



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**City of Chico**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 11, 2024

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Linda Herman, Park & Natural Resources Mgr., 530-896-7241.

**\*\*MEDIA ALERT\*\***

**PRESCRIBED BURN IN HORSE ARENA AREA IN BIDWELL PARK  
SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024**

**CHICO, CA, (December 11, 2024)-** The City of Chico Park Division and Fire Department, in partnership with the Butte County Resource Conservation District, Prescribed Burn Association, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, Mechoopda Tribe, Deer Creek Resources, and Butte County Cal-TREX, have scheduled a prescribed pile burn in Middle Bidwell Park on **Thursday December 12, 2024**. The pile burning will begin at approximately 12:00 p.m. and will last until Friday morning. However, this burn will depend on the right temperature, wind, and other weather conditions on Thursday.

The intent of the prescribed pile burn is to reduce downed and dead woody material in the Oak woodland area between Horse Arena Way and the Sycamore Channel levy fence. (please see attached map). The Horse Arena area has been identified as a critical area in the City of Chico Wildfire Protection Plan, so the burn will help enhance public safety and mitigate the risk and impacts of wildfire.

To prepare for the burn, crews cut the larger woody material into more manageable sizes so that it can be placed into 6 to 8 burn piles in open areas away from the understory of trees.

For the public's safety, trails between Horses Arena Way and the Sycamore Channel levy will be closed to all users. Signs will be placed at these trailheads. Monitors will be at the main gate and will be placed at other locations to help inform park users of the burn.

Access to the Horse Arena facilities and trails to west of Horse Arena Way will be allowed, but equestrians and the public are asked to be cognizant of the saw work and burning operations. The Parks Division and Fire Department are also asking for the public's cooperation by avoiding this area until after the burn if possible and in complying with the trail closures.

A Burn Plan, Burn Permit, and Smoke Management Plan have been approved by Chico Fire and the Butte County Air Quality Management District for this prescribed burn.

Butte County Cal-TREX provides a peer-to-peer learning experience where both fire professionals and ordinary citizens gain prescribed fire skills through hands-on field scenarios and training to strengthen local capabilities, including enhancing the City Parks Department's capacity to conduct prescribed burns to enhance community safety.

For more information, please contact Shane Romain, Assistant Park & Natural Resources Manager at (530) 896-7800.

*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.chico.ca.us](http://www.chico.ca.us).*

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