



Public Works Department, Park Division
411 Main Street, 2nd Floor
(530) 896-7800

Agenda Prepared: 6/6/14
Agenda Posted: 6/6/14
Prior to: 5:00 p.m.

CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
TREE COMMITTEE
June 11, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
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 the Chico Municipal Services Center at 411 Main Street, 2nd Floor during normal business hours or online at <http://www.chicoca.gov>

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.1. Review of Programmatic Tree Removal Permit

Staff will outline 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 input on the program which can be incorporated into an Administrative Policy and Procedure (AP&P) for BPPC review.

2.2. Review and Develop Draft Urban Forest Management Plan

The Committee will continue work on refining the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) and discuss the list of tasks and timeline and refine the goals and objectives from the Draft document. 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 input on the preliminary draft UFMP goals and objectives to staff.

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 July 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2 at the Chico City Council building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).



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DATE: May 5, 2014
TO: Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) Tree Committee
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: Programmatic Tree Removal Permit Application Protocol

Report in Brief

Staff seeks feedback on a program to help expedite permit requests to remove undesirable trees. The program will allow for the administrative approval of discretionary tree removals 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 input on the program which can be incorporated into an Administrative Policy and Procedure (AP&P) for BPPC review.

Background

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.

At the May 14, 2014 meeting the Tree Committee reviewed the current permit process as laid out under the City of Chico Municipal Code (CMC Section 14.40). Currently, the CMC restricts administrative (Staff) approval to non-discretionary trees (those that are dead or dying or pose an immediate public safety risk, CMC 14.40.270). The CMC requires that the BPPC consider all discretionary trees. Discretionary trees are ones that are not dead or dying or pose a dangerous condition upon public property and removals in such cases are 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).

Staff proposed a protocol to 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. 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.

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 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. An example AP&P is attached and subject to changes after Tree Committee, Department, and legal review.

b. Tree species eligible for program

At the last meeting, the Tree Committee supported the consideration of the following categories as eligible for this program:

1. Non-native Invasive (Noxious) Woody Trees –

- a. Non-native invasive trees (i.e. tree of heaven) on the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) noxious plant list (A level species) should be removed and replanted with an appropriate tree. Title 3, Section 5004, Food and Agricultural Code (Please see Attachment A from the 5/14/14 report).
- b. Using Bidwell Park Invasive List identify trees that are on the CAL-IPC list with either an Alert or a High, Moderate, or Limited rating.

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. The Preservation Code applies to property that requires discretionary permits and requires that certain trees require a removal permit from the City. 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 removal list (CMC 16.66.050.C).
3. Trees incompatible as street trees based on local knowledge - Thru past experience, tree species that produce significant problems as street trees have been added. Many of the trees that fall in this category are future candidates for the CMC list above.

Staff indicated at the last meeting that we foresaw the table as containing both species and conditions. However, as we compiled the list and reflected on the species, it became clear that any “appropriate species” that may be planted in an inappropriate area should be considered by the BPPC. In other words, trees on the appropriate tree list should be considered in terms of the site specific conditions for removal or retention.

In contrast, Staff could come up with few exceptions for the trees on the attached list. 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 (even if a Yarwood sycamore could be tolerable in larger planter, replacement with a better species would be better).

Staff recognizes that the BPPC may wish to discuss individual trees species for removal and present the tree species that would fall under the programmatic tree removal permit program (Table 1).

c. Next Steps

After the BPPC reviews the individual tree list, staff will develop the AP&P for City Approval. Staff recommends that the Tree Committee and BPPC endorse the AP&P before implementation.

Attachments:

- A. Matrix Table of Species Eligible for Programmatic (Pre-approval) Removal Permit Program
- B. Draft AP&P.

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6/4/2014

Matrix Table

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Table 1. Matrix Table of Species Eligible for Programmatic (Pre-approval) Removal Permit Program								
2	Scientific Name	Common name	Non-native Invasive Listed		CMC listed	Local Exp.	Recommendation		Comments
3									(Basis for inclusion, Conditions for removal)
4			CDFA	CAL-IPC			Staff	BPPC Tree	
5	1) Priority Invasive								
6	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	silver wattle		Moderate	Y	Y	Y		Coastal prairie, riparian woodland, riparian forest, North Coast coniferous forest, closed cone coniferous forest.
7	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	black acacia, blackwood acacia		Limited	Y	Y	Y		Coniferous forest, chaparral, woodland, riparian. Impacts are low in most areas.
8	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	kangaroothorn	A	Eval No List			Y		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.
9	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Ailanthus/Tree of heaven	A	Moderate	Y	Y	Y		Noxious weed. Encourage removal within the city limits.
10	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	giant dracaena, New Zealand cabbage tree		Limited					Coniferous forest. Two reports of horticultural escape into wildlands. Appears best suited to moist, cool climates.
11	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	hawthorn		Limited	Y	Y	Y		Riparian habitats, woodland. Limited distribution. Impacts appear to be minor.
12	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian-olive		Moderate	Y	Y	Y		Interior riparian. Impacts more severe in other western states. Current distribution limited in CA.
13	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	red gum		Limited	Y	Y	Y		Mainly southern CA urban areas. Impacts, invasiveness and distribution all minor.
14	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Tasmanian blue gum		Moderate	Y	Y	Y		Riparian areas, coastal grasslands, scrub. Impacts can be much higher in coastal areas.
15	<i>Ficus carica</i>	edible fig		Moderate	Y	Y	Y		Riparian woodland. Can spread rapidly. Abiotic impacts unknown. Can be locally very problematic.
16	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English holly		Moderate - Alert	Y	Y	Y		North coast forests. Expanding range south from OR.
17	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	glossy privet		Eval No List	Y	Y	Y		May prove to be problematic in riparian areas.
18	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	myoporum		Moderate			Y		Native to coastal California. However, may be invasive in coastal habitats, riparian areas; mostly along the southern coast. Grows to form dense stands. Leaves toxic to livestock.
19	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	tree tobacco		Moderate		Y	Y		Coastal scrub, grasslands, riparian woodland. Abiotic impacts unknown. Impacts vary locally. Rarely in dense stands.
20	<i>Olea europaea</i>	olive		Limited	Y	Y	Y		A problem in Australia. Currently a rare escape in CA but is of concern due to the possibility of spread from planted groves.
21	<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm		Limited			Y		Desert washes; agricultural crop plant. Limited distribution in southern CA. Impacts can be higher locally.

Matrix Table

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2	Scientific Name	Common name	Non-native Invasive Listed		CMC listed	Local Exp.	Recommendation		Comments
3									(Basis for inclusion, Conditions for removal)
22	<i>Pistachia chinensis</i>	Chinese pistache	Eval No List			Y	Y		Allow removal of female trees only. One of the more common non-native trees that has escaped in Lower Bidwell Park.
23	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	cherry plum	Limited		Y		Y		Riparian habitats, chaparral, woodland. Limited distribution. Abiotic impacts unknown.
24	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	black locust	Limited		Y	Y	Y		Riparian areas, canyons. Severe impacts in southern states. Impacts minor in CA.
25	<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese tallowtree	Moderate - Alert		Y	Y	Y		Riparian areas. Impacts severe in southeast US. Limited distribution in California, but spreading rapidly regionally.
26	<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian peppertree	Limited		Y	Y	Y		Riparian. Limited distribution. Impacts largely unknown in CA.
27	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian peppertree	Limited		Y	Y	Y		Riparian. Very invasive in tropics. Abiotic impacts unknown, but appear significant locally.
28	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	athel tamarisk	Limited			Y	Y		Desert washes, riparian areas. Limited distribution. Impacts minor, but can be locally higher.
29	<i>Tamarix parviflora</i>	smallflower tamarisk	A	High		Y	Y		Riparian areas, desert washes, coastal scrub
30	<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	saltcedar, tamarisk	A	High		Y	Y		Desert washes, riparian areas, seeps and springs
31	<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican fan palm	Moderate - Alert			Y	Y		Desert washes. Limited distribution but spreading in southern CA. Prolific seed drop.
32									
33	2) CMC Listed (16.66.050)								
34	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder			Y	Y	Y		Native. Undesirable street tree in many Cities, because of brittle, weak wood, short lived, and trunk decay.
35	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Western Catalpa			Y	Y	Y		
36	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Privet			Y	Y	Y		
37	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive			Y	Y	Y		
38	<i>Populus fremontii</i>	Fremont Cottonwood			Y	Y	Y		
39	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese Elm or Winged Elm			Y	Y	Y		
40	Various spp.	Almonds, Chestnuts, Pecans, Pistachios, and English Walnuts			Y	Y	Y		No permit required for removal on private property. Fruit and nut trees have proven to be expensive to maintain in Chico ROW. Can harbor pests.
41	Various spp.	Apples, Apricots, Avocados, Cherries, Mandarins, Nectarines, Olives, Oranges, Peaches, Pears, Persimmons, and Plums.			Y	Y	Y		No permit required for removal on private property. Fruit and nut trees have proven to be expensive to maintain in Chico ROW. Can harbor pests.
42									
43	3) Local knowledge								
44	<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	mimosa, silk tree				Y	Y		Prolific seed producer. Escaped and present in Bidwell Park and City lots. Fast growing with weak branches, messy, short-lived with poor struture.

Matrix Table

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
2	Scientific Name	Common name	Non-native Invasive Listed		CMC listed	Local Exp.	Recommendation		Comments
3									(Basis for inclusion, Conditions for removal)
45	<i>Celtis spp</i>	Various hackberry including European Hackberry (<i>C. australis</i>) and Chinese (<i>C. sinensis</i>)			-	Y	Y		<i>Celtis sinensis</i> locally invasive in Lower Bidwell Park. Seed spread by birds. Other species prone to aphids, surface roots. <i>Celtis reticulata</i> native to southeastern California.
46	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> 'Raywood'	Raywood Ash			N	Y	Y		Tree has poor structure (and can grow fast), disease problems, and sometimes cause root damage.
47	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Ginko			N	Y	Y		Allow removal of female plants.
48	<i>Morus alba</i>	mulberry and fruitless mulberry					Y		Fruited varieties can spread to riparian areas. Fast growing with poor structure and weak wood (drooping branches). Short lived.
49	<i>Platanus x hispaica</i> "Yarwood"	Yarwood Sycamore			N	Y	Y		Fast growing in Chico. Falling limbs, incompatible with urban infrastructure. Planter size must be very large or presence of infrastructure (utilities, sidewalks, driveways, etc). Consider planting with native California as a replacement in appropriate area.
50	<i>Salix spp</i>	Willow species including weeping willow.			N	Y	Y		Invasive roots, needs large amounts of water. Longevity < 50 years.

CITY OF CHICO
– Draft –
Administrative Procedure and Policy Manual

Subject: TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION PROTOCOL (PREAPPROVED LIST)	Number: XX-X Effective Date: August 1, 2014
Department(s) Affected: All Departments	Supersedes: None
Authority: Chapter 14.40 Street Trees Action of Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (X/X/2014)	File Reference: Approved:

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures to help expedite requests for the removal of undesirable trees. Action by the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) at the XXXX, 2014 meeting, allows for staff approval for permits that meet the criteria below. This action encourages citizens to remove undesirable trees and replace with appropriate trees at minimal cost to the City. The process allows for a streamlined, timely process for Citizens. This program applies to discretionary trees as defined under CMC 14.40.170.

II. PROCEDURES – PREAPPROVAL OF TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

- A. The procedures set forth below shall apply to tree removal permits that are on the list of pre-approved species (see Table 1). The criteria selected by the BPPC include:
 - a. Non-native Invasive (Noxious) Woody Trees – 1) listed on the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s (CDFA) noxious plant list (A level species, Title 3, Section 5004, Food and Agricultural Code) or 2) Listed by the California Invasive Plant Council (CAL-IPC) with either an Alert or a High, Moderate, or Limited rating, and found locally.
 - b. Trees explicitly excluded from the Tree Preservation Code (CMC 16.66.050.C).
 - c. Trees incompatible as street trees based on local knowledge - Thru past experience, tree species that produce significant problems as street trees have been added.
- B. Applicants will fill out the appropriate permit for removal in the City Right of Way (ROW).
- C. Applicants will pay the costs of removal and replanting. Replacement trees will be appropriate for the planter size and in the area of the removed tree. The replacement tree must be installed within one year.
- D. If a replacement tree is not appropriate on the original parcel, the landowner will pay a fee to install a replacement tree.
- E. All removals under this program will be reported to the BPPC on an annual basis.
- F. If staff determines that the removal of a tree may not serve the public interest, the application will be considered by the BPPC thru the normal permit process.

Attachments:

- A. Table 1. BPPC List of Trees that Meet Preapproved Removal Criteria



DATE: June 6, 2014
TO: BPPC Tree Committee
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: Review and Develop the Urban Forest Management Plan

Report in Brief

The Committee will continue work on refining the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). 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. At the May 14, 2014 meeting, the Committee concurred with staff's recommendation to break up the document into pieces to maintain focus and develop a list of tasks/timeline. Staff proposed that the Committee examine the following sections (some can be combined) at future meetings:

1. Review and revise Goals and Objectives
2. Review the Introduction
 - a. Vision and Mission Statements
 - b. Actions and Scope
 - c. Planning Horizon
 - d. Urban Forest definition
3. Review Setting/Environmental Overview Section
4. Review Status of Urban Forest
 - a. Identify additional information needs and data gaps both for this document and future versions
5. Develop Scope (how detailed will the document be or will this be separated out?) and provide input for Implementation and Monitor Plan Section
 - a. Review draft sections
6. Review of document and consideration of CEQA requirements from Planning Department staff.
7. Recommendation for BPPC consideration of UFMP.
8. Revise entire UFMP and review or submit to BPPC.

The progress of how quickly these sections progress may depend on the productivity of the meetings and proposed restoration of key staff positions that Council will consider at the end of June. Given that, staff would like to wait until the next meeting before associating a timeline with the tasks above.

To kick the review of the UFMP off, staff recommends that the Tree Committee focus on the goals and objectives from the draft UFMP (Table 1) with these issues in mind:

- Goal Refinement - The goals would benefit from adding more quantitative measures and the application of "SMART principals" will help (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound).
- Separation of Types - Since some of the objectives relate to the General Plan or the purview of other Departments and Commissions that the objectives should be split by implementable ones that are within the purview of the BPPC and potential recommendations to other bodies or Departments.
- Additional Items - Staff have received comments on several major issues (for example, permitting notification, large trees) that should be considered in the revised document.
- Resource limitations - 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.

Recommendation: Provide input on the preliminary draft UFMP goals and objectives to staff.

Attachments:

Table 1 – Urban Forest Management Plan Goal & Objectives

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6/5/2014

TABLE 1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

GOAL	RATIONALE	SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES	MID TERM OBJECTIVES	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES
TREE RESOURCES				
1. Implement a program for enhancing public safety and reducing risk to citizens from trees.	Deferred maintenance has resulted in an increased number of trees with defects such as dead limbs or stem and root decay that may lead to failure, increasing the risk and liability to the City.	<p>a. Define and publish a written policy for prioritizing work.</p> <p>b. Base all tree care on existing ANSI Safety and Tree Care Standards per ISA BMPs.</p> <p>c. Reduce the backlog of maintenance. Encourage citizens to care for the trees in front of their homes, by providing permits to approved tree services.</p>	<p>d. Budget for a tree pruning contract that focuses on high priority needs of large trees, while the crews focus on routine formative pruning and emergencies.</p> <p>e. Adopt the new ANSI Tree Risk Assessment as the Standard for assessing risk and assigning priorities for tree work.</p> <p>f. Analyze and revise current tree pruning and production standards.</p>	<p>g. Establish a recommended pruning cycle, with number of staff and associated costs.</p> <p>h. Explore tree service discounts for City street trees.</p>
2. Define the character of Chico's Urban Forest	An overall policy that defines the character and appearance of the forest is necessary for decision making. The General Plan calls for "Complete Streets" that include trees, but does not specifically state how the trees should relate to the street.	a. Establish policy and obtain agreement from the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission that the Urban Forest should provide a specified character to the City of Chico.	<p>b. Create policies that provide adequate-sized planting strips in new developments so that large trees can be planted. Update the list of trees to be certain that selected species can provide large canopies without creating sidewalk damage.</p> <p>c. Upgrade the approved street tree species list.</p>	d. Create an almost continuous canopy of trees over the City. This canopy will be multi--sized, multi-aged and of diverse species.
3. Enhance tree planting to reduce the backlog of empty planting sites	Consistent planting helps maintain a multi-aged stand of trees throughout the City. It also allows the Urban Forest to experience species change as new cultivars are developed to address issues of older species.	a. Explore grant opportunities to fund a larger tree planting program.	b. Establish a non-profit within the community to encourage neighborhood tree plantings and stress the importance of tree planting.	c. Transfer responsibility for tree planting in subdivisions to the Street Tree Division to insure trees are planted to the City's standards.
4. Encourage diversity in the Urban Forest	Diversity of species creates a forest that is resilient to pest and disease invasion. It also creates a more attractive and interesting forest.	a. Recognize and remove invasive species from the Urban Forest to the extent possible given budgets, etc. Seek grant funding for this project.	b. Analyze work zones and set specific objectives for each zones in terms of species diversity.	c. Study and develop a rating of habitat values for tree species used in the urban forest.
5. Improve planting standards.	Young trees die or fail to thrive due to circling roots and poor care after planting.	<p>a. Review and revise planting standards as needed.</p> <p>b. Improve communication between departments regarding the reasons for provisions of tree planting standards.</p>	<p>d. Improve the inspection process for the installation of new landscapes</p> <p>e. Establish inspection protocols and timeframe during the development/construction process</p>	<p>g. Bring oversight of all tree planting to the Street Tree Division, rather than the building Department.</p> <p>h. Require trees in new Capital Projects to be fully established - to have been in the ground and thriving after one year before final acceptance. Include the</p>

GOAL	RATIONALE	SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES	MID TERM OBJECTIVES	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES
		c. Review current specifications for nursery stock tree selection.	f. Enforce standard pruning practices on private commercial parking lots so that the trees attain the required shading as quickly as possible.	requirement of a performance bond for all tree planting projects.
Landscape Resources				
1. Improve landscape designs and practices to enable sustainable and consistent quality of the City's public landscapes.	By providing for better installations, appropriate plant materials and ET ¹ based irrigation systems, the City's landscapes will look better, conserve water and reduce maintenance costs.	a. Review and modernize Landscape Design Standards to enhance water conservation, reduce maintenance costs and improve soil health issues. b. Develop criteria for trees, shrubs and ground covers that can be used in City landscapes, such as those that are drought tolerant, easy to maintain, long lived, non-invasive and tolerant of Chico soil types.	c. Develop planting schemes that reduce the necessity for regular pruning. Endorse specific, water conserving irrigation systems, based on longevity and ease of maintenance. d. Endorse specific, water conserving irrigation systems, based on longevity and ease of maintenance.	e. Approve and encourage the use of 2 wire irrigation systems for ease of upgrading and repair.
2. Improve landscape soil management practices to establish deep rooted trees.	Soils are treated as an engineering material, rather than a biological system. But for landscapes to thrive, their biological components need to be conserved. Planting sites need to be engineered, managed and inspected as a fundamental part of the overall project, so the biological integrity of the soil is enhanced rather than compromised.	a. Provide planting sites with the same level of "authority" as that of the hardscape in new projects. b. Identify, review and revise the current policy to better define the steps developers must take to have landscape plans approved.	c. Develop a better procedure for final approval and acceptance of projects once complete, including the requirement that as-builts are received and scanned in a timely manner. d. Require electronic copies of as-builts for completed landscape projects. e. Develop a Public Landscapes web page that includes information about AB 1881 and landscape requirements for the public portion of planting strips.	f. Require that soils be treated during construction and prior to planting to reduce compaction when planting landscapes in new developments (This would be compatible with AB1881) g. Promote having a landscape irrigation professional within the Planning or Building Department who can better review landscape designs. h. Review AB 1881 compliance for potential development into Chico's version of AB 1881.
3. Upgrade Irrigation systems in a timely manner to provide for better water conservation and reduced maintenance costs.	Irrigation systems that are not upgraded fail more often, requiring extra repair costs, and leaks that waste water.	a. Identify and prioritize the larger, publicly funded areas of Chico's landscapes that need to be retrofitted. Explore opportunities to obtain community or grant funding for these projects. b. Require new controllers in public landscapes to have remote ability to enhance maintenance.	c. Replace old galvanized systems with new pop-up systems that have water conserving nozzles. d. Review efficacy of netafim drip irrigation systems.	e. Upgrade old irrigation controllers as budgets allow to have remote ability. f. Include weather and ET sensing in all new controllers installed in the City.

¹ ET – Evapotranspiration – The amount of water that is used by the plant and evaporated off the surface. When irrigation controllers are ET based, they apply only the amount of water that is actually used on the site, automatically adjusting the amount of water applied each week.

GOAL	RATIONALE	SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES	MID TERM OBJECTIVES	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES
4. Assure funding for maintenance and replacement costs in new landscapes in City projects.	Current projects do not adequately address future maintenance and funding for restoration of landscapes, except in residential maintenance districts.	a. Maintenance costs should be a major part of the design review for new landscapes in City projects.	b. New Projects should project and budget maintenance costs over a 12 month period. An annual maintenance period, rather than 90 days, would provide a reasonable starting budget for the project.	c. Discourage, through policy development, the practice of eliminating or reducing landscaping and tree planting in Capital Projects because of cost overruns.
5. Review the landscape contract to make it more cost effective and efficient to administer.	The landscape contract is complex and difficult to administer. It should probably be divided into more than one contract. Having only one contractor provides no backup to the City for the failure of a company to adhere to the contract.	a. Review and revise methods used to gain adherence to the landscape contract. b. Review the landscape contract to reduce the cost of unforeseen repairs to the greatest extent possible.	c. Incorporate more industry standards into the landscape contract.	d. Provide adequate budgets for landscape maintenance, as required by the contract. e. Reduce the use of pesticides to the greatest extent possible, giving preference to the use of biological and cultural controls.
6. Require owners of property that becomes vacant due to economic or other conditions to maintain the landscapes, especially the trees, on the site.	Landscapes that die as a result of foreclosure are unsightly and provide a detrimental impact to the surrounding neighborhood and community. Replacing such landscapes is expensive and reduces the sale ability of the site.	a. Outline the process and responsibility for restoration should the landscape die.	b. Develop minimum requirements for irrigation when property is vacant.	
7. Review the issue of Community Gardens to be certain it is being addressed in a satisfactory manner.	Community Gardens are currently a planning issue, although it is often thought of as a landscape issue.		a. Review the current policy and upgrade where needed.	
Management				
1. Review, revise and update the Chico Municipal Code (CMC), Section 14.40 that specifically pertains to Street Trees.	The Street Tree ordinance has several sections that are out of date, or have unclear terminology and as a result impede the function of the Division.	a. Clarify and define terminology within the code, as well as within tree and landscape policies, to improve the quality and consistency of work standards. b. Increase the required clearance over roadways to 14'. c. Allow the removal of problem shrubs in the ROW through code enforcement action.	d. Require that except for City approved street trees, no plant that reaches taller than 24" can be planted in the public ROW. e. Review the CMC 16.66 to allow flexibility in requiring mitigation for existing street trees in new commercial or development projects	f. Review the feasibility and practicality of the required Street Tree Master Plan, including funding for keeping the Plan up to date.
2. Review the Tree Program to look for efficiencies and ways to improve operations.	Street trees are not being routinely maintained because of staffing and budget shortfalls. As a result, the tree resource is not being maintained as an asset,	b. Specify a level of service to the citizens and establish productivity standards to meet this level.	d. Explore the use of contract services for routine work while staffing is limited.	h. Track and compare the efficiency of in house crews with contract crews, if they are provided for pruning.

GOAL	RATIONALE	SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES	MID TERM OBJECTIVES	LONG TERM OBJECTIVES
	and is becoming a liability to the City.	c. Provide additional staffing to maintain trees in the manner required by the specified level of service, while meeting industry standards.	e. Continue to have staff upgrade the inventory as trees are removed, planted or pruned. f. Complete the street tree inventory - about 3000 to 5000 trees remain to be accurately mapped onto the GIS program. This will require a commitment of resources of about 2000 hours. Explore ways to upgrade remaining trees, such as volunteers or interns from the University. g. Apply for grants where possible.	i. Review funding and productivity levels in other cities. Develop an agreed upon pruning cycle that can be sustained within reasonable funding levels.
3. Improve staff and commission understanding of measures needed to preserve trees on new projects and to reduce the incidence of invasive tree species.	Many projects that seek to preserve trees on a site being developed do not allow adequate space for that preservation, per the current standards within the code.	a. Enhance the knowledge of City staff and appointed officials (ARHPB, Planning Commission, etc.) about tree protection measures. b. Address and discuss the current Tree Preservation regulations with the ARHPB and Planning Commission regarding physical requirements for tree preservation. c. Lots/land that contain invasive trees such as Ailanthus should be required to remove all such trees as a condition of approval for discretionary projects.	d. Consider the preservation of well placed, healthy and young trees on developing sites, rather than only the large old tree. Young trees are often less expensive and easier to preserve and will better serve as the future generation of trees. e. Require desirable tree preservation as a standard condition of approval for projects, including adequate room around trees for their effective preservation.	f. Promote the importance of trees within the City
4. Develop better design standards for tree planting that reduces sidewalk damage.	Trees create significant sidewalk damage if not planted correctly into soil that has not been adequately prepared and designed for tree roots. In addition, the allotted space for tree trunks and roots needs to consider the ultimate size of the tree.	a. Allow specific trees to be planted only where there is adequate space b. Develop an official list of invasive tree/shrub species c. In high use areas, such as the downtown business district, remove unsuitable trees and replace with more appropriate tree species.	d. Evaluate and improve species selection along the City defined street and sidewalk corridors for ADA access	e. Review sidewalk design criteria in an effort to reduce sidewalk displacement by tree roots
5. Strengthen the provisions of the Parking Lot Shade Ordinance.	Many parking lots in town have not met the current requirements of 50% shade in parking lots.	a. Better enforce existing parking lot building standards on newly built projects by reviewing planting sites and tree installation as it occurs.	b. Encourage the review and analysis of parking lot standards to see if they can be made easier to understand and enforce, i.e. require a tree for every specific number of	c. Enhance opportunities to upgrade existing lots to the current standards.

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			parking spots, rather than a square footage of coverage by shade.	
6. Research and develop ways for the City to obtain value from wood removed along city streets.	When trees die, decline or become hazardous, their ultimate use should be as beneficial to the City as possible. Many street trees are highly valued in the urban wood industry, yet the City has not considered this wood an asset when trees must be removed.	<p>a. The use of chips shall be required in all landscaped areas because they are beneficial to soil and plant health, and result in water conservation.</p> <p>b. Encourage the establishment of a program for the sale and use of all urban wood grown in the City of Chico.</p>	b. Review the tree removal contract to allow for the sale of commercial wood products from city street trees to go back into the General Fund.	
Community				
1. Develop a comprehensive tree education program to enhance citizen understanding of tree care and the benefits that trees provide.	Many citizens don't appreciate the benefits of trees, and therefore focus on the negative realities of living with trees. As a result, citizens request tree removal when fairly minor remedial work can repair the problem for several years. Also, young trees die each year because citizens don't understand the basics of tree care.	<p>a. Continue to encourage citizens to plant and care for their own street trees.</p> <p>b. Develop and distribute more information regarding proper care of young trees</p> <p>c. Develop more outreach for the Arbor Day program, so that more students know of and celebrate the day each year.</p> <p>d. Retain Tree City USA Recognition.</p>	e. Develop a more aggressive educational program to improve citizen understanding of the functional benefits of trees. Educate citizens about the selection of good trees to start with, and the care of trees, including planting, proper soil preparation, watering, and pruning.	<p>f. Require care of young trees brochures to be included in new homeowner packets.</p> <p>g. Find ways to influence the management and retention of trees that are owned and managed by others, such as trees in private yards or commercial developments, including CARD, the County, the University and others.</p>
2. Improve citizen awareness of program benefits and procedures to prevent citizens planting and removing trees without permits.	Citizens will sometimes plant, prune and/or remove trees within the public right-of-way.	<p>a. Work with Code Enforcement when necessary to enforce City Code.</p> <p>b. Include the permit process in educational programs.</p>	c. Review the process and policy regarding tree and shrub planting in the Right-of-Way.	
3. Enhance volunteer opportunities to assist with the Urban Forest.	Citizens will sometimes plant, prune and/or remove trees within the public right-of-way.	a. Continue to encourage interns from CSUC and Butte college programs. Develop and expand volunteer opportunities in the Urban Forest.	b. Develop and expand volunteer opportunities in the Urban Forest.	c. Reinstigate a program to teach about young tree pruning.