

Chico Clean Creeks™

2008 CALENDAR



WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP CHICO'S CREEKS CLEAN



Chico Clean Creeks Calendar

**WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP
CHICO'S CREEKS CLEAN**

Welcome to the first edition of the "Chico Clean Creeks Calendar". This calendar is made possible by the City of Chico. Seed funding was provided by a CALFED grant for the Chico Urban Streams Alliance Program (Chico USA), a coalition of the City of Chico and local environmental and professional groups concerned with the water quality of Chico's creeks.

Chico USA partners included the **City of Chico, Butte Environmental Council, Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance,** and **Kennedy/Jenks Consultants.**

The State Water Resources Control Board awarded the grant to the City of Chico.



Large background photo by Tarn Yates, "Five Mile"

Photos in circles were provided by Timmarie Hamill, Citizen Monitoring Coordinator for the Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance.

Clean Creeks. Healthy Community.

WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH AS A COMMUNITY

The goal of this calendar is to celebrate Chico's many creeks, to highlight their diverse wildlife, to raise public awareness about "storm water runoff" and how it impacts the health of our local creeks, and to provide information which will both encourage and assist Chico residents in making individual efforts that will help protect and preserve them.

Keeping Chico's creeks clean and healthy helps to maintain safe drinking water, avert flooding, provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide intrinsic scenic value to our community.

Each month features watershed-related stewardship activities in which you can participate in practical ways to protect and improve our water quality through daily activities. Keeping Chico's creeks clean and healthy is a responsibility we all share and it needs to start at home!

Turn to the Back of this calendar for a list of resources that will help you play an active role in protecting Chico's creeks.





January 2008

Top photo by Larry Leigh

Thumbnail photo by Byron Fountain, "Winter Leaves"

Fast Facts photo by Andrew Tomaselli, "Big Chico Creek"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*City Holiday



FAST FACTS

There are three main types of stormwater pollution:

- ▶ Litter, such as cigarette butts, plastic bags and drink containers.
- ▶ Chemical pollution, such as detergents, oil, fertilizers and pesticides.
- ▶ Natural pollution, such as leaves, garden clippings, animal droppings, sediment and silt.

Preventing Stormwater Pollution

When it rains, stormwater flows across driveways and patios, over lawns and sidewalks, and into our street gutters and storm drains. Along the way, stormwater picks up debris, chemicals, oil residue, dirt and other pollutants. Together, the stormwater and pollutants get discharged, untreated, into our local creeks. These pollutants impact our water quality and harm wildlife. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

Chico residents can help keep our local creeks clean and healthy by keeping common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, construction debris, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Each month in this calendar highlights the beauty and value of our local creeks and features watershed-friendly practices that every Chico household can adopt in an effort to keep our waterways clean and healthy for both humans and wildlife to enjoy.

The Environmental Protection Agency considers stormwater pollution as the single biggest threat to water quality.

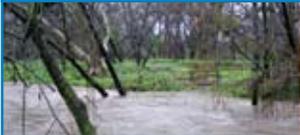


February 2008

Top photo by Larry Leigh, "Pine Street Bridge over Little Chico Creek"

Thumbnail photo by Ken O'Connor, "Big Chico Creek"

Fast Facts photo by James Evaro.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			 		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

*City Holiday

CLEAN WATER BUSINESS PARTNERS

CARPET CLEANERS

- ▶ Chico Carpet Cleaning: 891-3636
- ▶ Clean King by DeHart: 345-9907
- ▶ Dean's Upholstery and Carpet Care: 345-0832
- ▶ ServiceMaster Select: 342-7976
- ▶ SJS Carpet Cleaning: 898-0101
- ▶ Sunrise Carpet Cleaners: 891-4113

PAINTING CONTRACTORS

- ▶ Casey Swaim: 898-8217

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS

- ▶ Gaia Creations Ecological Landscaping: 384-2012
- ▶ Gary Wheeler/Ewing Irrigation: 894-5900
- ▶ Lawns-R-Us: 893-4450
- ▶ Leslie Corsbie/Performance Design & Landscape: 879-0999
- ▶ KCL Custom Landscapes: 896-1211
- ▶ Sierra Landscape & Maintenance Inc.: 895-0263

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

- ▶ Home-Prep: 897-0274 | www.ChicoRemodel.com
- ▶ Woodwright Construction: 894-5000

Do business with a Clean Water Business Partner (CWBP).

If you're looking to clean your carpets, install new landscaping, build an addition, or remodel your home, consider using the services of a Clean Water Business Partner to ensure that your project will not contribute to urban runoff pollution. Each Clean Water Business Partner has made a personal pledge and ongoing commitment to educate their customers and to help keep Chico's creeks clean by employing best management practices which prevent runoff pollution from their daily business operations. These businesses pay special attention to use safer products and to prevent fertilizers, pesticides, chemical wastewater, paint products, and general construction debris and by-products from being dumped, washed or broomed into our gutters and storm drains.

A directory of Chico USA's Clean Water Business Partners is listed on the back of this calendar, and will also be maintained and updated at www.keepchicoclean.org





March 2008

Top photo by Gregg Payne

Thumbnail photo by Leah Strishak

Fast Facts photo by Gregg Payne, "Newt"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				 		1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Spring Equinox	21	22
23 Easter Sunday	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



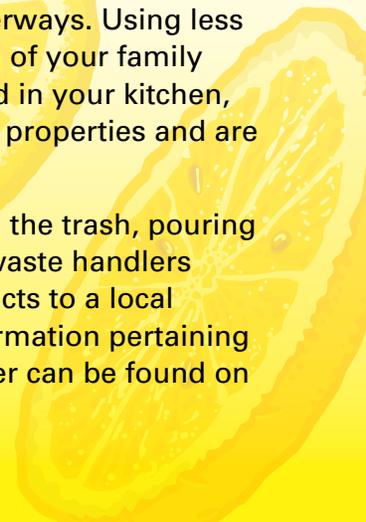
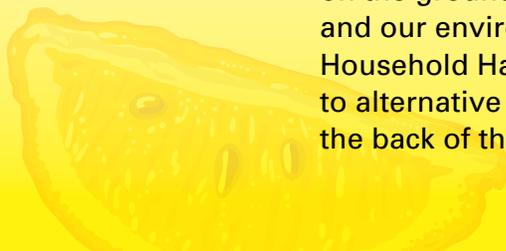
FAST FACTS

- ▶ Each day Americans pour more than 32 million pounds of household cleaning products down the drain.
- ▶ That's almost 12 billion pounds a year.

Alternative Cleaning

Many household cleaners contain chemical products that are toxic to humans and wildlife. When used, these products get poured or rinsed down the drain and flow to either individual septic tanks or the municipal wastewater treatment plant. In both cases, compounds from these chemical products are eventually released into our groundwater or local waterways. Using less toxic cleaning products is a great way to protect the health of your family and our local waterways. Many common ingredients found in your kitchen, such as vinegar and baking soda, provide natural cleaning properties and are watershed-friendly.

Never dispose of unused cleaning products by throwing in the trash, pouring on the ground or down storm drains. Doing so can harm waste handlers and our environment. Instead, take unused cleaning products to a local Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection center. Information pertaining to alternative cleaners and your local HHW collection center can be found on the back of this calendar.





April 2008

Top photo by Jan Austin, "Butte Creek, Butte Creek Country Club"

Thumbnail photo by Theresa Brown.

Fast Facts photo by James Evaro

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Income Tax Day	16	17	18	19 Passover Begins
20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	 		



GENERAL CONTRACTORS

- ▶ Home-Prep
www.ChicoRemodel.com
897-0274
- ▶ Woodwright
Construction 894-5000

PAINTING CONTRACTORS

- ▶ Casey Swaim
898-8217

Home Improvement & Maintenance

The materials and methods used in repairing and remodeling homes can have a harmful impact on our local waterways. When cleaning tools, never rinse or dump paint products, cleaning solvents, or cement based products down our storm drains. Use latex-based, low VOC paints whenever possible. When using paint thinner to clean oil-based paint products from tools, collect the fluid residue in a container and strain the paint particulates from the paint thinner which can then be reused. Never dump old or unused paint products in the garbage, instead take them to a local Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection center.

Consider hiring a Clean Water Business Partner contractor to perform your home improvement projects. The businesses listed on the left have made a pledge to encourage their customers to use products which are watershed-friendly, and to prevent construction debris and by-products from being dumped, washed or broomed into our gutters and storm drains.



May 2008

Top photo by Andy Willhoit, "Big Chico Creek as it flows through CSUC campus"

Thumbnail photo by Therese Frankenburg, "California Poppies growing along the banks of Lindo Channel"

Fast Facts photo by James Evaro

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 		1 May Day	2	3
4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

*City Holiday



FAST FACTS

- ▶ Most litter never truly decomposes, but rather breaks down into smaller particles.
- ▶ Cigarette butts are made out of acetate (plastic) filters and take 1-20 years to breakdown.
- ▶ A plastic bag takes 10-20 years to breakdown (never decomposes), while an aluminum can takes 200-500 years to breakdown

Litter Pollutes our Creeks

Litter washes down our storm drains and eventually pollutes our waterways and harms local wildlife. It frequently blocks-up storm drains, causing flooding, and costing millions of tax dollars statewide each year to clean up.

The most common type of litter is cigarette butts. Cigarette butts discarded in parking lots, along sidewalks and in street gutters inevitably make their way through storm drains and into our local creeks, where they release a wide variety of toxic chemicals, including Benzene, Cadmium, Toluene, Formaldehyde, Benzopyrene and Arsenic. Cigarette butts may seem small, but with more than 176,000,000 pounds of cigarette butts discarded in the U.S. each year, it adds up!

You can help prevent storm water pollution by picking up litter around your neighborhood, spreading the word to others, and volunteering at one of Chico's many community and creek clean-up events. See the backside of this calendar for more information on volunteering at community clean-up events.

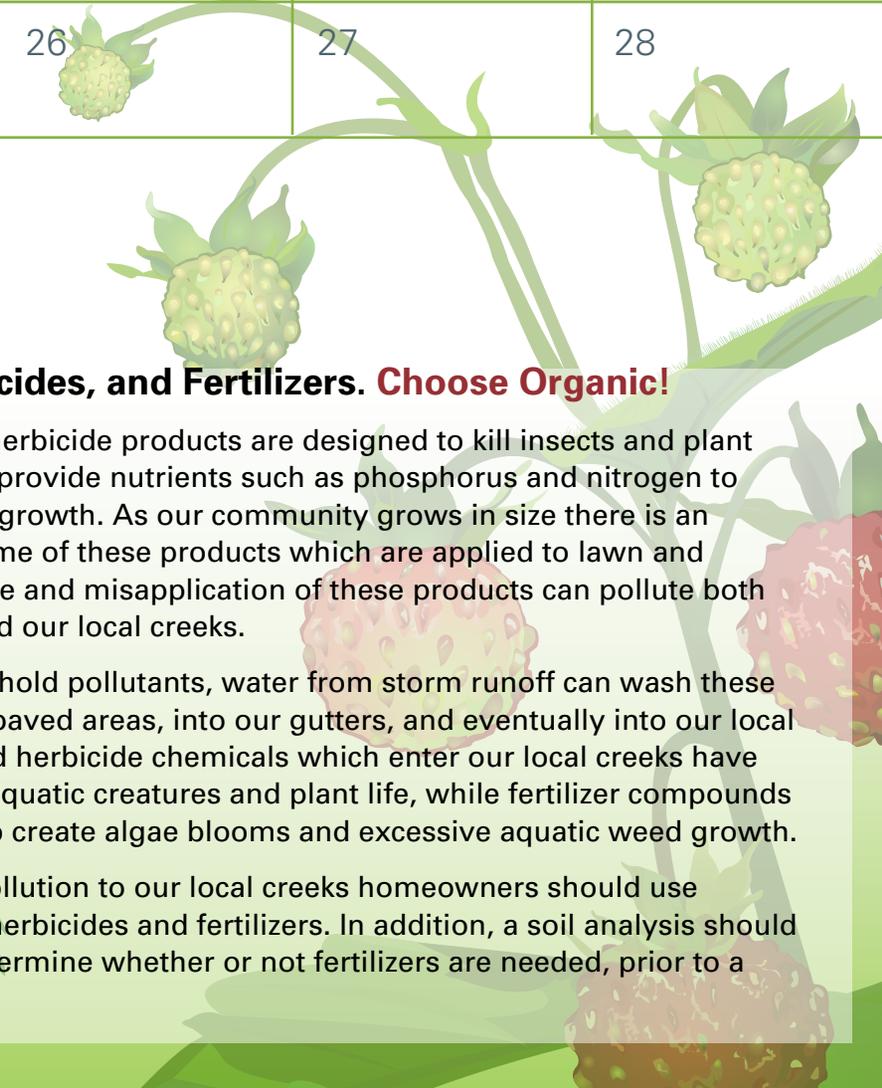


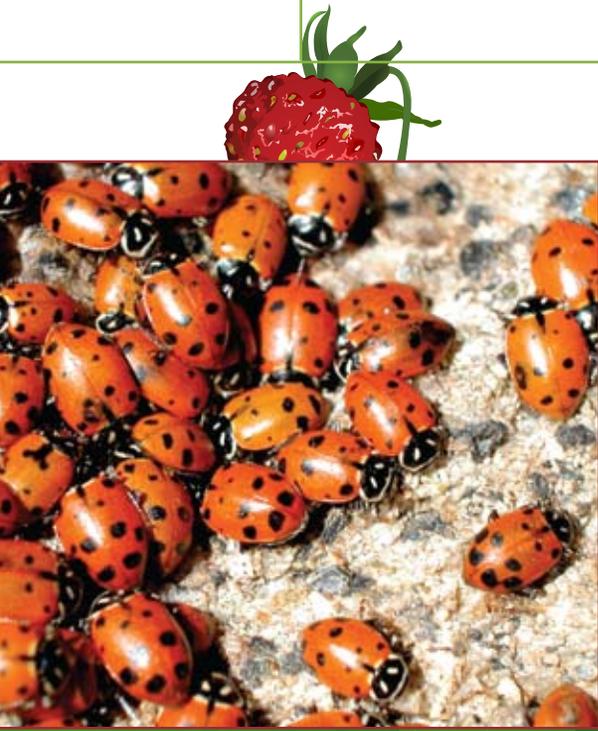
June 2008

Top photo by Theresa Brown

Thumbnail photo by Angie Vargas

Fast Facts photo by Gregg Payne

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21 Summer Solstice
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



HOW YOU CAN DO YOUR PART

- ▶ Lay down a porous tarp when landscaping a new yard (any weed block cloth will work) to prevent weed seeds from germinating in the soil.
- ▶ Try to pull weeds by hand before they flower; this prevents seed production.
- ▶ Use organic fertilizers/pesticides/herbicides. They are generally made from the plants you eat so they are relatively non-toxic, even in high amounts.
- ▶ Avoid all chemical applications if you know it is going to rain.

Pesticide, Herbicides, and Fertilizers. Choose Organic!

Both pesticide and herbicide products are designed to kill insects and plant life, while fertilizers provide nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen to promote vegetative growth. As our community grows in size there is an increase in the volume of these products which are applied to lawn and garden areas. Misuse and misapplication of these products can pollute both our groundwater and our local creeks.

As with other household pollutants, water from storm runoff can wash these compounds across paved areas, into our gutters, and eventually into our local creeks. Pesticide and herbicide chemicals which enter our local creeks have the potential to kill aquatic creatures and plant life, while fertilizer compounds have the potential to create algae blooms and excessive aquatic weed growth.

To prevent runoff pollution to our local creeks homeowners should use organic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. In addition, a soil analysis should be performed to determine whether or not fertilizers are needed, prior to a proper application.



July 2008

Top photo by Sharon Nilsson, "Big Chico Creek"

Thumbnail photo by Philip Walcott, "One Mile"

Fast Facts photo by James Evaro, "Mantis"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	 	

*City Holiday



FAST FACTS

- ▶ It's a violation of CA law to dump or discharge oil to sewers, drainage systems, surface or groundwaters, water courses or marine waters, or deposit on land.
- ▶ It only takes one quart of oil to pollute more than 250 thousand gallons of water, and 40,730 square feet of soil.
- ▶ In the USA over 400,000 gallons of "used oil" get dumped into the environment each day.
- ▶ More than 40% of all "used oil" gets disposed improperly.

Vehicle Maintenance

Washing vehicles can send oil, antifreeze, exhaust contaminants, and heavy metals into our local waterways. Always wash cars with a minimum of detergent, and whenever possible, wash your vehicle on gravel driveways or grassy areas where water won't run into the storm drain untreated. Never dump leftover detergent or cleaning compounds into gutters or stormdrains. Cleaning your vehicle at a commercial car wash facility is the most watershed-friendly option because the wastewater drains into the sanitary sewer system for treatment. Automobiles which leak fuel, oil and antifreeze are a significant source of pollution to our local waterways. As these fluids leak and accumulate onto streets and driveways, they eventually get flushed into our local waterways during rain storms. Place a drip tray under your car and frequently inspect for leaks. Never throw away or pour used antifreeze, oil or filters on the ground. Used oil and filters must be recycled at a local HHW collection center or designated automotive repair business.

Visit RecycleButte.net or www.Earth911.org and enter your zip code for a list of locations that will take used oil and filters.



August 2008

Top photo by Charlie Osborn, "Big Chico Creek"

Thumbnail photo by Michele Klassey.

Fast Facts photo by Gregg Payne, "Toad"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			 		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30



FAST FACTS

- ▶ Less than 2% of the Earth's water supply is fresh water.
- ▶ If every household in America had a faucet that dripped once each second, 928 million gallons of water a day would leak away.
- ▶ Landscaping accounts for about half the water Californians use at home. If you water grass and trees more heavily, but less often, you'll save water and encourage stronger root systems.

Water Conservation

Fresh water is a limited resource that should be wisely used and never wasted. There are many simple steps to conserve water such as turning off your automatic irrigation during rainy months and by reducing the watering time during dry months in late summer.

Your lawn and garden areas naturally need more water during spring and early summer months when they are busy establishing root growth. Deeper plant roots means you water less in August as the days begin to shorten.

Planting more trees and decreasing the size of your lawn can also conserve water. Washing your car on your lawn helps keep pollutants from draining to the creeks and also waters your lawn. Make a habit of always turning your hose bibs off even if a spray nozzle is installed on the end of your hose.

Once per year replace the rubber washers between your faucet and hose connections, and hose to spray nozzle connection. Small leaks at these locations can waste hundreds of gallons of fresh water per household every month.



September 2008

Top photo by Pam House, "Big Chico Creek at Five Mile"

Thumbnail photo by John Lechner, "Big Chico Creek, Upper Bidwell Park"

Fast Facts photo by Larry Leigh

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Fall Equinox	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Rosh Hashanah Begins	30	 			

*City Holiday



FAST FACTS

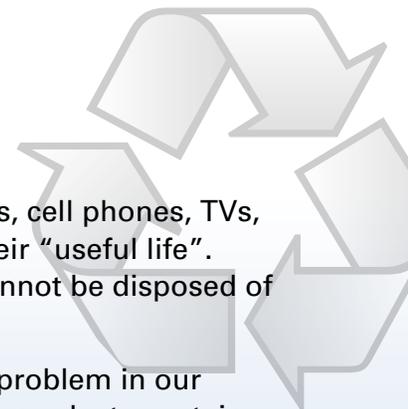
- ▶ In 2001, only 11% of personal computers retired in the US were recycled
- ▶ Computer or television displays (CRTs) contain an average of 6 pounds of lead each.
- ▶ According to the EPA the volume of E-Waste is rising 3-5 % each year—almost three times faster than the municipal waste stream.

Recycle E-Waste

E-Waste refers to electronic products such as computers, cell phones, TVs, stereos, VCRs and DVD players that are at the end of their “useful life”. These products often contain hazardous wastes, and cannot be disposed of in the trash.

Used electronic products are the most rapidly growing problem in our waste stream due to their quantity and toxicity. E-Waste products contain toxic substances including lead, mercury, cadmium, lithium, brominated flame retardants, phosphorus coatings, and PVC plastics that create dioxins when burned.

If not properly disposed of, the hazardous wastes from these products can leach into our ground water and local waterways. E-Waste should be refurbished, if possible, or taken to a facility or business in which it can be recycled or disposed of properly. Visit www.recyclebutte.net/ewaste.html for locations.





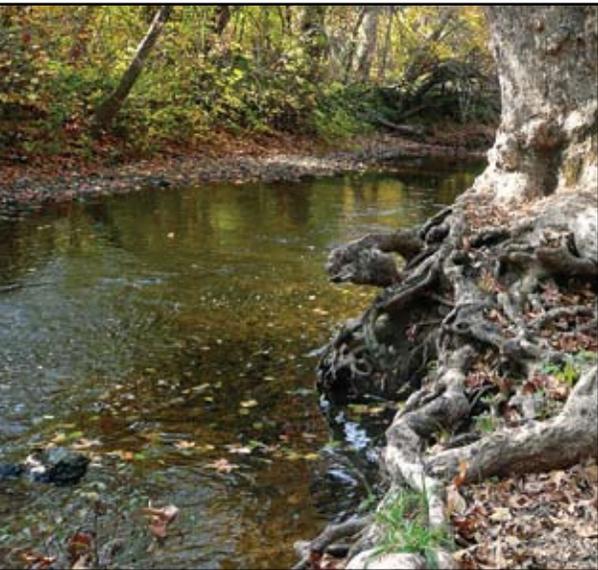
October 2008

Top photo by Sharon Nillsson, "Park bench overlooking Big Chico Creek at Five Mile"

Thumbnail photo by Mike Wallace

Fast Facts photo by Melinda Self, "Big Sycamore Tree root growing along bank of Big Chico Creek"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Yom Kippur Begins	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	 



FAST FACTS

- ▶ Each year, the average American household generates more than 15 lbs. of household hazardous waste.
- ▶ Your local Household Hazardous Waste collection facility will dispose of hazardous waste properly. Call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.cleanup.org to find one near you. You can also refer to keepchicoclean.org.

Mercury Waste

Mercury is a highly toxic metal. It's a common ingredient in everyday items such as fluorescent light bulbs (including CFL bulbs), glass thermometers, watch batteries and older light switches. Mercury from these items can escape into our environment if thrown into the trash.

It is illegal to place Mercury containing products into the trash. Items containing mercury (including the new CFL household light bulbs) must be disposed of at a local Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection center.

Find your local HHW center on the back of this calendar.

Visit www.epa.gov/mercury or www.earth911.org/mercury for more information about the hazards of mercury.



November 2008

Top photo by Larry Leigh, "Fall riffles at Little Chico Creek"

Thumbnail photo by Kyle Logan.

Fast Facts photo by Phyllis Cullen, "Five Mile, Big Chico Creek"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				 		1
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28 Day After Thanksgiving	29

*City Holiday



FAST FACTS

- ▶ Yard trimmings and vegetable food waste residuals together constitute 24 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream.
- ▶ That's an enormous amount of waste that could be converted into valuable and beneficial composting material.

Composting / Recycling Green Waste

Keep leaves, grass clippings and other vegetative waste out of our gutters and storm drains. These dead plant materials often get flushed into our local creeks in mass quantities and can cause excessive "nutrient loading".

Nutrient loading encourages bursts of algae growth and aquatic weed blooms, both of which create stressful demands on the normal oxygen levels of surrounding waters, potentially killing native aquatic wildlife in the process.

To help keep Chico's creeks clean and healthy recycle all of your green waste by placing it in your green waste garbage can, taking it to the North Valley Organic Waste facility (see back of calendar) or start composting your food and yard waste into soil amendments for your garden and houseplants.

To learn more about composting visit www.aschico.com/recycle or www.epa.gov/compost



December 2008

Top photo by John Peters

Thumbnail photo by Joe Kelly

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Hanukkah Begins Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	 		

*City Holiday



FAST FACT

▶ A rain garden allows 30% more water to soak into the ground than a lawn or other traditional landscaping.

Plant A Rain Garden

Rain gardens are areas within your yard that are designed specifically for collecting and soaking up water from the roof gutter downspouts, driveway and other non-porous areas instead of sending the water directly into the storm drain. Rain gardens work best when planted with native plants rather than a lawn. Allowing rain water to soak into the soil via rain gardens helps recharge our ground water levels, and prevents pollutants from entering our local waterways.

Planting a rain garden is like recycling; if we all do a little, it makes a big difference. For more information on designing and creating a rain garden in your own yard visit www.raingardens.org

2008 Chico Clean Creeks™ Calendar



Keep Chico Clean

- ▶ For a current directory of **Clean Water Business Partners**, visit www.keepchicoclean.org

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- ▶ Clean King by DeHart: 345-9907
- ▶ Dean's Upholstery and Carpet Care: 345-0832
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www.ChicoRemodel.com
- ▶ Woodwright Construction: 894-5000

PAINTING CONTRACTORS

- ▶ Casey Swaim: 898-8217

ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHY

- ▶ This calendar features local photography from local artists. Enjoy the beauty of your great city that we all love, while learning helpful tips to keep our creeks clean.



Calendar developed and designed by StormWaterOutreach.com in collaboration with LearningChange. Chico Clean Creeks is a trademark of StormWaterOutreach.com.

Resources

CLEAN WATER BUSINESS PARTNERS

- ▶ For a list of businesses visit www.keepchicoclean.org

ALTERNATIVE CLEANING RECIPES

- ▶ www.safespray.com
- ▶ www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm
- ▶ www.ecologycenter.org/factsheets/cleaning.html

WASTE DISPOSAL, REUSE & RECYCLING

- ▶ Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 1101 Marauder St. Chico, Call 1-866-HAZCATT, www.norcalwastesystemsofbuttecounty.com/residentialChicoHazardousWaste.htm (Paints, solvents, household and garden chemicals, etc.)
- ▶ North Valley Organic Recycling, Cohasset Rd., Chico 624-3529 (unpainted/untreated lumber, plant, shrub and tree trimmings, grass clippings and leaves)
- ▶ Butte County Landfill 538-7681
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity of Chico (The Re-Store), 2288 Park Ave, Chico 895-1271
- ▶ www.FreeCycle.org
- ▶ www.RecycleButte.net

WATERSHED EDUCATION

- ▶ Butte Environmental Council—891-6424 www.becnet.org
- ▶ Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance—BigChicoCreek.org
- ▶ To help homeowners understand best practices for our creeks, visit: www.cwp.org/Community_Watersheds/educating_constituents.htm

CREEK WATCH HOT LINE

- ▶ Call 891-6459 to report illicit dumping into the city's storm drains or creeks. Hot line hosted by the Butte Environmental Council and funded by the City of Chico.

CITY OF CHICO STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- ▶ To report storm drain backups or missing manhole and storm drain grates, please call 894-4220 immediately. For sewer or storm drain emergencies after 3:30 P.M., on weekends, or on holidays call 897-4911.

BUTTE COUNTY

- ▶ Butte County Dept. Public Works, Stormwater Program—538-7266 ext. 209
- ▶ Butte County Water and Resource Conservation—www.buttecounty.net/waterandresource/
- ▶ Butte County Public Works Department, Solid Waste and Recycling Division 538-7681, www.team.recycle.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance—If you would like to join the Big Chico Creek Stream Team or school-based Youth Stream Team please contact: Timmarie Hamill at thamill@bigchicocreek.org or (530) 342-6620
- ▶ Friends of Bidwell Park, www.friendsofbidwellpark.org

ECO-FRIENDLY GARDENING, YARD LANDSCAPING AND PEST CONTROL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION:

- ▶ California Native Plant Society, www.cnps.org
- ▶ Integrated Pest Management www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

