



CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
(Commissioners Emmerich, Moravec, and Brentwood, Chair)
March 8, 2012, 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Center - 421 Main Street, Conference Room 2

Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection in the Park Division Office at 965 Fir Street during normal business hours or online at <http://www.chico.ca.us/>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.1. Continues Discussion On Natural Resources Management Plan – Draft Management Units, Middle Bidwell Park.

At the 1/12/12 NRC meeting, a public dialogue and opportunity for input was initiated to update Bidwell Park's Natural Resources Management Plan. The Committee through several meetings will review a draft of management units for Bidwell Park. The new proposed management units will assist park staff in communicating goals, tracking progress and provide a more effective description of areas to park crew, volunteers and emergency responders. The Committee seeks public input to help identify the Park's Landmarks and names. Staff anticipates several meetings are needed to consider various elements of the Natural Resource Management Plan and to receive public input. This item focuses on Middle Park. *Staff seeks input on the draft Management Units and developing names for certain Middle Park landmarks.*

2.2. Continues Discussion on Trails Plan – Public Input on Middle Bidwell Park Trails.

At the NRC meeting on 1/12/12, the NRC discussed and gathered public feedback on the development of a Trails Plan for Bidwell Park, with focus on Lower Park trails. The NRC continues this discussion with a brief inventory of existing Middle Park trails and solicitation of public input on problems, needs, and attributes. A future meeting will gather information for Upper Park. *Staff seeks public input on Middle Park trails that will aid in the development of a Bidwell Park Trails Plan.*

3. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Members of the public may address the Committee at this time on any matter not already listed on the agenda; comments are limited to three minutes. The Committee cannot take any action at this meeting on requests made under this section of the agenda.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to the next regular meeting on 04/12/12 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2, Chico Municipal Center building (421 Main Street, Chico, California).



Please contact the Park Division Office at (530) 896-7800 if you require an agenda in an alternative format or if you need to request a disability-related modification or accommodation. This request should be received at least three working days prior to the meeting.



DATE: 02/28/12
TO: Natural Resource Committee
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Parks and Natural Resources Manager
SUBJECT: Continues Discussion on Natural Resources Management Plan – Draft Management Units, Middle Bidwell Park.

Recommendation

Staff seeks feedback on a draft of Management Units for Middle Bidwell Park and seeks input for developing names for certain Lower and Middle Park landmarks.

Report in Brief

At its 01/12/12 meeting, the NRC reviewed and discussed draft management units for Lower Park (see NRC Agenda and Reports for 1/12/12 online). The group discussed the desire to have the units reflect the history of the areas they represent if possible. They discussed the importance of placing names on the bridges so they are clearly identified and can be used as landmarks and the possibility of having more maps located in the park that show where people are and to help with directions for emergency rescues. Staff explained that the management units will help communicate goals and track progress for the various areas of Bidwell Park. The new management units will aid with the description of threats, issues, and remedies, and also provide a more effective description of areas to park crew, volunteers and emergency responders.

Staff anticipates several NRC meetings are needed to consider the various elements of the management units and to receive public input.

Analysis

Our approach to establishing management areas is different than that for vegetation communities and relies on landmarks such as roads, access, and geographic features. Since each area will encompass different vegetation communities, the approach will be different in sub areas of a unit. For example, annual grassland occupies roughly 10% of Bidwell Park; however, these areas are distributed in over 50 separate areas of the park; and it will be more effective for goals for this community to be folded into the operational approach for particular areas.

One principal criterion for defining these areas is that each area will be readily identifiable in the field and share access points. Based on a combination of the 32 management zones defined in the 1994 plan for the Park (Hardesty 1989) and current needs, we've identified the following management units (Figure 1).

Each area has been given a descriptive name, and a management unit code. The code denotes the area of the park (Upper, Middle, Lower), and a numbering system that starts from north to south and west to east. For example, Middle Park units will receive the code MP-#. The sections below will provide a description of the area, a list of infrastructure or improvements, invasive plant issues, vegetation communities and special considerations. In addition, each unit will be evaluated for resource issues, strategies, recommended practices, safety issues, communication needs, etc. Staff seeks input on the boundaries and names of these proposed management units. The revised names will be used for the Management Plan.

Middle Park Management Units (temporary names/descriptors)

- MP-1 Wildwood
 - a. West
 - b. East
- MP-2 Hooker Oak
- MP-3 Grassland
 - a. West
 - b. East
- MP-4 North Rim

MP-5 Golf Course

- a. East
- b. West

MP-6 Horseshoe Lake

MP-7 Five Mile

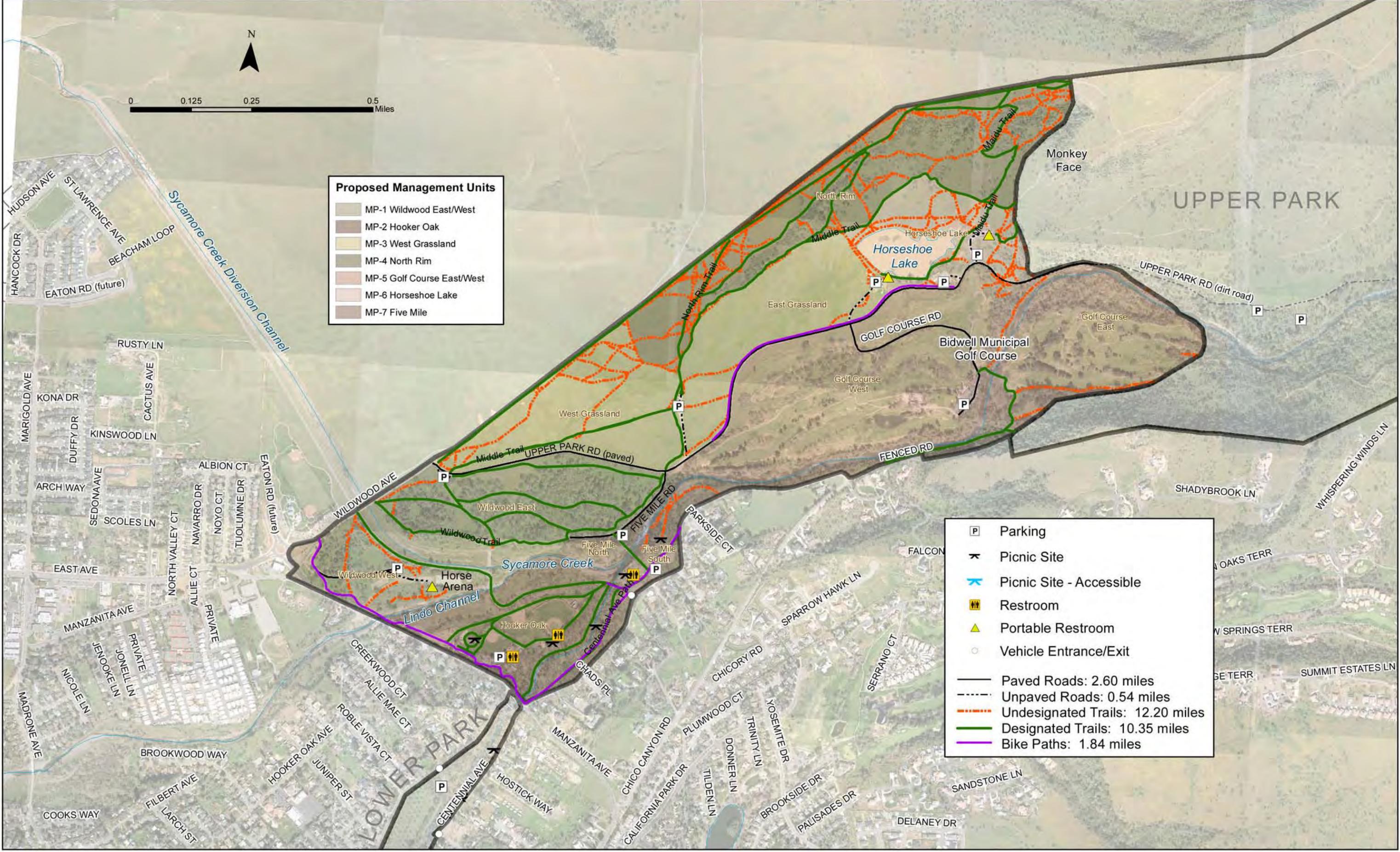
- a. South
- b. North

The lists represent an interim step toward creating Middle Park management zones. Species list and management strategies pertaining to these zones will be discussed at future committee meetings. Staff will develop specific management strategies and annual goals for the highest priority species.

Attachments: Figure 1 Middle Park Management Units and trails

Distribution: BPPC and trail user email list-serve.

MIDDLE BIDWELL PARK - TRAILS INVENTORY



Proposed Management Units

- MP-1 Wildwood East/West
- MP-2 Hooker Oak
- MP-3 West Grassland
- MP-4 North Rim
- MP-5 Golf Course East/West
- MP-6 Horseshoe Lake
- MP-7 Five Mile

- Parking
- Picnic Site
- Picnic Site - Accessible
- Restroom
- Portable Restroom
- Vehicle Entrance/Exit
- Paved Roads: 2.60 miles
- Unpaved Roads: 0.54 miles
- Undesignated Trails: 12.20 miles
- Designated Trails: 10.35 miles
- Bike Paths: 1.84 miles



DATE: 03/05/2012
TO: Natural Resources Committee
FROM: Dan Efseaff, Park and Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: Continues Discussion on Trails Plan – Public Input on Middle Bidwell Park Trails

RECOMMENDATION

Staff seeks public input on Middle Park trails that will aid in the development of a Bidwell Park Trails Plan.

BACKGROUND

A Trails Plan was conceptually approved by the BPPC in 2002; however the plan was not finalized. A draft Trails Plan was included as part of the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan (BPMMP) as Appendix E., and the BPMMP called for the development of a more refined trails plan. A Trails Plan serves as a guide for future trail maintenance, improvement, construction, and closure within Bidwell Park. It will also help prioritize budget expenditures and ensure that future improvements support the goals set forth by the City of Chico for the Park. The purpose of this Trails Plan in the context of the overall planning process for Bidwell Park is to ensure that any work undertaken as part of Trails Plan implementation is consistent with the vision for Bidwell Park as well as the goals and objectives set forth in the BPMMP (EDAW 2008).

The BPMMP notes that the Trails Plan contained the following assumptions:

- Trails that are functioning correctly and safely will remain.
Utilize functioning existing trail corridors for relocations or combined new trail routes where possible.
New trails should be carefully located to avoid impacts to sensitive resources to the greatest extent possible.
Re-routing of existing trails should be considered where the trail can no longer be maintained in its current location due to issues such as steep slopes, legally protected cultural or natural resources, groundwater seep, erosion or where user safety will be jeopardized.
No specific plan revisions or re-alignments of trails shall occur without careful evaluation of impacts on trails within those areas and their connections within the overall Park system.
Reasonable restoration of soils and plant communities should accompany trail route closures where exposure of significant soilless hard pan surface or other significant erosion has occurred.
Trails that provide duplicative access or experiences should be closed.

This agenda item restarts the effort with the collection of public input to help develop a trails system in the Park that meets visitor and resource needs. The Committee will seek input from the public on their perceptions of problems (what they don't like), attributes (what they do like), needs (what would improve things), special considerations (concerns or issues), and improving the inventory of existing trails.

Table 1. Preliminary Trail Distances Bidwell Park, Chico, California. (revised 3/5/12)

Table with 6 columns: Area, Roads (mi), Bike Paths (mi), Designated Trails (mi), Undesignated Trails (mi), Total (mi). Rows include Upper, Middle, Lower, and Total.

Notes: Data are preliminary and will be refined with further analysis and verification. Other areas to be determined.

This is one of the first steps in the development of a revised Trails Plan. We will follow a similar process as we develop information for trails in Upper Park. All of the information will be folded into the Trails Plan.

Attachments: None

Distribution: BPPC and Trail email list-serve