



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
www.ci.chico.ca.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2022

Contact: Shane Romaine, shane.romaine@chicoca.gov or (530) 896-7831

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

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

RATTLESNAKE SEASON IN BIDWELL PARK

(Chico, CA – June 7, 2022) The City of Chico Public Works Department Parks Division would like to remind Bidwell Park visitors that rattlesnakes are becoming more prevalent throughout the park with the return of warmer weather. Rattlesnakes are a beneficial and natural part of Bidwell Park, and usually flee from humans or animals if not cornered or imminently threatened.

All visitors should use caution when recreating in the park. Snakes seek the warmth of rocks and trails after sunrise and during cooler morning hours. In very hot weather, snakes may seek shelter in shaded areas.

There are several safety measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of a negative encounter with a rattlesnake. They are as follows:

- Wear hiking boots, even if you are headed towards water. The majority of snakebites occur on the feet, ankles and hands.
- Stay on designated trails and avoid tall grass, weeds, and heavy underbrush where snakes may hide during the day.
- Keep a high visual horizon by looking ahead on the trail.
- Avoid stepping or putting your hands where you cannot see; scan logs and rocks carefully before stepping over them.
- Hike with a companion; always have someone with you who can assist in an emergency.
- Keep dogs leashed.
- Do not handle a freshly killed snake, as it can still inject venom.

If bitten by a rattlesnake, call 911 and seek immediate medical attention.

For more information, the public may contact the Parks Division at (530) 896-7800 or parkinfo@chicoca.gov.

For media inquiries, please contact Shane Romain, Parks Division Park Services Coordinator, at (530) 896-7831 or Lynda Gizzi, Public Works Department Public Information Officer, at (530) 353-5816.

###