



NEWS RELEASE
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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 upcoming rehabilitation of Petersen Memorial Drive, located in the heart of Lower Bidwell Park. Widely regarded as the crown jewel of Chico since its dedication in 1905, this essential project will address deteriorating pavement conditions while improving safety, accessibility, and long-term preservation of this iconic natural space.

Brown General Engineering, 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 Petersen Memorial 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 also include the addition of shoulder backing to stabilize pavement edges and resurfacing of the gravel parking lots at both ends of the project area—adjacent to Sycamore Pool on the west and near Vallombrosa Avenue and Salishan Court on the east. New and updated signage will be installed to improve wayfinding for bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles.

Construction is scheduled to begin on June 23rd and is expected to continue through the beginning of August. For the safety of the public and construction crews, Petersen Memorial 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.

The project is funded through Local Measure H, thanks to the strong support of Chico residents who approved the measure to reinvest in our city's infrastructure.

"Petersen Memorial 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 Petersen Memorial Drive Road Rehabilitation Project, 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.