



CITY OF CHICO
BIDWELL PARK AND PLAYGROUND COMMISSION (BPPC)
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Agenda
January 17, 2018, 6 p.m.

Chico Municipal Center Council Chamber Building - 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. CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE PARKING FEE FOR UPPER BIDWELL PARK.

At its 12/18/17 meeting, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) considered the Policy Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding possibly charging a parking fee in Upper Bidwell Park. The BPPC requested that the Committee further review the costs, potential revenues, and enforcement capabilities of this concept and report back to the Commission.

Recommendation: *None at this time. Staff requests that the Committee review and provide input on the information provided in the Staff report, and that this item be continued until after the public survey is distributed and analyzed.*

2.2. CONSIDERATION OF REVISING THE CLOSING TIME FOR LOWER BIDWELL PARK

Currently, the closing time for Lower Bidwell Park and most City parks is midnight. At its meeting on 12/18/17 meeting, the BPPC approved the Committee's request to discuss possibly closing Lower Bidwell Park earlier.

Recommendation: *Staff requests that the Committee review and provide a recommendation on the concept of closing Lower Bidwell Park earlier.*

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

Unless otherwise noticed, adjourn to the next regular meeting on February 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1, Chico Municipal Center Council Chamber Building located at 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. If possible, this request should be received at least three (3) working days prior to the meeting.



Policy Advisory Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date 1/17/18

DATE: 1/14/18
 TO: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)
 FROM: Linda Herman, Parks & Natural Resource Manager
 SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE PARKING FEE FOR UPPER BIDWELL PARK

REPORT IN BRIEF:

At its 12/18/17 meeting, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) considered the Policy Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding possibly charging a parking fee in Upper Bidwell Park. The BPPC requested that the Committee further review the costs, potential revenues, and enforcement capabilities of this concept and report back to the Commission.

Recommendation: *None at this time. Staff requests that the Committee review and provide input on the information provided in the Staff report, and that this item be continued until after the public survey is distributed and analyzed.*

BACKGROUND:

At its meeting on xxx, the Policy Advisory Committee reviewed a proposal from Staff that the Committee and the BPPC consider possibly establishing a parking fee for Upper Bidwell Park to help provide funding for maintaining the road, and provide more park amenities, such as more parking. At the meeting, the Committee reviewed the following fees charged by other agencies for regional parks use:

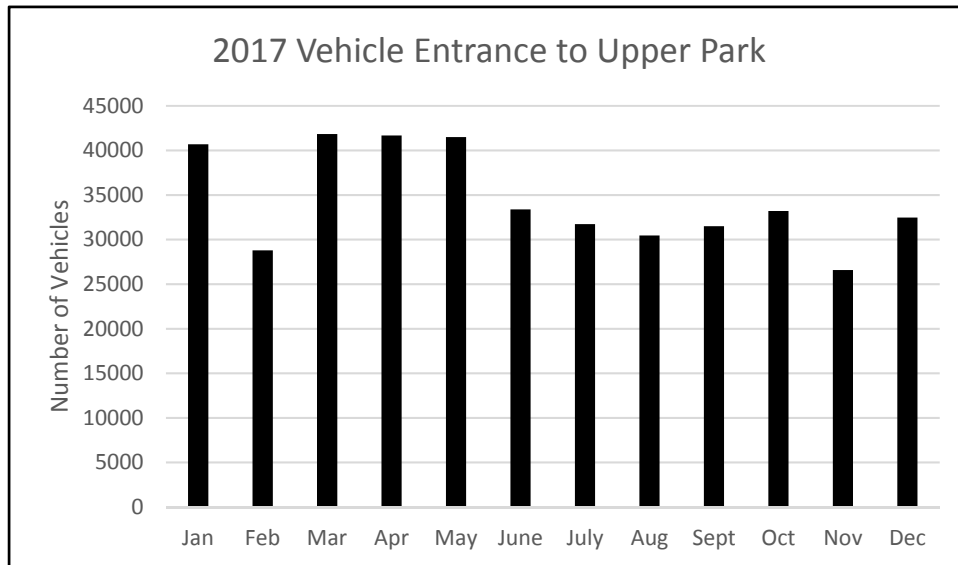
Agency	Parking Fee	Annual Pass Fee	Senior and other Discounted Pass	Disabled Rate	Payment Method K=Kiosk B=Onsite Booth M=Mail O=Online IP=In-person (Office)
CA State Parks (Lake Oroville/Woodson Bridge)	\$6-8	\$125 (statewide)	\$1 discount	Free	O, IP
National Parks (Lassen/Whiskey Town)	\$20/vehicle	\$40/yr	\$20/yr. \$80/lifetime	Free	O, IP, M
Yolo County	\$6/vehicle	\$75/yr.	\$30/yr.	Free	IP
San Luis Obispo County	\$10	\$100	\$90	\$90	
Marin County	\$5 (M-F) \$10 (Wkend/Holiday)	\$90	\$40	\$40	IP
Sacramento	\$5 (M-F) \$8 (Wkend/Holiday)	\$50	\$10		B,K,IP,O
City of San Jose	\$6/vehicle	\$80	\$30	\$30	K, B,IP, M
City of Vacaville	\$3/vehicle	\$50	n/a	n/a	IP
City of Fairfield	\$3/vehicle	\$64	\$20	\$20	K, B

The Committee recommended (3-0) that the BPPC consider approving a \$1 per vehicle daily fee, an annual pass fee of \$50, and no parking fees for senior citizens over age 60 and for the disabled. On 12/18/17, the BPPC sent the item back to the Committee for further discussion.

DISCUSSION:

Potential Revenue:

In March 2016, a permanent traffic counter was installed under the asphalt in the right lane on Wildwood Avenue, just past the main entrance gate to help determine the number of vehicles that enter Upper Bidwell Park every day. During the 2017 calendar year, 413,756 vehicles were detected as entering Upper Bidwell Park. The monthly breakdown of the 2017 vehicle use is depicted in the graph below.



Using this data, a \$1/vehicle fee could result in over \$400,000 in additional annual revenue that could be used to repair and maintain Upper Park Road, to add additional parking facilities, better signage, or for other Upper Park amenities. However, it is likely that this number would be less depending on the number of seniors and disabled users and the number of annual parking passes purchased.

Staff is recommending that parking passes be issued to entities that lease facilities in Upper Bidwell Park, such as the Bidwell Park Golf Course, the Observatory, the Chico Rod and Gun Club, and the Chico Equestrian Center, to distribute to their members to allow its members to park in their facility lots for free. This would also reduce the number of parking revenues generated. Free parking could also be made available at the parking lot on the south side of the creek at the Five Mile Recreation area.

Estimated Costs:

The estimated costs to install a kiosk at the Wildwood Avenue entrance is approximately \$10,000. The annual maintenance costs are unknown at this time since the costs maintenance of the downtown kiosks are not separately itemized from all parking meter costs.

It is anticipated that Park Rangers would provide the initial enforcement of the parking as part of their normal patrols in Upper Park, but it is possible that the downtown parking attendants may also be available for enforcement. Additional staffing would be needed if there was a staffed booth instead of a kiosk, which would far exceed the cost of a kiosk since Upper Park is open from 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the winter, and until 11:00 p.m. during the summer months.

Public Survey:

In addition, Staff added a question regarding the parking fee be added to the Upper Park Road Survey to help garner the public's input on the proposed fee. The BPPC reviewed the draft survey questions and directed staff to illicit the help of CSU, Chico to review and provide recommendations on the survey questions and analyze the results. Staff is working with Dr. Diane Schmidt on the survey, who is a Professor and Senior Faculty member in Public Administration and Policy Analysis section of the Department of Political Science. Dr. Schmidt recommended that the parking fee question be revised as follows:

Improving Upper Bidwell Park road and facilities will require additional funding to maintain.

What is the maximum parking fee per vehicle you would pay to maintain the Upper Bidwell Park road, trails, and facilities?

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 per day | <input type="checkbox"/> \$4 per day | <input type="checkbox"/> \$3 per day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2 per day | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 per day | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would not pay for parking | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | |

What is the maximum you would pay for an annual unlimited parking pass to help maintain the Upper Bidwell Park road, trails, and facilities?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 per year | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I would not buy an annual pass | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | |

Staff intends to conduct the survey online through Survey Monkey on the City's website. The survey will be announced by a press release later this month and participants will have 30-days to respond. Staff will distribute the press release and website link to the various stakeholder groups, such as Chico Velo, Chico Equestrian Association, Lassen Native Plant Society. requesting that they please share the information with their members. As directed by the BPPC, the survey will also be conducted in person by volunteers in Upper Bidwell Park, and Dr. Schmidt also recommended that it be available during the Saturday Farmers Market.

Staff recommends that the discussion regarding whether to charge a vehicle fee in Upper Bidwell park be continued until after the public survey is disseminated and the analyzed.



Policy Advisory Committee Staff Report

Meeting Date 1/17/18

DATE: 1/14/18
TO: Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC)
FROM: Linda Herman, Parks & Natural Resource Manager
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF REVISING THE CLOSING TIME FOR LOWER BIDWELL PARK

REPORT IN BRIEF:

Currently, the closing time for Lower Bidwell Park and most City parks is midnight. At its meeting on 12/18/17 meeting, the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC) approved the Committee's request to discuss possibly closing Lower Bidwell Park earlier.

Recommendation: *Staff requests that the Committee review and provide a recommendation on the concept of closing Lower Bidwell Park earlier.*

DISCUSSION:

Although Lower Bidwell Park is closed to vehicles earlier, Section 12R.04.370 of the Chico Municipal Code (CMC) establishes closing times for all users for City Parks and greenways as follows:

12R.04.370 Closure of parks.

- A. Unless authorized by permit issued by the city of Chico, it is unlawful for any person to be present in any of the parks set forth in subsection
- B. The following parks shall be closed between the hours of 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and 5:00 a.m., Pacific Time:
 - 1. Lower Bidwell Park;
 - 2. Children's Park;
 - 3. Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater;
 - 4. Depot Park;
 - 5. Ringel Park;
 - 6. Wildwood Park
 - 7. All city-owned Greenways;
 - 8. All city-owned neighborhood parks.
- C. Middle and Upper Bidwell Park shall be closed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. of the following day, Pacific Time.
- D. City Plaza shall be closed between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., Pacific Time.
- E. The following exceptions shall apply to this section, if the person is:
 - 1. Directly and actively proceeding to a destination outside of the parks listed in subsection B, above; or
 - 2. A duly authorized city employee or persons participating in city activities or other activities for which the city has provided written permission to utilize a park beyond the closing time.
- F. The director may temporarily close any park or a portion of any park within the city whenever the director determines that such closure is necessary for the protection of public safety or public property. It is unlawful for any person to be present in any park or portion of any park within the city that has been temporarily closed by the director.

The BPPC reviewed the closing of the One-Mile Recreation Area, primarily the Sycamore Pool area, in 2000, 2001, 2006 and again in 2008. Each time, the Commission voted to keep the closing times to between midnight to 5 am. The reasons stated at that time were that there were other ways to reduce noise and bad behavior than limiting access to everyone. The Committee is requested to revisit the closing times of Lower Bidwell Park and to make a recommendation on whether to recommend an earlier closing time.