



NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 5, 2025

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SOUTH PARK DRIVE EUCALYPTUS TREE REMOVALS STARTING SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

CHICO, CA — In an effort to reduce fire fuel loads and ensure the park remains safe and enjoyable for all visitors, the City of Chico will begin to remove the dense growth of non-native Eucalyptus trees in Bidwell Park between South Park Drive and E 8th Street on September 8, 2025. Temporary public access restrictions will be in place on South Park Drive during tree removal operations.

The City of Chico Vegetative Fuels Management Plan for parks, greenways, preserves and open spaces outlines the importance of thinning and / or removing dense areas of vegetation to reduce fire fuel loads. The targets for removal are non-native, invasive species. The dense growth of eucalyptus located at the entrance of Forest and East 8th Street in Lower Bidwell Park, is a prime example of an area that will benefit from fuels reduction work. Eucalyptus is prone to fire. The nature of the bark and oils make them highly flammable.

Tom Barrett, Friends of Bidwell Park Board member said, "Since its inception twenty years ago Friends of Bidwell Park has been active in removal of invasive, non-native weeds and trees in the Park. FOBP has supervised hundreds of volunteers removing thousands of invasive plants. The eucalyptus is slowly spreading and Friends of Bidwell Park doesn't want them to spread further in the Park, to that extent we are happy to donate funds to have them removed."

Following the eucalyptus removal, the City will replant the area with native California trees that are better adapted to the local environment, support native wildlife, and pose reduced fire risks. This restoration effort aligns with broader conservation goals to preserve and enhance the natural character of Bidwell Park.

Public Cooperation Requested: To ensure public safety during tree removal operations, temporary access restrictions will be in place on South Park Drive. The city requests public cooperation during this period. Visitors should remain aware of their surroundings and follow all directions provided by tree removal contractors. Operations are expected to take approximately two weeks, weather permitting.

In addition to City of Chico, Park and Street Tree Division funds, this project was made possible by generous donations from private citizens and the Friends of Bidwell Park.

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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