

BIDWELL PARK PARAGLIDING PERMIT RULES AND GUIDELINES

Continued flying in Bidwell Park very much depends upon the conduct and cooperation of pilots and their flying activities. Please respect all rules, pedestrians, natural features, plants, and animals. Please use diplomacy and courtesy with all dealings with park authorities, visitors, and fellow pilots. Each pilot flying in Bidwell Park is expected to uphold and enforce the flying rules established for this site.

Pilot Qualifications:

1. All pilots must obtain a permit from the City's General Services Department before flying in Bidwell Park.
2. All pilots must be current members of the United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (USHPA).
3. Pilots must possess at a minimum of a USHPA intermediate rating of Para 3.
4. Pilots with a USHPA beginner rating (Para 2) may fly provided that they obtain a City permit and are accompanied by another pilot who possesses a City permit and a Para 3 rating or higher.
5. All pilots must fly with a reserve parachute.

Launching:

1. There are three designated take-off sites in Bidwell Park, shown on the attached map as Monkey Face (Site #1), Julian's (Site #2) and Rattlesnake (Site #3). **All launches must be made from these sites.**
2. Only one pilot launching and one setting up are permitted on each site.
3. A pilot familiar with the site should accompany pilots flying the site for the first time.
4. Pilots should make every effort to minimize their effect on the launching zone. This includes no digging, removing or moving rocks, and pulling any plant life (with the exception of Star Thistle).

Flying:

1. **Motorized Paragliding is prohibited.**
2. No glider shall be flown in any manner, which intentionally exceeds its manufacturer's maximum recommended limits (see wing placard).
3. No acrobatics are permitted in Bidwell Park.
4. Avoid flying over or around horses.

Landing Zones:

1. The landing site for the lower fly zone is Horseshoe Lake Area. Please use the designated primary zone. Do not land anywhere but this location. There are three alternate locations to be used **for emergency purposes only.**
2. The landing zone for the upper fly zone is at Bear Hole on the west side (down stream) of the parking lot. All landings must be made in the Designated Landing Zone. An alternate zone is the upstream side of the parking area **for emergency purposes only.**
3. The first pilot to land in a group should keep the landing zone clear of spectators for the rest of the group. **It is the responsibility of the pilots to avoid people in the landing area.**
4. Pilots are expected to fold their canopies immediately after landing and clear the landing zone.

Pilots Responsibilities:

1. **Laws:** Pilots must comply with all City, State, and Federal (FAA) regulations governing flying and visitor use (parking, littering, no alcohol, no overnight camping, etc.).
2. **Safety:** Pilots are responsible for their own safety and the safety of other pilots and spectators.
3. **Judgment:** Good judgment is a necessary part of aviation. It requires a thorough knowledge of the limitations of your aircraft, your abilities, and the prevailing conditions (such as sufficient **altitude** and wind **penetration**). When deciding if you are going to fly, take all things into consideration.
4. **Self-Regulation:** It is each pilot's responsibility to **uphold** and **enforce** these rules and guidelines and to cooperate with the Park Rangers. A pilot observing another pilot in violation of these rules should endeavor to enforce the rules as follows:
 - a. Explain to the pilot that (s)he is in violation of the rules or guidelines; request compliance.
 - b. If unsuccessful in gaining compliance, politely inform the pilot that you are obligated to report him/her to a Park Ranger if the violation continues.
 - c. Report the pilot to any Park Ranger. Contact the site director and make a verbal report.
5. **Be Conscientious about protecting Wildlife** – Avoid flying in the area near South Rim where peregrine falcons have been seen, especially during their nesting season between February and June. For updates on other wildlife issues, call the Park Division at 530-896-7800.
5. **Enforcement:** A pilot violating the rules set forth by this permit and the Chico Municipal Code may be issued a citation.

Name

USHPA License No.: _____

Address

USHPA License Expiration Date: _____

Permit Expiration Date: _____

Telephone

Email

In signing this Permit, I agree to indemnify and hold the City of Chico and/or the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission free and clear of all claims of damage for injury to persons or property occurring in, upon or about Bidwell Park, and arising from my use of the park as noted above, and to defend any action against the City of Chico resulting from any such claim, without cost to the City.

**I certify that I have carefully and thoroughly read these rules and guidelines, understand its contents, will comply with the conditions set forth by this permit and the Chico Municipal Code, and supplied true and correct information herein to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

X _____
Signature

Date

Office Use: Received By: _____
