Chico Clean Creeks
Calendar 2014
GET INVOLVED

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!

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. Stream Team events are posted throughout the calendar (April - Sept).

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: 530-342-6620 or thamil@sunset.net or www.thestreamteam.org or by mail:
California Urban Streams Alliance-The Stream Team
1282 Filbert Ave., Chico CA 95926

The Chico Clean Creeks Calendar is an annual production of the City of Chico’s Storm Water Management Program. Its goal is to highlight and celebrate the many waterways within our city’s influence and to encourage residents to help protect them from storm water runoff pollution. The calendar features wonderful photography submitted by Chico area residents, features many volunteer opportunities, and encourages the practice of several best management practices (BMPs), all with the aim of helping to keep our waterways clean and healthy. Be sure to refer to the back page of the calendar for helpful resources and a list of Clean Water Business Partners. Visit www.keepchicoclean.org to learn more.
The Bidwell Park and City Greenways Program

The Bidwell Park and City Greenways 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. The Park Division runs weekly volunteer session in Bidwell Park and in the City's greenways and hosts several large volunteer workdays, such as Earth Day in Bidwell Park and Greenways on April 19, 2014 and Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park and Greenways on October 25, 2014. Volunteer sessions for special groups may be arranged through the Park Division.

For information, contact Lise Smith-Peters, City of Chico Park Services Coordinator at 530-896-7831 or email: lise.smith-peters@chicoca.gov

http://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 partially funded by the City of Chico.

www.kidsandcreeks.org
Recycle Your 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”.

- 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.

Photo: One Mile by Cindy Christensen
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 (April - Sept). 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 September 20, 2014. 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 lise.smith-peters@chicoca.gov

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**Photo by:** Paula Schultz

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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.

Hire a Clean Water Business Partner

They care about our creeks!

Photo: One Mile Dam by Don Bantum
Thumbnail Photo: Lauri Massoletti
May 2014

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Use Water Wisely. It’s Essential.

- **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
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, or dumping on the ground or down storm drains.

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:

1. 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 information and resources.

2. If you wash your car at home, wash it on your lawn or gravel area where waste water can soak into the ground way from drainage areas;

3. Or use an automatic shut-off pressurized nozzle to conserve water and to minimize runoff;

4. If you use soap, use vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps and follow the directions carefully.

5. Or take your car to an automatic car wash that uses a closed loop washing system.

6. Or wash your car at a self-service coin-operation car wash.

Photo: California Park by Jeremy Vesely

If you wash your car at home, wash it on your lawn or gravel area where waste water can soak into the ground way from drainage areas;

And use an automatic shut-off pressurized nozzle to conserve water and to minimize runoff;
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.
  
  - Using a piece of stiff cardboard, gently scoop debris fragments into a plastic bag and seal.
  
  - If a bulb breaks on carpet, use sticky tape to first pick up small pieces and powder and then 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 Ma-rauder St.
- Home Depot, 2580 Notre Dame Blvd.
- Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH), 231 W. East Ave.
- Park Village True Value, 1646 Park Ave.

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**Event Dates**

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*City Holiday

*Labor Day

**First Day of Autumn**

**Rosh HaShanah**

Photo: Five Mile by Ron Schelldorf

2014 Annual Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup Event

Stream Team Water Quality Monitoring 9 am

2014 Annual Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup Event, 891-6424 more info
City of Chico Wastewater System

Sanitary Sewer System

The City of Chico’s Sanitary Sewer System facilities include 227 miles of gravity sewer pipelines, four miles of force mains, and 13 lift pump stations. The City regularly schedules preventative maintenance tasks on all facilities in order to prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) that may occur from root intrusion, clogs in the sewer from improper items flushed, and Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) buildup.

Small diameter pipes or laterals connect homes or business’ to the City’s Sanitary Sewer System main pipelines. Maintenance of the laterals are the responsibility of the property owner.

Water Pollution Control Plant

The final destination for the City’s wastewater is located four miles southwest of downtown at the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). The WPCP is capable of treating up to 12 Million Gallons of wastewater per Day (MGD) through a physical and chemical process utilizing both anaerobic and aerobic bacteria in order to meet discharge limitations that are set for the WPCP by a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which allows the City to discharge the treated effluent to the Sacramento River.

By safely collecting, transporting, and adequately treating Chico’s wastewater, the City of Chico helps to protect the public health and the environment.
### 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.
Never dump auto fluids down storm drains or other areas.

Used oil from a single oil change can pollute more than 250 thousand 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.
RESOURCES

Alternative Cleaning & Gardening Information
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 538-7881
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

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 Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup Event - September 20, 2014
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 and City Greenways Volunteer Program
For information contact Lise Smith-Peters, City of Chico Volunteer Coordinator, at 896-9630 or lise.smith-peters@chicoca.gov
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
The Stream Team - School-based Water Quality / Storm Water Education 342-6620 or www.thestreamteam.org
The Chico Creek Nature Center - offers environmental educational school programs and spring and summer day camps for children pre-k-6th grades.
1968 E. 8th St. Chico, CA 95928
891-4671

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 895-0333
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
SJ’S Carpet Cleaning 896-0100
Sunrise Carpet Cleaners 891-4113
www.sunrisecarpet.biz

General Contractors
Home Prep 897-0274 NAHB Certified
Green Remodeling / Room Additions / Resale Improvements / Aging-in-Place
www.ChicoRemodel.com
Chico Green Builders 342-8267

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

Landscaping 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.gaiacreationslcsland.com
Greenland Services 717-3000
Greenscape 888-4794
www.greenscape.com
KCL Custom Landscapes 519-1211
Lawns-R-Us 893-4450
Lifescapes 884-5433 www.lifescapes.us
Performance Design & Landscape 879-0999
Sierra Landscape & Maintenance Inc. 895-0263
www.sierralandscapeinc.com

Nurseries
Floral Native Nursery 892-2511
Geffray’s Gardens 345-2949
Native Springs Nursery 774-4362
www.nativespringsnursery.com
Spring Fever Nursery & Gardens 534-1556

Pervious Concrete
A & A Concrete Supply 342-5989

Painting/Pressure Washer Contractors
Oll’s Pressure Washing, Inc. 895-8447
Michael Watson Painting 343-8470
www.michaelwatsonpainting.com
Clean Green Industries 345-2522
www.cleanupindustries.net

Vehicle Maintenance Contractors
Covert Window Tinting 342-3559
Russ’ Auto Detailing/Windshield Repair
Free pick-up & Delivery 896-9524

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.

See more nature photography from our contributing photographers
Don Bantum, http://www.donbantumphotography.com/
Larry Leigh, www.photographybylarryleigh.com
John Peters, @ Bidwell Park Arts on Facebook
Paula Schultz, www.paulasphotoart.smugmug.com/
orobertwoodward