



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico Fire-Rescue
www.chico.ca.us/fire-department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 13, 2022

Contact: Linda Herman, linda.herman@chicoca.gov or (530) 896-7241

On-Duty Battalion Chief, (530) 514-3584

Lynda Gizzi, lynda.gizzi@chicoca.gov or (530) 353-5816

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

PRESCRIBED BURN SCHEDULED FOR MIDDLE BIDWELL PARK

(Chico, CA – May 13, 2022 –) The City of Chico Fire & Rescue Department, in collaboration with the Parks Division of the Public Works Department and the Big Chico Ecological Reserve, will be conducting a prescribed burn in Middle Bidwell Park on **Tuesday, May 17, 2022**, from approximately **7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** This burn event will depend on temperature, wind, and weather conditions.

The project area for the upcoming burn will be the grassland area surrounding the upper portion of the Horseshoe Lake area north of Upper Park Road (please refer to blue outlined area in the attached map). A Burn Permit has been issued and a Smoke Management Plan has been approved from the Butte County Air Quality Management District.

For the public's safety, Parking Lot C - Observatory and Lot E - Horseshoe Lake, along with portions of Middle Trail and other trails on the north side of Horseshoe Lake will be closed. Signs will be placed at these trailheads. Monitors will also be placed at trailhead locations to help inform park users of the burn. The Parks Division and Fire Department are asking for the public's cooperation in complying with the trail closures and to use caution when driving along Upper Park Road during burning operations.

The primary purpose of the burn is to further the following goals of the City's Bidwell Park Master Management Plan and Vegetation Fuels Management Plan:

1. Use prescribed fire as a management tool to protect and enhance habitats and reduce the risk of catastrophic fires within Bidwell Park.
2. Eliminate undesirable or invasive plants that compete with or reduce native vegetation, and/or degrade wildlife habitat for endangered or threatened species.

3. Improve the age, class, and diversity within existing mature, even-age stands of oak trees and other plant communities by encouraging young oak recruitment, which is another positive byproduct of fire.
4. Reduce the fire fuels and star thistle infestations along nearby roads, trails, and other park amenities to increase the safety for community members and pets who use the park daily.

For more information, please contact Linda Herman, Parks & Natural Resources Manager, at (530) 896-7241; the On-duty Fire Battalion Chief at (530) 514-3584; or Lynda Gizzi, Public Works Department Public Information Officer, at (530) 353-5816.

###