



**CITY OF CHICO**  
**BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)**  
**TREE COMMITTEE**  
(Commissioners Craig, Herrera, Mickles, Chair)  
November 9, 2011, 6:00 p.m.  
Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Conference Room 2

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**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 CONCEPTS REGARDING PUBLIC FRUIT TREES.**

At the 10/26/11 BPPC Special Meeting, the Commission requested that the Tree Committee take up the discussion of promoting more fruit trees within the City. At the Special Meeting a number of issues were raised that may be beyond the scope of the BPPC. Staff recommends that Tree Committee members refine the issues and policy questions related to fruit trees that are within the purview of the BPPC. A refined list will help Staff develop the analyses needed for adequate consideration of the issues and how they relate to the Commission's work plan. Staff will prepare to respond to some of the questions and ideas raised at the BPPC meeting.

**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 12/14/11 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2, Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).

**Distribution:** BPPC



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## Tree Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date 11/09/11

DATE: 11/03/11  
TO: Tree Advisory Committee  
FROM: Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager  
SUBJECT: Review of Fruit Tree Policy

### RECOMMENDATION:

*Staff recommends the Tree Committee review and consider various suggestions on policy regarding fruit trees on City of Chico public property. Staff anticipates several meetings before the item comes back to the BPPC for review and adoption.*

### BACKGROUND

In September of 2011, the BPPC received comments from the public regarding opportunities to plant more fruit and nut trees in the City Right of Ways or on public lands. It was placed on the agenda for the October, 2011 BPPC meeting, where the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission referred the matter to the Tree Committee.

Specifically Mark Herrera suggested that the Committee Review:

1. Public planting of fruit (street) trees
2. Stewardship of trees - planting on public property
3. Converting some of the Public Plantings budget to fruit tree planting and production

### REPORT IN BRIEF

**1. Staff was approached in early September, 2011 regarding picking fruit from City street trees. The Urban Forest Manager stated that the City does not have a formal written policy regarding the matter, but that we certainly had no objection to a person or people gathering fruit from the City Street trees, as long as the gatherers were:**

- 1. Safe and considerate of others using the public right of way**
- 2. Not blocking the sidewalk for any extended period**
- 3. Did not leave the area in more of a mess than when the project started**

**The City has for several years not cleaned up fruit from city Street trees due to budget constraints. In fact, the City has in the past aggressively removed certain fruit and nut trees to reduce the amount of bothersome debris on the sidewalks. The fruit can be slippery, smelly, harbor pests or diseases, or be a deterrent to wheel chairs. As such, fruit trees are no longer allowed to be planted as street trees and are not on our approved street tree list.**

**Staff recommends that the fruit tree policy be left as it is to reduce current and avoid future liability issues. Staff further recommends that fruit trees be avoided in "Public Landscape" areas adjacent to Right of Way areas where the fruit could fall onto the public ROW and become a nuisance.**

2. Stewardship of fruit trees – or planting trees on City of Chico property, such as in greenways, areas adjacent to public housing or c/vacant land within the City.

The BPMMP specifically forbids the propagation or planting of invasive trees within Bidwell Park, several of which are fruit trees. Currently olives, plums, figs and persimmons are spreading in areas of the park. Staff suggests that this policy not be changed, and that planting of new fruit trees in or adjacent to greenways should be avoided due to their aggressive nature.

3. Provide funding for fruit tree plantings from current funding for landscapes. Staff recommends that the first two items be resolved before this third item is taken up, and that should funding be required, that the issue should go before the Finance Committee.

Staff anticipates that several meetings might be needed to consider issues regarding a Fruit Tree program and will then forward the Committee's suggestions onto the full Commission.

**Attachments:**

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