



Chico Clean Creeks Calendar 2011



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

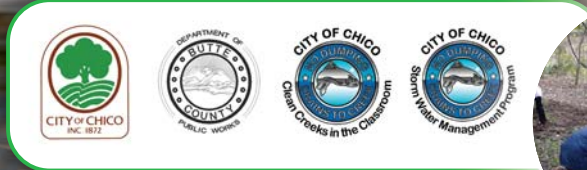
Cover photo by Paula Beehner
Thumbnail photos by T. Hamill





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



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





JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*City Holiday						New Years Day 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	*Martin Luther King Day 17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29



Recycle Your E-Waste

Top photo by Larry Leigh
Thumbnail by James B Wood

- 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.





FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*City Holiday		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16	17	18	19
20	*President's Day 21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



Litter / Cigarette Butts

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

Top photo by Karen Laslo
Thumbnail by Karen Laslo

- 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.





MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Day Light Savings Time Begins 13	14	15	16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19
First Day of Spring 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Volunteer to Make a Difference!

Top photo by Chris Nelson
Thumbnail photos by Tina Morgan & T. Hamill

- 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 @ Five Mile Picnic Area Parking Lot (9AM-12PM). For more information contact: The Stream Team Watershed Coordinator @ 342-6620 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 lspters@ci.chico.ca.us



2010 Creek Cleanup Volunteers, Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority
Photo by Tina Nguyen



APRIL

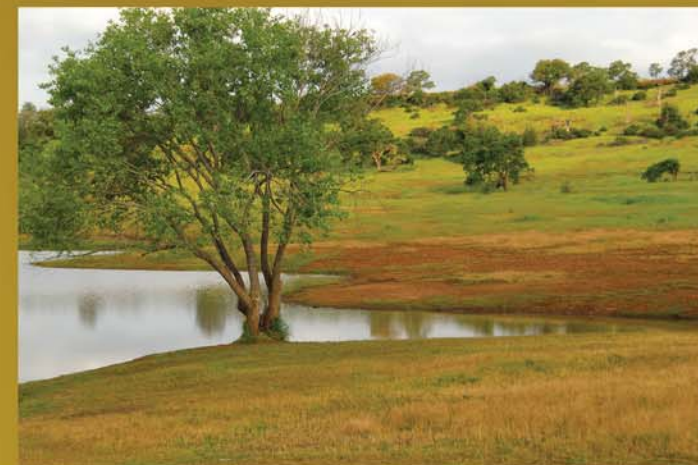
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					April Fool's Day 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	Income Tax Day 15	16
17	18	19	20	21	Earth Day 22	Earth Day Celebration in Bidwell Park 10 am – 1 pm 23
Easter 24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Hire a Clean Water Business Partner

Top photo by James B Wood
Thumbnail by Lois Olson

- **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.





MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May Day 1	2	3	4	Cinco de Mayo 5	6	7
Mother's Day 8	9	10	11	12	13	Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Monitoring Event 9 am to 12 pm 14
15	16	17	Water Awareness Festival 4-7 pm California Water Service Company 2222 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. 18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	*Memorial Day 30	31				*City Holiday



Use Water Wisely. It's Essential.

Top photo by John Whittlesey
Thumbnail by Ron Sheldorf

- 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 for more tips on how to use water efficiently and to learn about programs available in your area.





JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Monitoring Event 9 am to 12 pm
12	13	Flag Day 14	15	16	17	18
Father's Day 19	20	First Day of Summer 21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Watershed-friendly Gardening

Top photo by Ron Sheldorf
Thumbnail by Joan Walters

- 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





JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*City Holiday					1	2
3	*Independence Day 4	5	6	7	8	Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Monitoring Event 9 am to 12 pm 9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Disposable Does Not Mean Flushable!

Top photo by Paula Beehner
Thumbnail by Amy Proehl

- 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
- 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**.

Sanitary napkins, hair and underwear
Candy and other food wrappers
Cigarette butts, cotton swabs and syringes





AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Monitoring Event 9 am to 12 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Watershed-friendly Car Washing

Top photo by Kumiko Sagisaka
Thumbnail by Jennifer Oman Payne

- 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.



Chico High School Eco-friendly car wash fundraiser. Pictured is car wash kit in use.



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*City Holiday				1	2	3
4	*Labor Day 5	6	7	8	9	Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Monitoring Event 9 am to 12 pm 10
11	12	13	14	15	16	2011 Annual Parks & Creeks cleanup event 17
18	19	20	21	22	First Day of Autumn 23	24
25	26	27	Rosh HaShanah 28	29	30	



Watershed-friendly Cleaning Methods

Top photo by Pam House
Thumbnail by JD Stone

- 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.
- Visit www.safespray.com for easy-to-mix watershed-friendly recipes for household cleaning.





OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	Yom Kippur Begins 7	Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Monitoring Event 9 am to 12 pm 8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park 896-7831 22
23/30	Halloween 24/31	25	26	27	28	29



CFL Recycling

Top photo by Chuck Beehner
Thumbnail by Theresa Brown

- 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.





NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*City Holiday		1	2	3	4	5
Daylight Savings Ends 6	7	8	9	10	*Veteran's Day 11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	*Thanksgiving 24	*Day After Thanksgiving 25	26
27	28	29	30			



Home Improvement

Top photo by Steve McDonald
Thumbnail by Steve McDonald

- 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.





DECEMBER

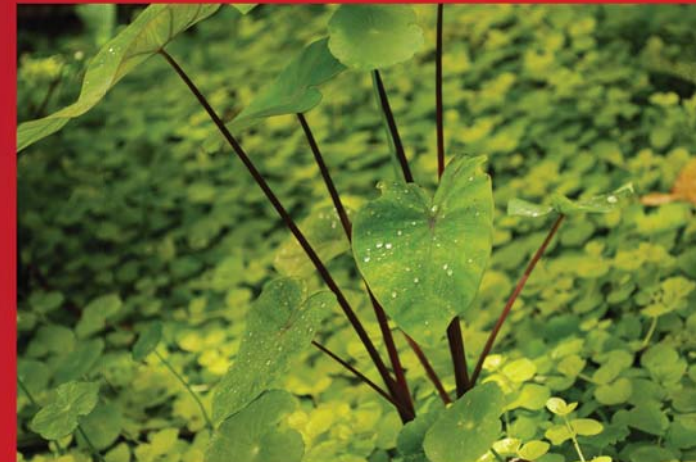
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*City Holiday				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	Hanukkah Begins 20	21	First Day of Winter 22	23	Christmas Eve 24
Christmas Day 25	*Christmas Holiday 26	27	28	29	30	New Years Eve 31



Auto Care & Repair

Top photo by Larry Leigh
Thumbnail by Tim Milhorn

- 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 Water 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 DeHart 345-9907
Cleanrite Buildrite 891-0333
www.cleanrite-buildrite.com

Dean's Upholstery and Carpet Care 345-0832
Lincoln Cleaning & Restoration 895-0646
www.lincolncleaning.com

Service Master Select 342-7976
www.servicemasterselect.com
SJS Carpet Cleaning 898-0101
Sunrise Carpet Cleaners 891-4113
www.sunrisecarpet.biz

Equipment Suppliers

Industrial Equipment 893-2125
www.industrial-equipment.biz

General Contractors

Home Prep 897-0274
Andy Willhoit, Contractor #756653
www.HomePrep.net

Landscape Contractors

Dugan's Landscape 893-4548
East Meets West Landscaping & Gardening 345-6304
Ewing Irrigation 894-5900
www.ewing1.com
Gaia Creations Ecological Landscaping 321-9715
www.gaiacreationsecoland.com
Greenscape 588-4794
www.greenscapecare.com
KCL Custom Landscapes 896-1211
Lawns-R-Us 893-4450
Lifescapes 894-5433 www.lifescapes.us
Performance Design & Landscape 879-0999
Sierra Landscape & Maintenance Inc. 895-0263
www.sierralandscapinc.com

Nurseries

Floral Native Nursery 892-2511
Geffray's Gardens 345-2849
Native Springs Nursery 514-8578
www.nativespringnursery.com
Spring Fever Nursery & Gardens 534-1556

Pressure Washer Contractors

Olli's Pressure Washing, Inc. 895-8447
Michael Watson Painting 343-8470
www.michaelwatsonpainting.com

Vehicle Maintenance Contractors

Russ' Auto Detailing/Windshield Repair
Free pick-up & Delivery 898-9524

RESOURCES

Alternative Cleaning & Gardening Information

www.safespray.com – Spray bottles imprinted with homemade cleaning, gardening and veggie/produce wash recipes. A Chico based company). Enter coupon code "Chico Clean Creeks" for one FREE spray bottle with any purchase.

www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm

www.ecologycenter.org/factsheets/cleaning.html

www.OurWaterOurWorld.org

Waste Disposal, Reuse & Recycling

Household Hazardous Waste Facility,
1101 Marauder St., Chico, Call 1-866-429-2288,
www.buttecounty.net/RecycleButte.aspx
(Paint, solvents, garden/cleaning products,
automotive fluids, mercury and E-waste products)

North Valley Organic Recycling, Cohasset Rd.,
Chico 624-3529 (unpainted/untreated 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.chicoprojectsave.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 manhole and storm drain grates, please call 894-4200 immediately. For sewer or storm drain emergencies after 3:30 pm, 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/PublicWorks/Divisions/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.becnet.org

Bidwell Park Volunteer Program

For information contact Lise Smith-Peters, City of Chico Volunteer Coordinator, at 896-7831 or lspters@ci.chico.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 @ 342-6620 or www.thestreamteam.org

WATERSHED EDUCATION

Butte Environmental Council 891-6424 www.becnet.org
Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance www.BigChicoCreek.org
Kids & Creeks – Hands-on science education for public school children.
www.kidsandcreeks.org

The Stream Team – School-based Water Quality / Storm Water Education 342-6620 or www.thestreamteam.org

Photo by
Bethany Pinegar



Photo by
Christina Landrie



Photo by
CHS student
Julia Thomas



Photo by
CHS student
Kasey Barnett



Photo by
Dustin Peterson



Photo by
Gary Wagner



Photo by
Jennifer Johnson



Photo by
Jessica Swope



Photo by
Alan Sund



Photo by
Mikki Ashe



Photo by
Tina Nguyen



Photo by
Jane King



Photo by
CHS student
Stefano DiSano



Photo by
DeAnne Long



Photo by
CHS student
Nate Long



Photo by
CHS student
Kathy Her



Photo by
J. Murphy



Photo by
Chris Devine



Photo by
Maggie Gisske



Photo by
Justin Brown

