



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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CITY OF CHICO'S PETERSEN MEMORIAL DRIVE ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT

CHICO, CA — The City of Chico is proud to announce the reopening of Petersen Memorial Drive in Lower Bidwell Park on Friday, July 25, 2025, following the successful completion of a major road rehabilitation project that preserves and enhances one of the community's most cherished public spaces.

Originally dedicated in 1905, Bidwell Park has long been a symbol of Chico's natural heritage and civic pride. This historic renovation project was carefully designed to restore Petersen Memorial Drive's structural integrity, enhance safety and accessibility, and to protect the mature trees and parkland that make it a treasured destination for residents and visitors alike.

This transformative work was made possible through Local Measure H, a voter-approved initiative that is directly reinvesting in Chico's infrastructure. Measure H provides a critical, reliable funding source for public works projects—like Petersen Memorial Drive—that preserve the city's character while addressing long-deferred infrastructure improvement needs.

"The reopening of Petersen Memorial Drive marks more than the completion of a construction project—it's a reflection of our community's shared values and long-term investment in the spaces we all enjoy," said Brendan Ottoboni, Public Works - Engineering Director. "Thanks to the support of our residents through Measure H, we're able to make meaningful improvements to vital infrastructure while honoring Chico's unique history."

Construction included resurfacing the roadway, stabilizing pavement edges, improving gravel parking lots, and installing new striping and signage completed with great care to preserve the surrounding environment and the roots of the park's iconic trees. We want to extend our sincere gratitude to Brown General Engineering, Inc., the prime contractor who performed this work quickly, safely and with the utmost quality.

Effective Friday, July 25, 2025, Petersen Memorial Drive will once again be open for public use, restoring pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the corridor. In alignment with previous use and to support a peaceful park experience, vehicular access will continue to be restricted on weekends and holidays.

For more information, including a Before & After Video, please visit:

<https://chico.ca.us/Departments/Engineering/Capital-Projects/Petersen-Memorial-Drive-Road-Rehabilitation-Project/>

For media inquiries, please contact the Public Works Engineering Department at (530) 879-6900.

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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 world. For more information, visit www.chicoca.gov.