



CHICO CLEAN CREEKS

Calendar 2013



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!

Learn how to prevent pollutants from entering our waterways!

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. 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 www.thestreamteam.org or by mail: California Urban Streams Alliance -The Stream Team. PO Box 68, Chico CA 95927

Inside Flap
Big Chico Creek, One Mile, by Jeremy Vesely

Cover photo
by Larry Leigh, Mud Creek

THE BIDWELL PARK VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Bidwell Park 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, and some specialized construction projects. The Park Division runs weekly volunteer sessions at various Bidwell Park locations throughout the year and several large annual workdays, such as Earth Day in Bidwell Park on April 20, 2013 and Make a Difference Day in Bidwell Park on October 26, 2013. Volunteer sessions for special groups can also be arranged. For more information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 530-896-7831 and check our website at

http://www.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





JANUARY

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
*City Holiday		1 *New Years Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 *Martin Luther King Jr Day	29	30	31		



Recycle Your E-Waste

Photo: Big Chico Creek by David Scott

- 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.

February 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		



FEBRUARY

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
*City Holiday					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	Valentine's Day 21	22	23
24	*President's Day 25	26	27	28		



Litter / Cigarette Butts *If it isn't rainwater, it doesn't belong in the gutter!*

*Photo: Big Chico Creek
by F Brian Andrews*

- 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.

March 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MARCH



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Savings Begins						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
St. Patrick's Day			First Day of Spring			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Easter						



Volunteer to Make a Difference!

*Photo: Mud Creek by Larry Leigh
photographybylarryleigh.com*

- 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. 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 21, 2013. 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 lspters@ci.chico.ca.us

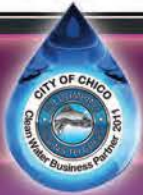
April 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



APRIL

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Event 9 am to 12 pm
14	15 Income Tax Day	16	17	18	19	20 Earth Day Celebration in Bidwell Park 10 am – 1 pm
21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



Hire a Clean Water Business Partner

*Photo: Big Chico Creek
by Linda Mendoza*

- *They care about our creeks!*
- 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.

May 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



MAY

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
*City Holiday			1 May Day	2	3	4
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9	10	11 Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Event 9 am to 12 pm
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 *Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	



Use Water Wisely. It's Essential.

Photo: Big Chico Creek by Don Bantum

- When it comes to water, nature is the ultimate recycler. The water from your garden hose may go on to help form a rain cloud or seep into the ground to feed a nearby well. Over the course of time, it may end up back in your garden hose, ready to start the whole process over again.
- 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 for more tips on how to use water efficiently and to learn about programs available in your area.

June 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



JUNE

Sunday**Monday****Tuesday****Wednesday****Thursday****Friday****Saturday**

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Event 9 am to 12 pm
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Summer	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



Watershed-friendly Gardening

Photo: Big Chico Creek
by Paula Beehner

- 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

July 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



JULY

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
*City Holiday	1	2	3	4 *Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Event 9 am to 12 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Watershed-friendly Cleaning Methods

***Photo: Sacramento River
by Larry Leigh
photographybylarryleigh.com***

- 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.
- Visit www.safespray.com for easy-to-mix watershed-friendly recipes for household cleaning.

August 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Photo by: Don Bantum



Photo by: Jon Aull



Photo by: Don Bantum

AUGUST

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Event 9 am to 12 pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Watershed-friendly Car Washing

Photo: Butte Creek by Camille de Ganon

- 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:**
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;
And do not use acid based wheel cleaners or engine degreasers;
If you use soap, use vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps and follow the directions carefully.
Or take your car to an automatic car wash that uses a closed loop washing system.
Or wash your car at a self-service coin-operation car wash.
- 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.

September 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



SEPTEMBER

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2 *Labor Day	3	4	5 Rosh HaShanah	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Yom Kippur Big Chico Creek Watershed Citizen Monitoring Program Event 9 am to 12 pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 2013 Annual Parks & Creeks Cleanup Event
22 First Day of Autumn	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					*City Holiday



CFL Recycling

Photo: Big Chico Creek by Robert Woodward

- 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 Marauder St.
Home Depot, 2580 Notre Dame Blvd.
Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH), 231 W. East Ave.
Park Village True Value, 1646 Park Ave.

October 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



OCTOBER

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		Make A Difference Day in Bidwell Park
				Halloween		



City of Chico Wastewater System

*Photo: Horseshoe Lake
by Jeremy Vesely
jeremyvesely.com*

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 (WPCP)

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.

November 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



NOVEMBER

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
*City Holiday					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Savings Ends						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	*Veteran's Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Hanukkah Begins	*Thanksgiving	*Day After Thanksgiving	



Home Improvement

Photo: Big Chico Creek by Julie Graulich

- 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.

December 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



DECEMBER

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

*Christmas Eve
 *Christmas Day
 First Day of Winter
 *City Holiday
 New Years Eve



Auto Care & Repair

Photo by: Big Chico Creek by Bob Geiser

- Never dump auto fluids down storm drains or other areas.
- Used oil from a single oil change can pollute up to one million 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.

January 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	