



NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF CHICO ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PETERSEN MEMORIALWAY IN LOWER BIDWELL PARK FOR TREE MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

CHICO, CA – March 28, 2025 – Beginning April 1, 2025, the City of Chico will close Petersen Memorial Way in Lower Bidwell Park to vehicular traffic. The closure is expected to last for four (4) weeks but could be extended depending on weather conditions and other factors. Pedestrians and cyclists will still be able to access trails on the north side of Petersen Memorial Way from One Mile east to Manzanita.

The road closure will allow city contractors to carry out essential tree maintenance operations. Five hundred forty-eight (548) trees growing over the parkway will be pruned and twenty-one (21) trees will be removed. Tree maintenance operations will take place seven days per week. This work is essential to improve access ahead of repaving operations on Petersen Memorial Way that is slated to start in the summer.

South Park Drive will not be impacted by the tree maintenance operations but will be closed to vehicles between Caper Acres and Centennial Avenue on weekends and National holidays. Vehicular access will remain open from the Cypress Street entrance of Lower Bidwell Park to Caper Acres to ensure access to parking facilities at One Mile, Sycamore Field, and Caper Acres.

“We recognize the accessibility impacts this closure will have on park users. However, it is imperative we keep the interior roads of Bidwell Park as safe as possible “said Erik Gustafson, City of Chico Public Works Operations and Maintenance Director.

To ensure the safety of park users, Public Works Operations and Maintenance requests that park users follow all signage and safety requests from the contractor.

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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