



**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**  
**TREE COMMITTEE**  
(Commissioners Craig, Herrera, Mikles, Chair)  
June 13, 2012, 6:00 p.m.  
Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Conference Room 2

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*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** - All items listed under the Regular Agenda are in the order which is believed are of interest to the public or which require Committee action at this meeting. The items will be considered in the order listed unless the Committee members request a change. Any person may speak on items on the Regular Agenda.

**2.1. DISCUSSION OF GOALS FOR THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

At previous meetings, the Committee developed a definition of Chico's Urban Forest as well as a Vision Statement for the Forest. The Committee has reviewed information on the current condition of the forest and developed some idea of where it might need to concentrate efforts in the future. This meeting will be review a series of goals for the 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. ADJOURN**

Adjourn to the next regular meeting tentatively scheduled for 7/11/12 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2, Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

**Distribution:** BPPC



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**DATE:** June 4, 2012  
**TO:** BPPC  
**FROM:** DENICE F. BRITTON, URBAN FOREST MANAGER, 896-7802  
**RE:** GOALS FOR THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

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**BACKGROUND:**

At previous meetings, the Committee has developed a definition of Chico's Urban Forest as well as a Vision Statement for the Forest. We have reviewed current information on the current condition of the forest and developed some idea of where we might need to concentrate efforts in the future. This meeting will define a series of goals for the Management Plan.

**DISCUSSION:**

Goals should be long term, and address a specific issue that has been identified. Once specific goals are identified, then more concrete attainments or objectives will be defined for each goal. The UFMP ToolKit suggests that goals be divided into three categories

- Tree Resources
- Management
- Community

The committee decided to add Landscape Resources, since a large percent of the funds in the Division are spent on landscaping. Issues are listed below, followed by potential goals.

Tree Resources

- **ISSUE:** Public safety is compromised by the inability to maintain regular pruning and care of the trees within the forest.
  - Risk reduction should be the first priority for work to be completed.
  - Adopt specific procedures and policy in regard to the new ANSI Tree Risk Assessment Standard and BMP.
  - Address emergencies and urgent tree work in a timely manner
  - Elevation of limbs and foliage for traffic safety and line of site clearance at intersections is the second priority for work
  - Downtown elevations and building clearance are performed at least every other year as needed.
  - Formative pruning of young trees is the primary work to be completed during the winter months
  - Removal of dead and dying trees needs to be completed in a timely manner.
  - Removal of trees for reasons other than safety, such as property damage, takes a lower priority.
  - Service requests for pruning are performed only on high risk trees

- **ISSUE:** There is a backlog of maintenance needs.
  - A detailed pruning cycle, and budget to accomplish it, needs to be established so that individual trees are pruned regularly.
  - The Standard of care for the forest should be high, based on the concept of enhancing the longevity of the trees within the forest.
  - The Standard of care for the forest should be based on accepted Industry Standards, A-300 ANSI and ISA Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - Analyze and develop tree pruning standards and production standards for the tree crew.
  - Develop a contract for tree pruning, as well as tree removals, to allow for greater flexibility in managing the trees with limited staff.
  
- **ISSUE:** Since there is a backlog of tree maintenance needs, allow citizens to prune/remove trees when requested, as long as there is a justifiable need.
  - Permits shall be provided for citizens to have work done on their street trees, as long as the work is to be performed by approved Tree Services, to ANSI Standards.
  
- **ISSUE:** There is a back log of empty planting sites.
  - Maintaining a multi-aged stand of trees requires planting throughout the City each year where planting spaces are available
  - The number of young trees is not the largest sector of the population.
  - Develop a program to increase tree planting opportunities
  - Work with the Planning and building Departments to establish a better procedure for planting new trees in developments
  - Trees planted along the City streets need to be planted according to Professional Standards, and inspected by the City to be certain they meet these standards
  
- **ISSUE:** The overall goal that defines the character and appearance of the Urban Forest has not been fully developed and approved
  - Provide for an urban forest that contains large trees over the streets where space allows, in large planting strips, in open space and parks.
  - Maintain a population of young, moderate sized and vigorous trees throughout Chico.
  - Create an almost continuous canopy over the City.
  - The canopy is multi-level, with trees of all sizes at maturity, multi-aged and diverse.
  
- **ISSUE:** Diversity is important to the resiliency of the tree population.
  - The Urban Forest should be a diverse and sustainable canopy of trees and related vegetation.
  - Wherever possible, with adequate space and appropriate growing conditions, native trees species should be planted.
  - Appropriate tree species should be planted in appropriate locations.
  - Analyze data by work zones to determine species distribution
  - Set specific objectives for species diversity in each work zone
  - Habitat values of trees should be emphasized.

## Management

- ISSUE: Street Trees and landscapes are not being routinely maintained because of budget shortfalls.
  - Examine productivity and set standards for care, requiring better accountability in operations
  - Pursue funding sources other than the general fund for tree care, such as the maintenance districts
  - Provide adequate budgets to maintain trees in the manner required by industry standards.
  - Provide better staffing for tree care needs
  
- ISSUE: Title 14 is out of date and needs to be upgraded to improve its functionality
  - Include a 14' clearance over roadways – current clearance is 10'
  - Exclude shrubs from being maintained in the ROW
  - Require that no species which matures at a height of greater than 24" can be planted in the public ROW except for City approved street trees
  - Provide for tree mitigation if existing street trees are removed in all new commercial or development projects
  
- ISSUE: The Street Tree Master Plan required in Title 14 is out of date
  - Develop the Street list
  - Upgrade the Street Tree Species Lists
  - Write a grant to develop the Master Plan, per Title 14.
  
- ISSUE: The Street Tree Inventory is not complete – about 3000 to 5000 trees remain.
  - Search for ways to get the remaining trees reviewed and upgraded, such as interns
  - Continue to upgrade the inventory as trees are removed, planted or pruned
  
- ISSUE: Measures needed for tree preservation on new projects are not fully understood
  - Address the ARHPB regarding physical requirements for tree preservation
  - Discuss the current Tree Preservation regulations with the ARPHB
  - Develop reasonable tree preservation policies that maintain the trees that will continue to be community assets into the future
  - Identify desirable trees for preservation at the beginning of the design process so engineering solutions can be developed for their protection.
  - Require desirable tree preservation as a standard condition of approval for projects.
  - Consider the preservation of well placed, healthy and young trees on developing sites. These are often less expensive and easier to preserve and will be the future generation of trees.
  - Enhance the knowledge of City staff and appointed officials (ARB, Planning Commission, etc.) about tree protection measures

- ISSUE: Current end use of trees is not achieving the highest and best value for the wood.
  - When trees die, decline or become hazardous, their ultimate use should be as beneficial to the City and the planet as possible.
  - 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
  - The sale of commercial wood products should be considered a good end use for the trees.
- ISSUE: Tree Topping on private property leads to degraded landscapes and potentially hazardous conditions that can threaten the public ROW and citizens
  - Develop an ordinance against tree topping on private property
  - Enforce standard pruning practices on private commercial parking lots
- ISSUE: Trees creates significant ADA sidewalk issues that need to be addressed
  - Allow specific trees to be planted only where there is adequate space
  - Use defined corridors for ADA access to evaluate and improve species selection
  - Review sidewalk design criteria in an effort to reduce sidewalk displacement by tree roots

### Community

- ISSUE: Trees are dying because citizens don't understand how to care for them.
  - Develop and distribute more information regarding proper care of young trees
  - Require care of young trees brochures to be included in new homeowner packets
  - Encourage citizen participation to improve tree care through out the City.
- ISSUE: citizens don't appreciate the benefits of trees.
  - Develop a more aggressive educational program should be developed 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.
- ISSUE: There are few volunteer opportunities to assist with the Urban Forest
  - Develop and expand volunteer opportunities in the Urban Forest
  - Reinstigate a program to teach about young tree pruning
  - Continue to encourage citizens to plant and care for their own street trees
  - Continue to encourage interns from CSUC and Butte college programs
- ISSUE: citizens plant and remove trees without permits
  - Include the permit process in educational programs
  - Review the process and policy regarding tree and shrub planting in the ROW
  - Work with Code Enforcement when necessary to enforce City Code
- ISSUE: Citizens occasionally remove trees on private property that impact neighboring properties or are viewed as community assets.
  - Find ways to influence the management and retention of trees that are owned and managed by other entities, such as trees in private yards or commercial developments, including CARD, the County, the University and others.

## Landscape Resources

- ISSUE: New Landscape designs are not given adequate guidance in City policies or the General Plan
  - Develop specific Landscape Design Goals that help reduce the long term cost of landscape maintenance.
    - Uniform appearance of medians
    - Identify landscape plant species that are successful long term survivors in Chico's soils and irrigation conditions
    - Develop planting schemes that reduce the necessity for regular pruning
    - Water conserving irrigation systems
    - Outlaw plants known to be invasive in Bidwell Park
  - Require properties that become vacant due to economic or other conditions to maintain the landscapes, especially the trees, on the site. This would likely require a new ordinance.
  
- ISSUE: Water Conservation and sustained plant health are not optimal.
  - Review Landscape Design Standards to enhance water conservation and improve soil health issues.
  - Develop better interdepartmental communication to enhance landscape plan review, installation and inspection
  - Have a landscape irrigation professional within the Planning Department who can review landscape designs
  - Review AB 1881 compliance for potential development of Chico's version of AB 1881
  - Develop a Public Landscapes web page, and include information about AB 1881
  
- ISSUE: Irrigation systems are not being upgraded in a timely manner to provide for better water conservation
  - Require new controllers in public landscapes to have remote ability to enhance maintenance.
  - Upgrade old controllers as budget allows to have remote ability
  - Include weather and ET sensing in all new controllers installed in the City
  - Replace old steel systems with new pop-up systems that have water conserving nozzles
  - Review efficacy of netafim drip systems
  
- ISSUE: Trees and landscapes planted in newly developed areas end up with excessive surface rooting and perform poorly due to compacted soils.
  - Require that soils be treated to reduce compaction prior to planting landscapes in new developments (This would be compatible with AB1881)
  - Planting sites should be managed with the same authority as the road base
  
- ISSUE: Landscape Standards are not modernized as new equipment, techniques and practices are developed
  - Review current Landscape Design Standards on a regular basis
  - Have professionals involved in the development of Standard Details for landscape Designs

- Develop preferred plant list for drought tolerant plants, with as many native plants as possible
  - Develop a revised list of acceptable shrub and perennial species for use in medians and public landscapes
  - Improve long term survival of plant material
  - Preferred landscape products based on longevity and ease of maintenance
  - 2 wire irrigation systems should be considered for ease of upgrading and repair of irrigation systems.
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- **ISSUE:** New City Projects do not address future maintenance needs and funding for new landscapes, except in residential maintenance districts
    - Maintenance costs should be part of the design review for new landscapes in capital projects
    - Projects should only be built if maintenance costs are projected and budgeted
    - Consider tree planting and landscaping indispensable and provide adequate budgets for maintenance in new City Projects. Do not allow landscaping and tree planting to be eliminated because of cost overruns.
    - Provide a 12 month budget for maintenance for future projects, so these budgets can be considered in annual projections. Include water budgets.
    - New landscapes need to be as drought tolerant and self-sustaining as possible
  
  - **ISSUE:** The landscape contract is difficult to administer, in part due to restricted budgets for landscapes supported by the general fund
    - Incorporate more industry standards into the landscape contract.
    - Provide adequate budgets for landscape maintenance, as required by the contract
    - Review the methods used to gain adherence to the landscape contract
  
  - **ISSUE:** The process for approving and building landscapes in new developments is not well defined
    - Identify, review and revise the current policy to better define the steps developers must take to have landscape plans approved. Improve the inspection process for the installation of new landscapes
    - Develop a procedure for final approval and acceptance of projects once complete, including the requirement that as-builts are received and scanned in a timely manner
    - Require CDs of as-builts for completed landscape projects

**Goals for Future Meetings:**

1. Refine the list of goals presented - and begin to discuss objective for each goal that will be completed within the next 5 to 10 years.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. 5/9/12 Tree Committee Summary Report

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Tree-Finance Committee of BPPC  
General Services Director  
Street Tree Field Supervisor  
Landscape Inspector



BPPC Tree Committee Summary Report

Meeting Date: 5/9/12

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**DATE: May 17, 2012**

**TO: BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION**

**FROM: DENICE F. BRITTON, URBAN FOREST MANAGER, 896-7802**

**RE: CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Mikles called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**ATTENDEES: Commissioners Present: Chair Mikles, Craig and Herrera.**  
**Public Present: Susan Mason, Robin McCollum, Karen Laslo, Kristina Schierenbeck, Aaron Tenove, Patrick Chapman, Terra Battaglia, Brendan Megowan, Nat Cronin, and Dan Gibson**

## **2. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **2.1 DISCUSSION OF GOALS FOR THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

At previous meetings, the Committee developed a definition of Chico's Urban Forest as well as a Vision Statement for the Forest. The Committee has reviewed information on the current condition of the forest and developed some idea of where it might need to concentrate efforts in the future. This meeting will be the first to begin defining a series of goals for the Management Plan.

Goals should be long term, and address a specific issue that has been identified. Once specific goals are identified, then more concrete attainments or objectives will be defined for each goal. The UFMP ToolKit suggests that goals be divided into three categories

- Tree Resources
- Management
- Community

The committee decided to add Landscape Resources, since a large percent of the funds in the Division are spent on landscaping. Potential Goals already discussed at previous meetings were reviewed.

#### **Additional items noted, not specifically a goal:**

Approach goals and objectives/projects by work zones, since each appears to have specific needs.

Identify stakeholders and be certain each is provided an opportunity to review and comment on the issues and goals:

- Utilities
- Developers
- Commercial Interests, such as DCBA

#### **Tree Resources**

**Should be listed under 3 main themes: Planting, Maintenance and Removals or Replacement**

- Provide for an urban forest that contains large trees over the streets where space allows.



RE: Tree Committee Summary Report

Meeting Date: 5/9/12

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- Maintain a population of young, moderate sized and vigorous trees throughout Chico.
- Large trees are planted or encouraged to grow in open space, parks, etc.
- Create an almost continuous canopy over the City.
- The canopy is multi-level, with trees of all sizes at maturity, multi-aged and diverse.
- The Forest should be healthy and safe, and be regularly cared for.
- Habitat values of trees should be emphasized.
- The Standard of care for the forest should be high, and based on accepted industry Standards and the concept of enhancing the longevity of the trees within the forest.
- The Urban Forest should be a diverse and sustainable canopy of trees and related vegetation.
- There needs to be continued planting of trees throughout the City and throughout the years to maintain a multi-aged stand of trees.
- Appropriate tree species should be planted in appropriate locations.
- Trees planted along the City streets need to be planted according to Professional Standards, and inspected by the City to be certain they meet these standards.
- Wherever possible, with adequate space and appropriate growing conditions, native trees species should be planted.

**New goals identified:**

ADA and sidewalk issues need to be considered when species selection is made, so that the “right tree in the right place” includes reduction of infrastructure damage. Pervious concrete may be one solution.

Provide more space for large trees throughout the city; where possible on new streets, increase the size of the planting strip.

Address issue with Solar Panels that will arise in future.

Management

- When trees die, decline or become hazardous, their ultimate use should be as beneficial to the City and the planet as possible. The use of chips and the sale of commercial wood products should be considered a good end use for the trees.
- Tree planting and landscaping needs must be considered indispensable and be adequately budgeted for in new City Projects, and therefore not be eliminated because of cost overruns.

**New goals identified:**

Include potential new funding sources – such as grants, mitigation fees, etc.

Improve interdepartmental communication in regard to new designs for projects and retrofitting

Community

- A more aggressive educational program should be developed to improve citizen understanding of the functional benefits of trees. Education should also focus on the selection of good trees to start with, and the care of trees, including planting, proper soil preparation, watering, and pruning.

Landscaping

**Should be listed under 3 main themes: Planting, Maintenance and Removals or Replacement**

Water Conservation

RE: Tree Committee Summary Report  
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Planting sites should be managed with the same authority as the road base – that is, in new developments and on commercial sites, soil health and compaction needs to be addressed before landscaping is installed.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:38 PM**

**NEXT MEETING: JUNE 13, 2012 6:00 PM**

Goals will be added to, categorized and presented for review by the Tree Committee.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

Tree-Finance Committee of BPPC  
General Services Director  
Street Tree Field Supervisor