California Urban Streams Alliance - The Stream Team

Join our network of Stream Team volunteers and help to gather technically robust environmental information needed to protect the ecological health of Big Chico Creek! Learn how to prevent pollutants from entering our waterways!

The Stream Team’s Citizen Monitoring Program provides opportunities for the public to participate in watershed monitoring and restoration efforts, to foster public understanding of the ecological function of watersheds and urban runoff pollution sources and solutions. These efforts support the goals of the State’s Clean Water Team, the City of Chico Storm Water Management Program, the City of Chico Park Division Volunteer Program, and the educational needs of local schools.

The Stream Team’s Youth Stream Team Program

Attention Teachers! If you are interested in forming a Youth Stream Team for your class or school, contact The Stream Team Watershed Coordinator. Join our School-based Storm Water Education Committee and help us update our urban pollution prevention curriculum.

For more information please contact The Stream Team Watershed Coordinator: 342-6620 or www.thestreamteam.org or by mail: California Urban Streams Alliance -The Stream Team, PO Box 68, Chico CA 95927

Cover photo by Paula Beehner
Thumbnail photos by T. Hamill
The Bidwell Park Volunteer Program is part of the City of Chico Parks Division. Volunteer activities focus on weed management, restoration with native plants, litter removal, trail repair and maintenance, and some specialized construction projects. The Park Division runs weekly volunteer sessions at various Bidwell Park locations throughout the year and several large annual workdays, such as Earth Day in Bidwell Park on April 23, 2011 and Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park on October 22, 2011. Volunteer sessions for special groups can also be arranged. For more information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 530-896-7831 and check our website at

www.ci.chico.ca.us/general_services_department/park_division/volunteer_calendar.asp

Clean Creeks in the Classroom partners with Kids & Creeks to provide valuable water quality protection education for 3rd-5th public school students. The program is designed to instill awareness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the prevention of runoff pollution of waterways. Participating students experience hands-on watershed model demonstrations and a field trip to a local park. Students, parents and teachers learn about the riparian habitat and the impacts that we have on our local waterways. They learn how to protect water quality by using simple good housekeeping and landscaping/gardening habits to prevent pollutants from entering our creeks through our gutters and storm drains. Clean Creeks in the Classroom is funded by the City of Chico. www.keepchicoclean.org
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". E-Waste products contain toxic substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and lithium. 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 for locations.
### Litter / Cigarette Butts

*If it isn’t rainwater, it doesn’t belong in the gutter!*

- Before you allow anything to go into the gutter or storm drain, stop and think. Storm drains do not go to the sewer, they flow directly into channels and creeks, through wetlands and to the ocean.

- If you smoke, please use ashtrays to dispose of your cigarette butts. Cigarette butts littered on the streets wash directly into our creeks where the toxic chemicals that are trapped in the filter leak into waterways, threatening the quality of the water and many aquatic life forms. With trillions of butts littered every year, the toxic chemicals add up!

- Pet waste pollutes our creeks. Please clean up after your pet! Dispose of the waste in a bag, and dump it in the garbage.

- Bring your own reusable shopping bags when you shop to cut down on the plastic bags in our waterways.
Volunteer to Make a Difference!

- Volunteering can help Chico's creeks! There are various volunteer opportunities available in our community through which you can help to protect our local waterways.

- The Stream Team’s Citizen Monitoring Program
  Learn to measure in-stream conditions and other factors useful in determining the health of Big Chico Creek. Monitoring events are held the 2nd Saturday of each month. Meet at Five Mile Picnic Area Parking Lot (9AM-12PM). For more information contact: The Stream Team Watershed Coordinator @ 542-6620 or www.thestreamteam.org

- Annual Parks & Creeks Clean-up Day
  Join the annual city-wide effort to remove trash from our local waterways before the rainy season. The clean-up will be held on September 17th in 2011. For more information contact Butte Environmental Council at (530) 891-6424 or visit www.becnet.org

- Bidwell Park Volunteer Program
  Protect local creeks by helping with litter control for a healthy creek habitat in Bidwell Park. For more information contact Lise Smith-Peters, City of Chico Volunteer Coordinator, at 530-896-7831 or via email lspeters@ci.chico.ca.us
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**Hire a Clean Water Business Partner**

- **They care about our creeks!**
- If you’re looking to clean your carpets, install new landscaping, or make general home improvements, consider using the services of a Clean Water Business Partner (CWBP) to ensure that your project will not contribute to urban runoff pollution.
- Each CWBP has made a personal pledge to educate their customers, and help keep Chico’s creeks clean by employing best management practices (BMPs) which prevent runoff pollution during their daily business operations. These businesses use safer products and/or BMPs to prevent fertilizers, pesticides, chemical wastewater, paint products, and general construction debris and byproducts from being dumped, washed or broomed into our gutters and storm drains.
- Visit www.keepchicoclean.org, and click on “business partners,” for current CWBP info. See back of calendar for CWBP list.

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Top photo by James B Wood
Thumbnail by Lois Olson
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**Use Water Wisely. It’s Essential.**

- When it comes to water, nature is the ultimate recycler. The water from your garden hose may go on to help form a rain cloud or seep into the ground to feed a nearby well. Over the course of time, it may end up back in your garden hose, ready to start the whole process over again.

- **Here are a few tips to help save water outdoors:**
  - Use a broom instead of a hose to clean paved areas.
  - Turn off your sprinklers when it rains or install a weather-based controller.
  - Adjust sprinklers to avoid watering the sidewalk.
  - If you use a hose to wash your car, use a shut-off hose nozzle, or even better, a bucket of water.

- Visit [www.calwater.com](http://www.calwater.com) for more tips on how to use water efficiently and to learn about programs available in your area.
Watershed-friendly Gardening

- The misuse and misapplications of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides can pollute our water and cause obvious harm to plants and animal life found in Chico creeks. An excessive build-up and accumulation of vegetation waste (green waste) can result in nutrient loading which depletes oxygen levels and kills off native aquatic wildlife.

- Limit the amount of fertilizer you use on your lawn or garden and don’t fertilize when rain is forecast.

- If you must use pesticides or herbicides, never use them in wet weather, and choose organic products whenever possible. Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) rather than pesticides. (Learn more at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)

- Never dump green waste in gutters, storm drains, waterways, or along creeks or stream banks. Recycle all of your green waste by placing it in your green waste garbage can, or take it to the North Valley Organic Waste facility (See back of calendar for location and hours).

- Learn how to compost your green waste visit www.aschico.com/recycle or www.epa.gov/compost
Toilets are only meant for one activity, and you know what we’re talking about! When the wrong thing is flushed, results can include costly backups on your own property or problems at your local wastewater treatment plant. That’s why it’s so important to treat toilets properly and not like a trashcan.

**Do not flush the following items down a toilet:**
- Baby wipes and diapers, rags and towels
- Plastic items of any description including toys
- Rubber items such as latex gloves
- Disposable toilet brushes and cleaning sponges
- Sanitary napkins, hair and underwear
- Candy and other food wrappers
- Cigarette butts, cotton swabs and syringes

Whatever ends up in your toilet can potentially impact the water environment, so it’s really important to keep household wastes such as window cleaners, unused or expired pharmaceutical products, paint thinners, fats, and fruit labels out of toilets and drains and dispose of them properly. For more information, contact the Chico Industrial Pretreatment Program at 894-4304.

*Top photo by Paula Bechner
Thumbnail by Amy Proehl*
## Watershed-friendly Car Washing

- Automotive fluids, such as oils, greases and solvents, are hydrocarbon based, and may contain metals, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and other toxic compounds. The process of car washing can release these toxic compounds, along with caked-on dirt, grime and harmful detergents, into our waterways via the storm drain system.

- **Here's how you can help keep Chico's creeks clean and healthy:**
  - If you wash your car at home, wash it on your lawn or gravel area where waste water can soak into the ground, away from drainage areas;
  - And use an automatic shut-off pressurized nozzle to conserve water and to minimize runoff;
  - And do not use acid based wheel cleaners or engine degreasers;
  - If you use soap, use vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps and follow the directions carefully.
  - Or take your car to an automatic car wash that uses a closed loop washing system.
  - Or wash your car at a self-service coin-op car wash.

- If you are a charity car wash fundraiser group, the City of Chico Sanitary Sewer & Storm Drain Section can provide information and tools to help ensure your car wash event complies with regulations and is safe for Chico creeks. Before the Car Wash: Call the City of Chico at 879-6950 and ask about the city’s car wash fundraiser kit, or visit www.keepchicoclean.org for info and resources.
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**Watershed-friendly Cleaning Methods**

- Use vegetable-based soaps and household cleaners that are watershed-friendly.
- Make your own homemade cleaning products with ingredients such as distilled white vinegar, vegetable-based liquid soap, baking soda and tea tree oil. See back of calendar for more watershed-friendly cleaning information.
- Choose commercial cleaning products that do not contain phosphates.
- Send dirty cleaning water down a toilet or sink drain, instead of a gutter or storm drain.
- Take unused cleaning products to the Butte County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (See back of calendar for location and hours). Never dispose of unused cleaning products by throwing in the trash, pouring down sink drains, dumping on the ground or down storm drains.
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### CFL Recycling

- **Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs)** use far less energy than standard incandescent light bulbs. However, CFLs contain mercury and must be recycled.

- **Follow these steps when using CFLs:**
  - Take care when changing bulbs.
  - If a bulb breaks, open window and leave room for 15 minutes before scooping fragments with stiff cardboard into sealed plastic bag, along with clean-up materials.
  - If a bulb breaks on carpet, use sticky tape to first pick up small pieces and powder, and then use vacuum. Put vacuum bag in sealed plastic bag.
  - Dispose of all burned-out CFL bulbs, and any CFL clean-up sealed plastic bags at CFL recycling centers.

- **Chico CFL Recycling Drop-off Locations:**
  - NRC Environmental Services Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 1101 Marauder St.
  - Home Depot, 2580 Notre Dame Blvd.
  - Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH), 231 W. East Ave.
  - Park Village True Value, 1646 Park Ave.

This information provided by the Butte Environmental Council through work funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation.
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Home Improvement

- When cleaning your tools, never rinse or dump paint products, cleaning solvents, or cement based products in gutters or down 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.
- Offer to let your carpet cleaner empty the waste water onto your lawn or down your toilet. Sweep sidewalks and driveways clean, and dispose of debris into the trash can, rather than hosing sidewalks down.
- Take unused paints, solvents, adhesives and other household chemicals and toxics to the Butte County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (See back of calendar for location and hours).
- Choose a Clean Water Business Partner to clean your carpets, landscape your yard, paint your house, detail your automobiles and provide General Contractor remodeling services. See back of calendar for list. Visit www.keepchicoclean.org for current CWBP list.
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**Auto Care & Repair**

- Never dump auto fluids down storm drains or other areas.
- Used oil from a single oil change can pollute up to one million gallons of freshwater.
- Recycle used oil and antifreeze by taking them to service stations or recycling centers (Visit www.earth911.com for locations), or take to the Butte County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (See back of calendar for location and hours).
- Dispose of unused or spent cleaning solvents at the Butte County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (See back of calendar for location and hours).
- Use a funnel when pouring liquids (motor oil and anti-freeze) and place a tray underneath your vehicle to catch spills.
Keep Chico Creeks Clean - Hire a Clean Business Partner

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

**Carpet Cleaners**
- Carpet Restoration Co. 895-8155
- Clean King by DeHar 345-9997
- Cleanrite Buildrite 891-0333
  - www.cleanrite-buildrite.com
- Clean's Upholstery and Carpet Care 345-0832
- Lincoln Cleaning & Restoration 895-0646
  - www.lincolncleaning.com

**Service Master Select** 342-7376
- www.servicemasterselect.com
- SJS Carpet Cleaning 896-6010
- Sunrise Carpet Cleaners 891-4113
  - www.sunrisecarpet.biz

**Equipment Suppliers**
- Industrial Equipment 891-1212
  - www.industrial-equipment.biz

**General Contractors**
- Home Prep 897-0274
- Andy Willholt, Contractor 755-6553
  - www.HomePrepnet

**Landscape Contractors**
- Duggan's Landscape 893-4540
- East Motts West Landscaping & Gardening 345-6104
- Ewing Irrigation 894-5900
  - www.ewingirrigation.com
- Gro's Creations Ecological Landscaping 321-9715
  - www.groscreationsonland.com
- Greenscape 585-6794
  - www.greenscapecarp.com
- KCL Custom Landscapes 896-1211
- Lawns-R-Us 893-4400
- Lifescapes 894-5433
  - www.lifescapesus.
- Performance Design & Landscape 879-0999
- Sierra Landscape & Maintenance Inc. 895-0263
  - www.sierralandscapedetc.com

**Nurseries**
- Flora's Native Nursery 892-2511
- Geffray's Gardens 345-2849
- Native Springs Nursery 514-8598
  - www.nativespringsnursery.com
- Spring Fever Nursery & Gardens 534-1556

**Pressure Washer Contractors**
- O'Brien's Pressure Washing, Inc. 896-8447
- Michael Watson Painting 343-6470
  - www.michaelwatsonpainting.com

**Vehicle Maintenance Contractors**
- Russ' Auto Detailing/Windsheild Repair Free pick-up & Delivery 898-9924

**RESOURCES**

**Alternative Cleaning & Gardening Information**
- Enter coupon code "ChicoCleanCreeks" for one FREE spray bottle with any purchase.
- www.recycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm
- www.rrc.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm
- www.ecologycenter.org/factsheets/cleaning.html
- www.OurWaterOurWorld.org

**Waste Disposal, Reuse & Recycling**
- Paint, solvents, garden and cleaning products, automotive fluids, mercury and E-waste products
- North Valley Organic Recycling, Cohasset Rd., Chico 624-3529 (unpainted/unburned lumber, plant, shrub, and tree trimmings, grass clippings and leaves). Open Tues - Sat 8-4pm.
- Butte County Landfill 538-7681
- Habitat for Humanity of Chico (The Re-Store), 220 Meyers Street, Chico 343-7423
  - www.freecycle.org
- www.recyclebutte.net
- Project S.A.V.E. - accepts and redistributes unused medical products and equipment to hospitals and clinics in need around the world.
  - www.chicoprojctsave.org

**CREEK WATCH HOTLINE**
Call 891-6459 or visit www.keepchicoclean.org to find information on where to report illegal 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 SANITARY SEWER & STORM DRAIN SECTION**
To report storm drain backups or missing manholes and storm drain graters, please call 894-4200 immediately. For sewer or storm drain emergencies after 3:30pm, on weekends, or on holidays call 897-4911.

**CITY OF CHICO WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT**
4827 River Road 894-4300

**BUTTE COUNTY**
- Butte County Public Works Department, Stormwater Program 538-7266 ext. 2009
- Butte County Water Resource Conservation – www.buttecounty.net/waterandresource
- Butte County Public Works Department, Solid Waste and Recycling Division 538-7681
  - www.buttecounty.net/Departments/SolidWaste.aspx

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**
- Annual Parks & Creeks Clean-up Day – September 17th 2011
  + Join the annual city-wide effort to remove trash from our local waterways before the rainy season.
- For more information contact Butte Environmental Council at 891-6424 or visit
  - www.bcu.org
- Bidwell Park Volunteer Program
  - For information contact Lisa Smith-Peters, City of Chico Volunteer Coordinator, at 896-7831 or lispeters@ci.chico.ca.us
- Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance – www.bigchicocreek.org
- Friends of Bidwell Park – www.friendsofbidwellpark.org
- The Stream Team
  - For more information contact The Stream Team Watershed Coordinator @ 312-6620 or visit www.thestreamteam.org

**WATERSHED EDUCATION**
- Butte Environmental Council 891-6424 www.bcu.org
- Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance www.BigChicoCreek.org
  - www.kidsandcreeks.org
- The Stream Team - School-based Water Quality / Storm Water Education 341-6620 or www.thestreamteam.org

**Photo by**
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