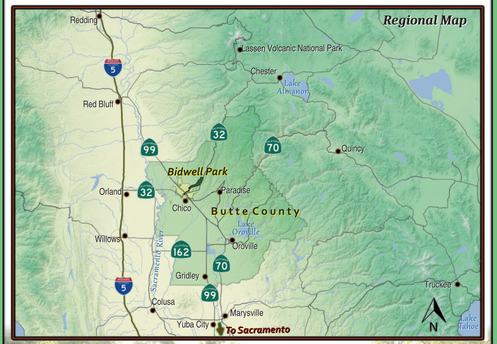
Explore Lower Bidwell Park



Bidwell Park resides upon the sacred lands of the Mechoopda Tribe that have stewarded this land since time immemorial. This land has sustained the Mechoopda people and continues to do so today. Often called the "Jewel of Chico," Bidwell Park is the greatest legacy Chico founders General John and Annie Bidwell left to the community. In 1905 Annie Bidwell granted approximately 1,902 acres to the city of Chico to be used as a public park. An additional 301 acres were granted in 1911 upon her death. It was Annie's intention that the waters and trees of Big Chico Creek be preserved. Over the years, additions to the park have brought the total park land to its current 3,670 acres. Bidwell Park now stretches nearly eleven miles, straddling both sides of Big Chico Creek from the Bidwell Mansion in downtown Chico into the foothills of Upper Park.

Sycamore Pool

Sycamore Pool was originally built in the 1920s. The unique pool is created by a dam on Big Chico Creek. Sycamore Pool is generally open from Memorial Day to Labor Day with lifeguards on duty seasonally. Closed on Thursdays for cleaning.

One-Mile Picnic Area

The One-Mile Picnic Area is an excellent site for special gatherings. The two reservable group sites can seat up to 70 people each and come equipped with tables and a large BBQ. A band stand with electric hook-ups is nearby.

Campfire Council Ring

Campfire Council Ring is a reservable location for activities such as social gatherings and educational events. A large fire pit is surrounded by benches that can accommodate up to 150 people. Wood fires by permit only.

Sycamore Field

Sycamore Field is a reservable area operated by CARD. The grass field is surrounded by historic Valley Oaks and offers a great place for recreation activities.

Caper Acres Playground

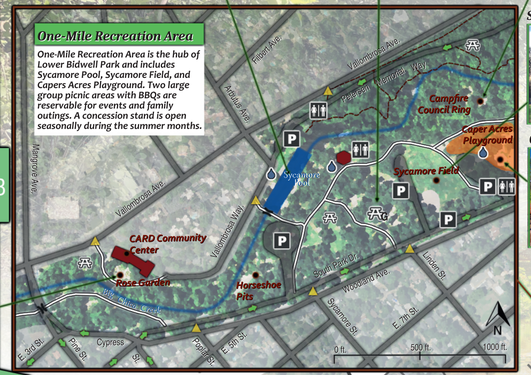
Caper Acres is a fairytale themed playground for young children ages 0 to 12 and is a perfect place to play the day away. Open at 9:00 A.M. Tuesday through Sunday. Closed on Mondays or on Tuesday if Monday is a holiday.

Vita Course

A variety of athletic challenges await visitors to this trail including stair steps, pull up bars, rings, beams, and an assortment of benches.

One-Mile Recreation Area

One-Mile Recreation Area is the hub of Lower Bidwell Park and includes Sycamore Pool, Sycamore Field, and Capers Acres Playground. Two large group picnic areas with BBQs are reservable for events and family outings. A concession stand is open seasonally during the summer months.



CARD Community Center

The main office has facilities for recreational programs and reservable multi-purpose rooms. The Creekside Rose Garden is reservable for special events. More information at chicorec.gov or (530) 895-4711.

Gateway Science Museum

Gateway Science Museum is operated by CSU, Chico and inspires the exploration of science and natural history in this region and beyond. More information at csuchico.edu/gateway or (530) 898-4121.

Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park

Bidwell Mansion, the home of John and Annie Bidwell, was built in 1868 and destroyed in a December 2024 fire. The Visitor Center is open with limited hours. More information at www.parks.ca.gov or (530) 895-6144

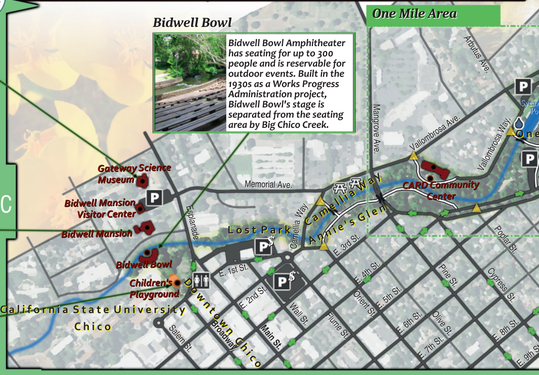
Children's Playground

Children's Playground was donated to the City of Chico in 1911 by Annie Bidwell. The scenic park area rests at the corner of CSU, Chico and Downtown Chico. There is a children's playground, large grassy area, and practice disc-golf baskets.

Bidwell Bowl

Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater has seating for up to 300 people and is reservable for outdoor events. Built in the 1930s as a Works Progress Administration project, Bidwell Bowl's stage is separated from the seating area by Big Chico Creek.

One Mile Area


Gateway Science Museum
Bidwell Mansion Visitor Center
Bidwell Mansion
Bidwell Bowl
Children's Playground
Lost Park
Annie's Glen
Camellia Way
California State University Chico
Downtown Chico
Memorial Ave.
Vallombrosa Ave.
Esplanade
Manzanita Ave.
Mangrove Ave.
Pleasant Valley Rd.
Humphrey Ave.
Woodland Ave.
Sycamore St.
Cypress St.
Pine St.
Pecan St.
E. 9th St.
E. 8th St.
E. 7th St.
E. 6th St.
E. 5th St.
E. 4th St.
E. 3rd St.
E. 2nd St.
E. 1st St.
Main St.
Salem St.
Walnut St.
Broadway St.
Wildwood Ave.
Lindo St.
Sycamore Field
Caper Acres
One Mile Recreation Area
CARD Community Center
Vita Course
Cedar Grove
Cedar Grove Area
Chico Creek Nature Center
World of Trees
Vista Verde Dr.
Bryant Ave.
Hazel Ave.
Cedar Ave.
Madrone Ave.
Forest Ave.
El Dorado Dr.
Modoc Dr.
East 8th St.
Vallombrosa Ln.
Lauren St.
Lindo St.
Pecan St.
Pine St.
Cypress St.
Sycamore St.
Woodland Ave.
Wildwood Ave.
Broadway St.
Walnut St.
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Forest Ave.
Cedar Ave.
Hazel Ave.
Bryant Ave.
Vista Verde Dr