



NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF CHICO ANNOUNCES UPCOMING DOWNTOWN PARKING INITIATIVE THAT INCLUDES UP TO TWO HOURS OF FREE PARKING IN CITY MANAGED DOWNTOWN PARKING LOTS

CHICO, CA — The City of Chico, in partnership with the Downtown Chico Property Based Improvement District (PBID), is pleased to announce “Park and Go,” a new summer parking initiative that will provide up to two hours of free parking in all City-managed Downtown Chico parking lots beginning July 1 and continuing through September 30, 2026.

The Park and Go program is designed to encourage residents and visitors to explore downtown businesses, restaurants, and entertainment venues while making parking more convenient and accessible during the summer months.

The free parking offer applies to all City-managed parking lots in Downtown Chico. Street parking is not included in this program. To avoid a parking citation, free parking sessions must still be started through a parking kiosk or the parking app. No payment will be required for the first two hours of parking in city-managed parking lots during the promotional period; however, registration through a kiosk or parking app is necessary.

“Providing two hours of free parking is a great way to support downtown businesses and encourage residents and visitors to spend time in Downtown Chico,” said City Manager, Mark Sorensen. “By requiring users to start their free parking session through the app or kiosk, we can continue to manage parking effectively without increasing enforcement staffing levels. This allows us to enhance service for the community while remaining good stewards of public resources.”

To receive free parking during the Park and Go program, residents should:

1. Park in any City-managed parking lot in Downtown Chico from July 1-September 30, 2026.
2. Start your free parking session using the parking app or a parking lot kiosk.
3. Receive up to two hours of free parking
4. Remember that street parking is not included in this program.

For more information about Downtown parking, parking lot locations, and parking registration options, visit the City of Chico's [parking webpage](#).

Located in Butte County, California, Chico is the cultural and economic center of the northern Sacramento Valley and the largest city north of Sacramento. Known as a college town, the home of California State University, Chico and for Bidwell Park, one of the largest urban parks in the United States. For more information, visit www.chicoca.gov.

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