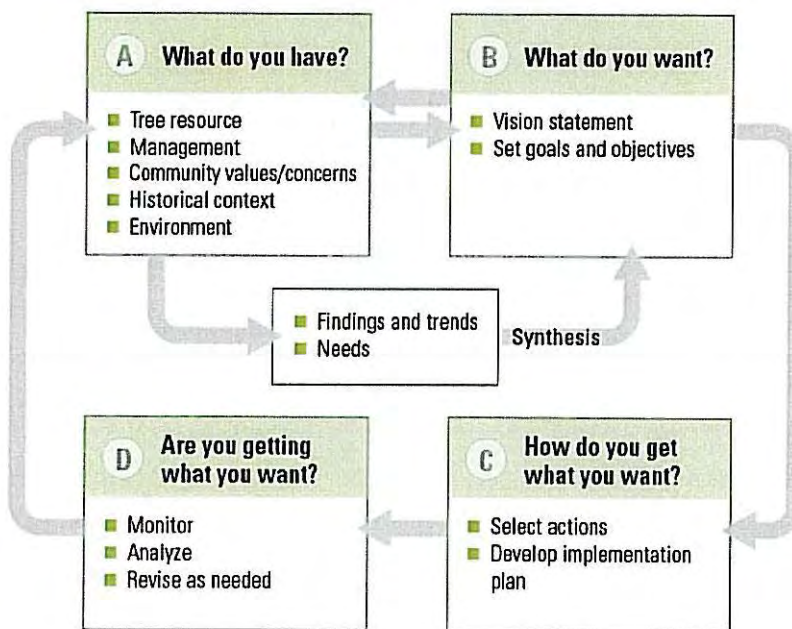
Lise S. Mar 05, 2012
Signing up was easy - this is a great way to get started.

[1] [Read all](#) [Leave comment](#)

Management Planning Process



The overall management planning process used in this web site follows the model illustrated below. This process is referred to as adaptive management. It is commonly used for management planning and resource management (Miller 1988). This model provides a good conceptual framework for the process of developing a management plan. You can also use other variations of this general framework.



Although the steps shown above are represented as a continuous cycle, it is common to go back and forth between the first three steps when developing a plan. Steps A and B are closely related. You may need to revisit these steps several times before proceeding further.

For example, you may know that increased canopy cover is desirable before you assess it. However, to set a quantifiable goal (how much more canopy?), it will be necessary to determine how much canopy is present. Findings from step A may also raise new questions that may require additional assessments. In progressing from step B to C, it may become obvious that the funding or organizational structure for accomplishing various goals are lacking. It may be necessary to backtrack and develop goals related to developing a funding base or public support.

After the management plan is in place, it is important to evaluate how it is working (Step D). Monitoring procedures should be specified in the plan. This brings the process to a full cycle. This cycling allows the plan to adapt to changing conditions.

CC: Dan Etslaff
Ruben Martinez
Dave Bettencourt
4/1/2014
perm record

Dear Commissioner *Lisa Emmerich*,

3/27/14

Your work is so important to so many of the qualities of life that make Chico a great place to live. I just wanted to encourage you by providing some data (ammunition) the next time you have to deal with a citizen who may have missed the benefits of trees. (See examples on attachment 1)

We have also sent to the City Council, 3/17/14, a list of benefits more suited to their concerns. (See attachments 2, 3, and 4)
Then I told them...

Our urban forest data is really stunning. A multi million dollar asset, that requires a less than a 1% maintenance investment* and offers a 300% annual return, and our 2013 tree maintenance budget allotment was one third of what was needed. **

Eighteen years from now our children will not remember or care,
about most the issues we are concerned with here today, but
they will remember our urban forest,
this gift from our fathers' fathers
that has become part of our identity as a community.
How sad would it be, if we became the generation that was too scared,
or too busy, to protect and plant.
Or how great, if even in difficult times
we found the **courage** to nurture our urban forest,
our living message to our children's children,
that when it was our turn, we took care of this rare and precious gift.

Sincerely,

Charles Witham, Chico Tree Advocates

* See line 20 of "Defer Maintenance" attachment

** See CN&R attachment

Scanned to 2014
BPPE Tree Comm

Benefits of Trees

- "Trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent."
—Management Information Services/ICMA ¹.
- "In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension." —Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University ¹.
- "Trees clean the air
Trees absorb odors and pollutant gases (nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone) and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark." ².
- "Trees cool the streets
Average temperatures have risen in the last 50 years as tree coverage has declined and the number of heat-absorbing roads and buildings has increased. Trees cool by up to 10°F, by shading our homes and streets, and releasing water vapor into the air through their leaves." ².
- "Trees shield children from ultra-violet rays
Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Trees reduce UV-B exposure by about 50 percent, thus providing protection to children ...playing outdoors." ².
- "Trees reduce violence
Neighborhoods and homes that are barren have shown to have a greater incidence of violence in and out of the home than their greener counterparts." ².

Footnotes:

1. <http://www.arboday.org/trees/benefits.cfm>
2. <http://www.treepeople.org/top-22-benefits-trees>
2. McPherson, E.G., J.R. Simpson, P.J. Pepper and Qingfu Xiao. 1999. Tree Guidelines for San Joaquin Valley Communities. Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education, USDA Forest Service.

Economic Benefits of Trees

http://www.odellengineering.com/informer/L_PA-Jun.htm

http://www.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/documents/ChicoFinalMgtPlan6-2013Web.pdf

- Savings of up to 58% on maintenance of asphalt streets due to shade cover.^{2,7}
- 10 to 25 year street re-pavement deferment on shaded streets.²
- **12% Spending increase in retail districts with trees.**^{5,8}
In Chico that equals about \$2,157,000 a year
- Documented increase of shopper willingness to stay longer, visit more often in retail districts with trees.⁵
- Up to 20% property value increase on properties with trees.⁴
- Average net value to community of public trees is \$48 per tree/year.⁴ Chico's 30,000 trees x 48 = \$1,440,000 annual value
- Chico Citywide energy savings \$800,000 earned per year⁶

Footnotes:

1. Coder, Rim, D., 1996. Identified Benefits if Community Trees and Forests. University of Georgia.
2. McPherson, E.G., J. Muchnick. 2005. Effects of Street Tree Shade on Asphalt Concrete Pavement Performance. Journal of Arboriculture. 31(6) :303-310
3. McPherson, E.G., J.R. Simpson and K.I. Scott. 2001. Actualizing micro climate and air quality benefits with parking lot tree shade ordinances. Wetter and Leben. 4(98) :353-369 .
4. McPherson, E.G., J.R. Simpson, P.J. Pepper and Qingfu Xiao. 1999. Tree Guidelines for San Joaquin Valley Communities. Western Center for Urban Forest Research and Education, USDA Forest Service.
5. Wolf, Kathleen L., 1999. Nature And Commerce: Human Ecology in Business Districts. Building Cities of Green: Proceedings of the 9th National Urban Forest Conference. D.C. American Forests
6. Chico Draft Urban Forest Management Plan Pg. 15, para. 3 with Chico City PG&E rate factor
7. Estimated cost to resurface one mile of a City street \$190,000. Chico has about 330 miles of streets.
8. City of Chico sales tax revenue part of the 2013-14 Budget \$17,981,000 12% = \$2,157,000

Defer Maintenance?

"There is a big cost increase waiting for municipalities that defer maintenance on their urban forest.

A trained tree crew is really much more cost effective, in the long run, than the enormous cost of playing catch up after just a few years."

Chad Kennedy, Certified Arborist, landscape architect

"Wilmington's public trees provide \$2.58 in benefits for every \$1.00 invested – a return of more than 2½ times. And unlike the majority of city infrastructure, benefits provided by the urban forest actually increase in value when properly managed. However, the converse is also true. Deferred maintenance and inadequate management of street and park trees can actually cost the city and residents more than was invested. Proper management is the key to reaping the benefits of our urban forest."

<http://urbanforest.dehort.org/trees/tree-legislation>

"For every dollar we spend on trees we're getting back almost \$4 in benefits. "

Angie DiSalvo, Botanic Specialist, Portland Parks and Recreation

<http://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/urbanforests/>

Our last Urban Forester said we needed to budget a minimum of \$300,000 per year to maintain our urban forest.

12% Spending increase in retail districts with trees ⁵

Chico Budget states \$17,981,000 in sales tax income, \$300,000 is about 1% of that.

Is one percent too much for Chico's trees?

5. Wolf, Kathleen L., 1999. Nature And Commerce: Human Ecology in Business Districts. Building Cities of Green: Proceedings of the 9th National Urban Forest Conference. D.C. American Forests



Certified arborist Scott Gregory.
Photo by Jeff DeLeon

Maintaining the urban forest

City cutbacks and departure of tree manager raise concern

7/13

by
Evan Tuchinsky

Scott Gregory is worried. Chico may be known as the “City of Trees,” but the future health of the urban forest is very much in question.

First, last month, the City Council approved a budget that eliminates the four-worker tree crew; going forward, the city will contract with outside services. Then, last week, the city lost its urban-forest manager, Denise Britton.

Britton, whose last day at work was July 3, is leaving the area. Her position is funded in the 2013-14 city budget. Public Works Director Ruben Martinez told the CN&R that he’s planning to replace her, “assuming there aren’t any ideas that are much better for the community at large.”

Gregory, a local field biologist who worked with Britton on a street-tree inventory as his master’s degree thesis, fears what these developments will mean for the tens of thousands of trees within the city.

“It’s looking very likely that the city is at a turning point that could be reflected in the future years with a big change in our urban forest, particularly with our city’s street trees and the trees in Bidwell Park,” Gregory said. “If there’s no tree crew to do preventative maintenance and watering and formative pruning of young trees—all of

those are crucial in an urban forest—we’re going to see big effects.”

Britton, too, has “some real concerns” about how trees will fare.

“People seem to think that trees will just take care of themselves, and they do—they continue to grow,” she said. “But if they’re not cared for on a regular basis, they also break branches and decline and have issues. So we can’t just leave them unmanaged.”

The city budget allots \$100,000 for tree work. Britton estimates the amount needed at \$300,000 minimum.

“I know that times are tough,” she continued, “but I hope that as things improve in the future, they will realize the value of the resource.”

Gregory has determined a value. According to his research, Chico’s population of street trees—nearly 35,000—translates into an economic benefit of \$3.1 million a year.

That number comes from a USDA Forest Service computer program called i-Tree Streets. It takes into account a range of attributes: energy savings from shade and

wind protection; air-quality improvements from trees’ carbon-dioxide sequestration and oxygen production; stormwater buffering; commercial impacts, aesthetics and increased property values.

“All these factors culminate in the sense of place we see in Chico,” Gregory said. “Those who like Chico have their own reasons for liking Chico, but it is a city of trees and people recognize the nice canopy and tree population in the city. It’s the urban forest that has such a profound impact on the quality of life in Chico.”

What effects can Chico expect?

Gregory, a certified arborist, sees many.

First, he expects more tree limbs dropping on streets and cars. He says pruning young trees can help prevent “structural failures down the road,” but fears that this bit of prevention may go by the wayside.

“I’m afraid we’ll see more dead street-trees,” he continued, “and they’ll eventually be removed, but I’m hoping that won’t result in stumps remaining in place.”

Gregory also wonders about tree replacement. That, too, requires funding, as well as the expertise to select “the right trees in the right place.” Different species have different soil, water and space requirements.

Have you ever seen a tree with branches that extend into power lines? How about a tree whose roots uplift sidewalk cement? Those are just two examples of how a tree

Urban-forest info:

For 29 years, Chico has been recognized as a free City USA community; go to www.tinyurl.com/treeecity for more information. Go to www.tinyurl.com/sttrees for info on taking care of street trees.