



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 2, 2026

WORK TO BEGIN ON CITY OF CHICO'S SOUTH PARK DRIVE REHABILITATION PROJECT

CHICO, CA - The City of Chico is proud to announce the upcoming rehabilitation of South Park Drive, located in the heart of Lower Bidwell Park, extending from Cypress Street to Centennial Avenue. This project follows the successful rehabilitation of Petersen Memorial Drive on the north side of Lower Park, completed last summer. Both roadways are located within the same treasured park and serve as important access routes for residents and visitors. Widely regarded as the crown jewel of Chico since its dedication in 1905, Lower Bidwell Park will benefit from this essential project, which will address deteriorating pavement conditions while improving safety, accessibility, and the long-term preservation of this iconic natural space.

R&R Horn Contractors, Inc. will lead the construction efforts to rehabilitate the roadway surface with care and precision. Recognizing the ecological and historical significance of the mature trees lining South Park Drive, the contractor will take extreme care to protect their roots throughout the resurfacing process. This includes carefully removing the existing pavement to expose and verify root depths, ensuring no harm is done to the park's treasured trees and canopy.

Work will include roadway reconstruction using Full Depth Reclamation with cement (FDR-C) and new asphalt paving, shoulder backing, new and updated signage, thermoplastic markings and striping, minor asphalt overlay of pedestrian paths, and new vehicle exclusion gates.

Construction is scheduled to begin on June 8, 2026, and is expected to continue through the beginning of August. For the safety of the public and construction crews, South Park Drive will be temporarily closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic during construction. All access points to the road will be clearly posted with "Road Closed" signage in advance of the start of construction activities.

This project is being completed in coordination with the Chico Area Recreation and Park District (CARD) to help minimize impacts to summer camps and recreational programs within Lower Bidwell Park.

The project is funded through Local Measure H, General Fund, Transportation Fund, and Streets & Roads Fund and supports Chico's goal of maintaining and modernizing public

infrastructure.

“South Park Drive is more than just a road. It’s a beloved part of our park and our community’s shared experience,” said Brendan Ottoboni, Public Works - Engineering Director. “Thanks to Measure H, we’re able to preserve its beauty while making long-overdue improvements that will benefit future generations.”

The City of Chico sincerely appreciates this continued support, and we thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to protect and enhance one of our city’s most beloved public spaces.

For more information regarding the South Park Drive Road Rehabilitation Project, please visit: <https://chicoca.gov/Departments/Engineering/Capital-Projects/South-Park-Drive-Pavement-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.