



CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
TREE COMMITTEE
(Commissioners Craig, Herrera, Mikles, Chair)
August 8, 2012, 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 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. The last meeting focused on goals for the Tree Resources. This meeting will briefly discuss the format of those goals, and then review the series of issues and goals for the Management, Community and Landscape Resources Categories within 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 9/12/12 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: August 1, 2012
TO: BPPC TREE COMMITTEE (Commissioners Craig, Herrera, Mikles, Chair)
FROM: DENICE F. BRITTON, URBAN FOREST MANAGER, 896-7802
RE: GOALS FOR THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

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; the Tree Committee added a 4th category, Landscape Resources.

- Tree Resources
- Management
- Community
- Landscape Resources

The **Tree Resources** goals have been summarized into short term and long term objectives for each goal that will be completed within the next 5 to 10 years. These are in a separate document that is included for the committee's review. Action Items may be added once all the categories are complete.

Issues for the Management, Community and Landscape Resources categories are listed below, followed by potential goals. The purpose of this meeting is to complete discussion of goals for these categories.

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 ARHPB
 - 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 (ARHPB, 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 throughout the City
- ISSUE: Citizens don't appreciate the benefits of trees.
 - 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
- 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
 - Improve citizen awareness of program benefits and procedures
- 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

- 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:

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

6/13/12 Tree Committee Summary Report
Tree Resources Goals – in Table Format

DISTRIBUTION:

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



BPPC Tree Committee Summary Report Meeting Date: 6/13/12

DATE: July 2, 2012
TO: BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMISSION
FROM: DENICE F. BRITTON, URBAN FOREST MANAGER, 896-7802
RE: GOALS FOR THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Mikles called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

ATTENDEES: Commissioners Present: Chair Mikles, Craig and Herrera.
Public Present: Susan Mason, Robin McCollum, Karen Laslo, Kristina Schierenbeck, Dan Gibson, Scott Gregory, Woody Elliott, Roger Cole

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.1 DISCUSSION OF GOALS FOR THE URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

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 discussed a series of goals for the Management Plan.

DISCUSSION:

The Urban Forest Toolkit suggests that 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. Goals will be divided into four categories

- Tree Resources
- Management
- Community
- Landscape Resources

Issues were discussed and the goals listed under them grouped together, deleted or added to. The meeting only got through the Tree Resources, which has been summarized below. The committee wanted to have the goals and action items groups into long term and short term goals, with budget priorities included. The remaining 3 areas (Management, Community, and Landscape Resources) will be discussed at future meetings.

Tree Resources

Goal 1. Implement a program for enhancing public safety and reducing risk to citizens. Deferred maintenance is leading to increased risk to them city and its citizens.

1. Adopt the new ANSI Tree Risk Assessment Standard and Best Management Practices (BMP), so that work can be prioritized according to its associated risk.
2. Tree care operations shall be based on accepted Industry Standards, such as Z133 ANSI Safety Standards, A-300 Tree Care Standards and ISA Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Tree Care.
3. Define a policy for Prioritizing Work.
 - a. Address emergencies and urgent tree work in a timely manner
 - b. Elevate limbs and foliage for traffic safety and clear for line of site at intersections
 - c. Elevate downtown street and provide building clearance at least every other year
 - d. Formative prune young trees to reduce the cost and frequency of future work
 - e. Remove dead and dying trees in a timely manner.
 - f. Remove trees creating infrastructure damage, but address as a lower priority.
 - g. Respond to requests for pruning on high risk trees
 - h. Provide routine maintenance pruning on larger old trees
 - i. Respond to requests for pruning on moderate or low risk trees
4. The backlog of maintenance creates immediate hazards that interfere with maintaining a regular pruning cycle.
 - a. Analyze the current tree pruning and production standards for the tree crew.
 - b. Establish a pruning cycle, and detail a budget to accomplish it.
 - c. The length of the pruning cycle will be determined by the goal of maintaining the tree resource.
 - d. The standard of care is based on safety and enhancing the longevity of the trees within the forest.
 - e. Budget for a tree pruning contract, as well as tree removals, to allow for greater flexibility in managing the trees with limited staff.
5. Encourage citizens to care for the trees in front of their homes, to help reduce the backlog of work.
 - a. Provide permits for citizens to have work done on their street trees, as a long as the work is to be performed by approved Tree Services, to ANSI Standards.
 - b. Explore the possibility of encouraging approved tree service to offer discounts for pruning street trees.
 - c. Enhance the Heritage Tree program
 - d. Subsidize care of Heritage trees

Goal 2. Define the character and appearance of Chico's Urban Forest. The Urban Forest should be a diverse and sustainable canopy of trees and related vegetation.

1. Create an almost continuous canopy over the City.
 - a. Establish a canopy that is multi-level, with trees of all sizes at maturity, multi-aged and diverse.
 - b. Plant trees that are suitable for the site
 - i. Encourage the use of drought tolerant species
 - ii. Establish the use of native trees where appropriate
 - iii. Reduce fruit hazards on pavement by good species selection
 - iv. Be sensitive to allergies when choosing species

2. Provide for an urban forest that contains large trees over the streets where space allows: in large planting strips, in open space and in parks.
 - a. Encourage adequate sized planting strips in new developments so that large trees can be planted.
 - b. Update the list of trees to be certain that selected species can provide large canopies without creating sidewalk damage.
 - c. Plant appropriate tree species in appropriate locations.
3. Diversity is important to the resiliency of the tree population.
 - a. Wherever possible, with appropriate growing conditions, native trees species should be planted.
 - b. Analyze data by work zones to determine species distribution
 - c. Set specific objectives for species diversity in each work zone
 - d. Emphasize habitat values of trees when considering new species
 - e. Recognize and remove known invasive species.

Goal 3. Develop a more comprehensive program to increase tree planting opportunities to fill the back log of empty planting sites.

1. Maintain a multi-aged stand of trees by planting as many trees through out the City as possible each year.
 - a. Increase the number of trees planted each year so that the largest sector of the tree population is in young trees.
 - b. Explore grant opportunities for new planting programs
 - c. Encourage the establishment of a non-profit group dedicated to tree planting and care within the City of Chico
2. Bring oversight of all tree planting into the Street tree division so that trees are planted according to current Standards, and are inspected to be certain they meet these standards
 - a. Work with the Planning and building Departments to establish a better procedure for planting new trees in developments

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:38 PM

NEXT MEETING: JULY 11, 2012 6:00 PM

Refine the list of goals presented - and complete discussion of goals for the Management, community and Landscape Resources. Summarize goals into short term and long term objectives and action items for each goal that will be completed within the next 5 to 10 years.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

Tree Resources

Goal 1. Implement an aggressive program for enhancing public safety and reducing risk to citizens. Deferred maintenance is leading to increased risk to them city and its citizens.

1. Adopt the new ANSI Tree Risk Assessment Standard and Best Management Practices (BMP), so that work can be prioritized according to its associated risk.
2. Tree care operations shall be based on accepted Industry Standards, such as Z133 ANSI Safety Standards, A-300 Tree Care Standards and ISA Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Tree Care.
3. Define a policy for Prioritizing Work.
 - a. Address emergencies and urgent tree work in a timely manner
 - b. Elevate limbs and foliage for traffic safety and clear for line of sight at intersections
 - c. Elevate downtown street and provide building clearance at least every other year
 - d. Formative prune young trees to reduce the cost and frequency of future work
 - e. Remove dead and dying trees in a timely manner.
 - f. Remove trees creating infrastructure damage, but address as a lower priority.
 - g. Respond to requests for pruning on high risk trees
 - h. Provide routine maintenance pruning on larger old trees
 - i. Respond to requests for pruning on moderate or low risk trees
4. The backlog of maintenance creates immediate hazards that interfere with maintaining a regular pruning cycle.
 - a. Analyze the current tree pruning and production standards for the tree crew.
 - b. Establish a pruning cycle, and detail a budget to accomplish it.
 - c. The length of the pruning cycle will be determined by the goal of maintaining the tree resource.
 - d. The standard of care is based on safety and enhancing the longevity of the trees within the forest.
 - e. Budget for a tree pruning contract, as well as tree removals, to allow for greater flexibility in managing the trees with limited staff.
5. Encourage citizens to care for the trees in front of their homes, to help reduce the backlog of work.
 - a. Provide permits for citizens to have work done on their street trees, as a long as the work is to be performed by approved Tree Services, to ANSI Standards.
 - b. Explore the possibility of encouraging approved tree service to offer discounts for pruning street trees.
 - c. Enhance the Heritage Tree program
 - d. Subsidize care of Heritage trees

Goal	Rationale	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
Implement a program for enhancing public safety and reducing risk to citizens.	Deferred maintenance is leading to an increase in defective trees and dead limbs, leading to potential failure and increasing the risk to the City.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Base all tree care on existing ANSI Safety and Tree Care Standards. 2. Define a policy for Prioritizing Work. 3. Encourage citizens to care for the trees in front of their homes to the extent they can. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the new ANSI Tree Risk Assessment as the Standard for assessing risk and assigning priorities for tree work. 2. Budget for a tree pruning contract to help with routine maintenance work while the crew focuses on high priority work. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the current tree pruning and production standards. 2. Establish a recommended pruning cycle, with number of staff and associated costs. 3. Explore tree service discounts for City street trees.

Goal 2. Define the character and appearance of Chico's Urban Forest. The Urban Forest should be a diverse and sustainable canopy of trees and related vegetation.

1. Create an almost continuous canopy over the City.
 - a. Establish a canopy that is multi-level, with trees of all sizes at maturity, multi-aged and diverse.
 - b. Plant trees that are suitable for the site
 - i. Encourage the use of drought tolerant species
 - ii. Establish the use of native trees where appropriate
 - iii. Reduce fruit hazards on pavement by good species selection
 - iv. Be sensitive to allergies when choosing species
2. Provide for an urban forest that contains large trees over the streets where space allows: in large planting strips, in open space and in parks.
 - a. Encourage adequate sized planting strips in new developments so that large trees can be planted.
 - b. Update the list of trees to be certain that selected species can provide large canopies without creating sidewalk
 - c. Plant appropriate tree species in appropriate locations.
3. Diversity is important to the resiliency of the tree population.
 - a. Wherever possible, with appropriate growing conditions, native trees species should be planted.
 - b. Analyze data by work zones to determine species distribution
 - c. Set specific objectives for species diversity in each work zone
 - d. Emphasize habitat values of trees when considering new species
 - e. Recognize and remove known invasive species.

Goal	Rationale	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
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.	Establish and obtain agreement that the Urban Forest should provide trees that are large enough to shade the streets and sidewalks. Specific areas that should contain smaller trees need to be specifically identified.	Encourage 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.	Create an almost continuous canopy of trees over the City. This canopy will be multi-sized, multi-aged and of diverse species.
Enhance planting standards	Young trees die or fail to thrive due to circling roots and poor care after planting	Review and revise planting standards as needed	Review the list of tree species to eliminate species that create fruit issues and severe allergies. Likewise, add more native species and species that are drought tolerant. Be specific as to the needs of the trees and in what areas they should be planted.	1. Bring oversight of all tree planting into the Street Tree Division, rather than the Building Department. 2. Require trees in new landscapes to be established before final acceptance. Include a bond for all tree planting projects

Goal	Rationale	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
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.	Analyze work zones and set specific objectives for each zones in terms of species diversity.	Recognize and remove invasive species from the Urban Forest to the extent possible given budgets, etc. Seek grant funding for this project.	Study and develop a rating of habitat values for tree species used in the urban forest.

Goal 3. Develop a more comprehensive program to increase tree planting opportunities to fill the back log of empty planting sites.

1. Maintain a multi-aged stand of trees by planting as many trees through out the City as possible each year.
 - a. Increase the number of trees planted each year so that the largest sector of the tree population is in young trees.
 - b. Explore grant opportunities for new planting programs
 - c. Encourage the establishment of a non-profit group dedicated to tree planting and care within the City of Chico
2. Bring oversight of all tree planting into the Street tree division so that trees are planted according to current Standards, and are inspected to be certain they meet these standards
 - a. Work with the Planning and building Departments to establish a better procedure for planting new trees in developments

Goal	Rationale	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term
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	Explore grant opportunities to fund a larger tree planting program	Establish a non-profit within the community to encourage neighborhood tree plantings and stress the importance of tree planting	
Enhance planting standards	Young trees die or fail to thrive due to circling roots and poor care after planting	Review and revise planting standards as needed	Establish inspection protocols and timeframe during the development/construction process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring oversight of all tree planting into the Street Tree Division, rather than the building Department. 2. Require trees in new landscapes to be established before final acceptance. Include a bond for all tree planting projects