



NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHICO CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY WITH COMMUNITY WIDE TREE PLANTING EVENT

Chico, CA - At its April 21 meeting, Chico City Council proclaimed April 24, 2026, as National Arbor Day and recognized the City of Chico as a Tree City USA for the 42nd consecutive year.

In celebration of Arbor Day and this continued designation, the City of Chico Public Works Tree Division is partnering with Butte Environmental Council (BEC), Chico Area Recreation & Park District (CARD), the American Red Cross, and Chico Unified School District (CUSD) to plant 25 trees across multiple parks throughout the city.

Media representatives are invited to attend and should check in at 9:00 a.m. at Emerson Park for the event kickoff.

Tree planting locations are within the Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD) and include:

Indigo Park – Springfield Drive and Concord Ave.

Emerson Park – Emerson Way and Notre Dame Blvd.

Oak Way Park – Nord Ave. and W. 8th Avenue

Hartley Park – Degarmo Drive and Chamberlain Run

Peterson Park – Crater Lake Drive and Rollins Lake Drive

Rotary Centennial Park – Ceres Ave. and Whitewood Way

Hancock Park – Middletown Ave. and Valley Forge Drive

Community Park (20th Street) – 1900 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway

Husa Ranch Park – Palo Alto St. and Blackstone Ct.

Tree species planted include Chinese elm, Red maple, Acacia, Ginkgo, Scarlet oak, Redbud, Cedar and Zelkova. Students from Little Chico Creek Elementary and Chapman Elementary schools will participate in the event, planting trees at Emerson Park and Community Park.

Miranda Kokoszka, Assistant Director at BEC, said:

“Trees play a vital role in our daily lives. Arbor Day is an opportunity to bring together community volunteers, students, and partner organizations to raise awareness about the importance of trees through hands-on planting efforts. Trees provide economic and environmental benefits and support physical and mental well-being, making it essential for communities across the nation to celebrate and invest in them.”

Volunteer registration for this event is now closed; however, information about future volunteer opportunities through BEC as well as the Partners, Ambassadors, Leaders & Stewards (PALS) Volunteer Program can be found online:

Butte Environmental Council (BEC) Volunteer Opportunities: <https://www.becnet.org/bec-events>

Partners, Ambassadors, Leaders & Stewards) (PALS) Volunteer Opportunities: <https://chicoca.gov/Our-Community/Parks-Recreation-and-Experience-the-Outdoors/Volunteer-Program/index.html>

Funding for this project is provided by the Inflation Reduction Act and the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program in partnership with River Network.

The Tree City USA program is a national initiative that provides a framework for effective community forestry management. To receive this designation, communities must meet four core standards: maintaining a tree board or department, adopting a community tree ordinance, investing at least \$2 per capita in urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

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 and home to California State University, Chico, the city is also recognized for Bidwell Park—one of the largest municipal parks in the United States. For more information, visit www.chicoca.gov.

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