



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 14, 2021

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

RESCHEDULED PRESCRIBED BURN IN MIDDLE BIDWELL PARK

(Chico, CA, May 14, 2021) - Due to improved weather conditions, the Parks Division of the Public Works Department, in partnership with the Chico Fire & Rescue Department, have rescheduled the prescribed burn in Middle Bidwell Park to **Monday May 14, 2021**, from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The focus of the upcoming burn will be the grassland area north of Upper Park Road between Parking Areas B (Easter Cross) and C (Observatory), and the area between Parking Area A and B, if time permits (please see attached maps). Again, this burn event will depend on the temperature, wind, and weather conditions on Tuesday.

For the public's safety, Parking Lots B and C, and the western portions of the Fence Line, Middle, and North Rim Trails will be closed. Signs will be placed at these trailheads. A Park Ranger will be at the main gate, and monitors will be placed at other location to help inform park users of the burn. A burn permit has been issued, and a Smoke Management Plan has been approved from the Butte County Air Quality Management District for this prescribed burn. The Parks Division and Chico Fire & Rescue asking for the public's cooperation in complying with 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 Bidwell Park Master 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 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 media inquiries, please contact Linda Herman, Parks & Natural Resources Manager, at (530) 896-7241 or Chris Zinko, Chico Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief of Operations, at (530) 897-3402.

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