

Park Talk – Trails

December 1, 2010



Park Talk-Trails

Introduction

Goals – A brief preview to:

- ◆ Provide trail users with background info.
- ◆ Preview upcoming planning efforts.
- ◆ Gather input on the best ways Parks can connect with citizens.
- ◆ Provide info on how to stay involved.

Today's Meeting

- I. Introduction
- II. Role of BPPC, Staff, Committees, & the Public
- III. Past Planning and Implementation Efforts, and Documents
- IV. Interim Adaptive Wet Weather Plan
- V. Next Steps
- VI. Questions and Answers

Bidwell Park Trail Manual & MMP Trail Plan

THE GUIDE to Upper Park trail work is the Bidwell Park Trails Manual, (initially adopted in 1999; has been updated several times and most recently in 2006). Provides in-depth guidelines for planning trail projects, repairs & maintenance.

The Trails Plan (BPMMP's Appendix E) provides an initial example with objectives for the trail system.



TRAIL FOCUS 2008 – 2009

- ◆ BPPC made repair and maintenance of the Middle Trail a focus of trail work (the main jumping off point to many other Upper Park trails).
- ◆ Prior to each trail season (two ten-week seasons for crews and volunteers to work), Staff prepares and BPPC reviews and approves work programs.
- ◆ Build internal capacity of Park staff on trails.

2008 Middle Park Trail Conditions & Fixes



Middle Trail intersection north of parking lot E



Drainage lens construction



Finished drainage lens that allows water to pass under the trail.

2008 Middle Trail Repairs (cont.)



TRAIL DAYS!

- ◆ The public is welcome to participate in scheduled trail work days.



Middle Trail Rehabilitation Project

Fall 2010 start

Funding: \$175,800, CA Department of Parks and Recreation (grant submitted 2009).

Goals include:

- ◆ Rehabilitate portions of the Trail (6,040 feet) to make it more sustainable (repair erosion-damage) and trail user friendly.
- ◆ Install interpretive signs at Horseshoe Lake trail head.
- ◆ Rehabilitate and upgrade 710 feet of existing trail (in Middle Park) to add to the currently existing accessible trail (685 feet, total 1,395 feet).

Interim (Adaptive) Wet Weather Management Plan



Chico Environmental Science and Planning (October, 2009)

Background



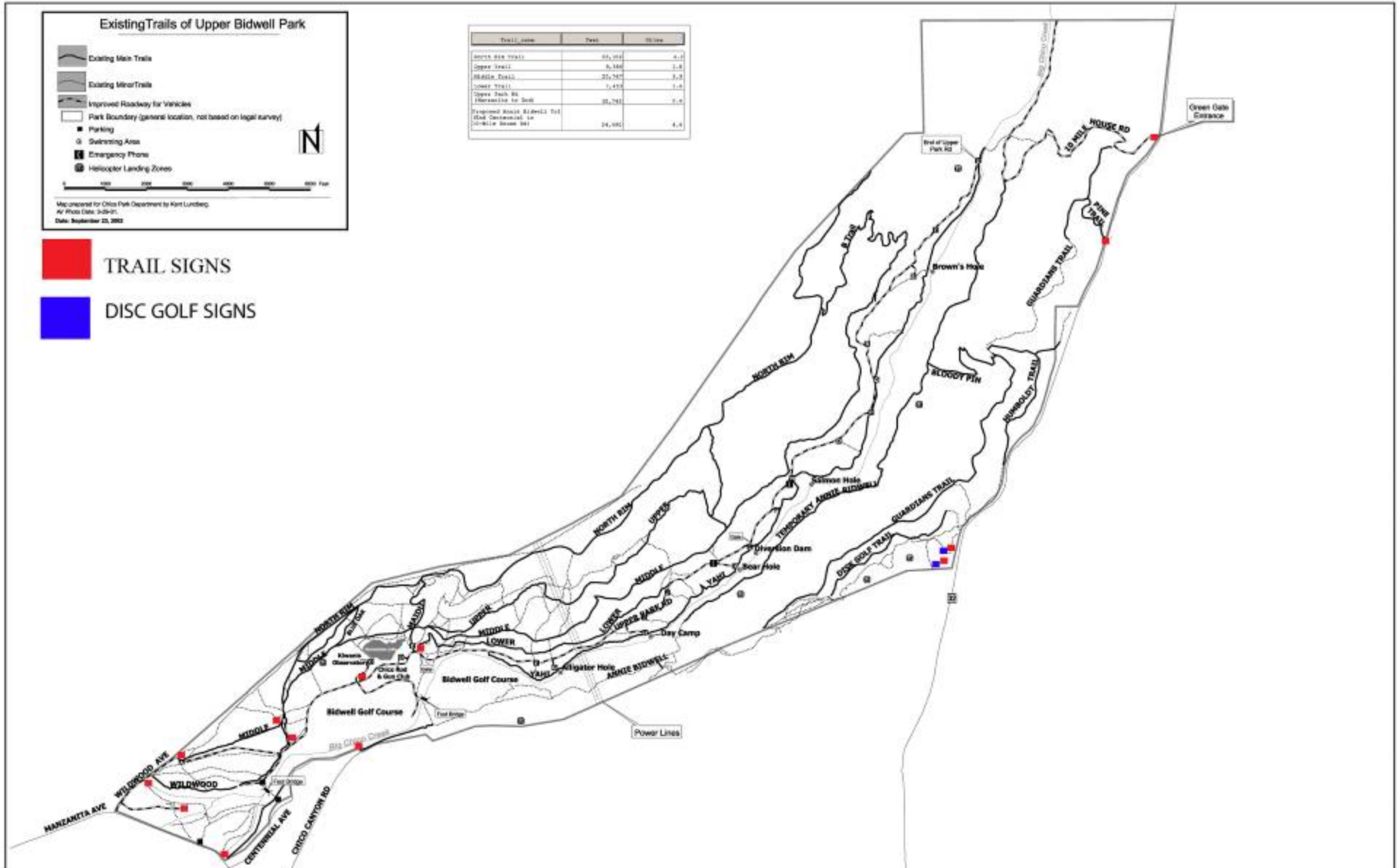
- ◆ Upper Park has miles of multi-use trails that can be very vulnerable during wet conditions.
- ◆ Users can damage and degrade trails when wet. Bicycle and equestrian use on wet trails can cause ruts, widening and soil displacement.
- ◆ To protect resources and trails, Parks would close the trails. Prior to the current plan, Rangers would conduct an informal evaluation.

Wet Weather Plan Objectives

- ◆ Use an adaptive policy to manage wet weather use (Middle and Upper Park trails, and the Hwy 32 Disc Golf site).
- ◆ Use objective methodology based on measurable data.
- ◆ Transparent to the public.
- ◆ Trail and course status accessible to the public.

Overall goal: create and maintain a well-functioning trail system which accommodates a variety of users while providing an enjoyable and safe experience that minimizes adverse impacts to sensitive resources within the Park.

Trail Sign Locations



City of Chico Website

- ◆ http://www.chico.ca.us/General_Services_Department/Park_Division/Bidwell_Park.asp

General Services Home

Solid Waste and Recycling


Operations & Maintenance

Parks & Street Trees

- Bidwell Park
- Park Reservations
- Gate Closing Hours
- Volunteer Program
- Volunteer Calendar
- Donations & Memorials
- Street Trees
- Park Division Documents

Contact Us

Bidwell Park



Bidwell Park was established July 20, 1905 through the donation by Annie Bidwell of approximately 2,500 acres of land to the City of Chico. Since that time, the City has purchased additional land, such as Cedar Grove in 1922, and 1,200 acres of land south of Big Chico Creek in Upper Park in 1995. Today, the total Park size is 3,670 acres (nearly 11 miles in length), making it one of the largest municipal parks in the United States.

Bidwell Park is "divided" by Manzanita Avenue. The area west of Manzanita Avenue is referred to as Lower Park and the area east of Manzanita Avenue is referred to as Upper Park.

Bidwell Park Trail/Road/Disc Golf Closure Hotline:

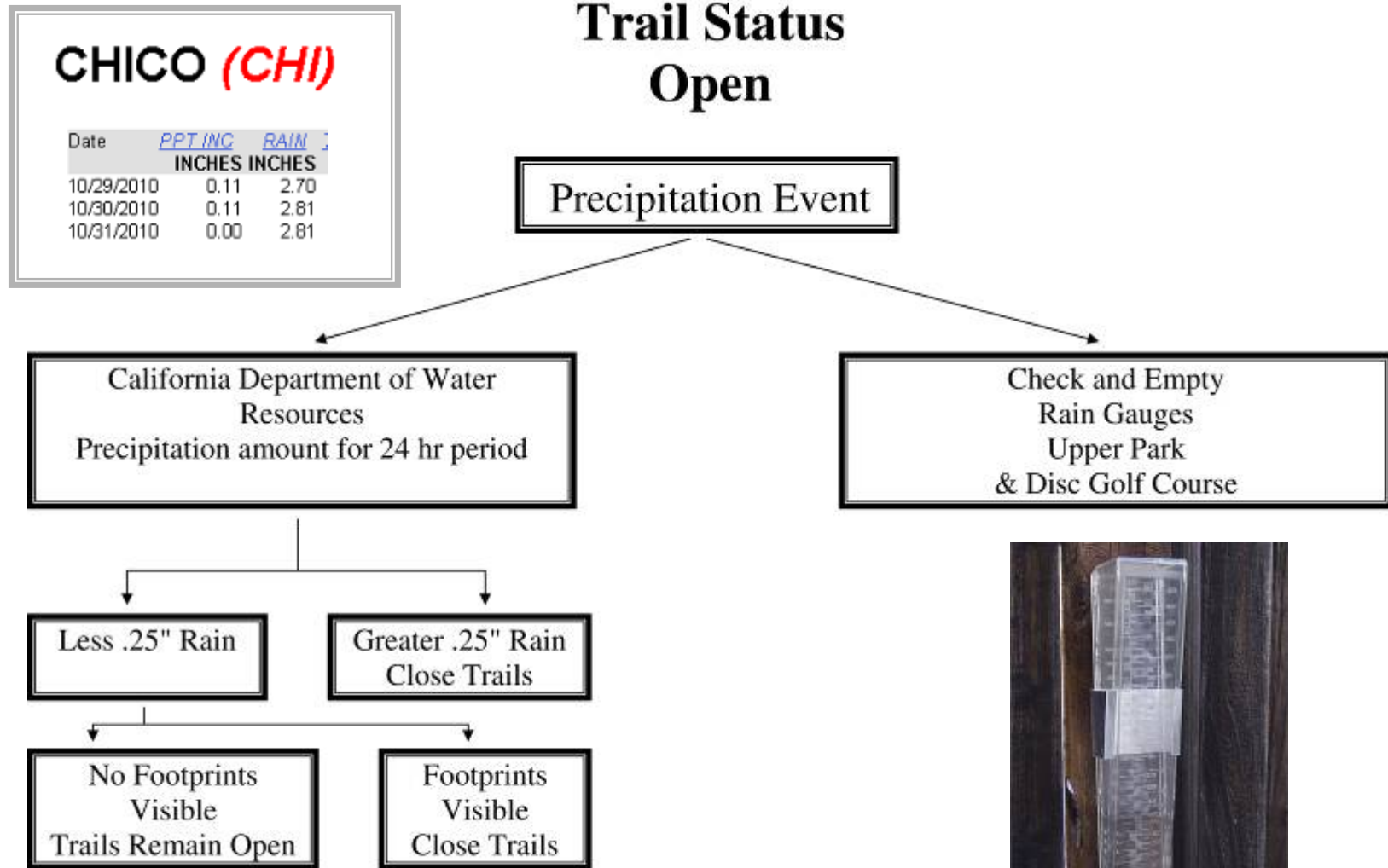
(530) 896-7899

[Interim \(Adaptive\) Wet Weather Management Plan](#)
[Press Release: Wet Weather & Trails 10/25/10](#)

- **Middle/Upper Park Trails:**
CLOSED
- **Upper Park Road:** The Upper Park gate at parking lot E is closed on Sundays and Mondays.
CLOSED
Gate at the Diversion Dam (near parking lot L)
CLOSED FOR WINTER
- **Wildwood Park Ball Fields:**
CLOSED FOR SEEDING until 02/01/2011
- **Hwy 32 Disc Golf Site:**
CLOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION

◆ **Hotline: 530-896-7899**

Adaptive Closure Policy



Adaptive Opening Policy

Trail Status Closed

(Before 11 AM)

Wednesday Wednesday
Night



30%
Chance
Showers
Hi 55 °F



40%
Chance
Showers
Lo 43 °F

Precipitation Event
** Wait 24 hrs after conclusion of event to
do an assessment



Check NWS Rain Prediction

Check and
Empty Rain
Gauges

70 % or Higher
Trails Stay Closed

69 % or Less
Do a Field Assessment
Horseshoe Lake & Disc Golf Course

3 or more soil moisture readings are 8 units or higher	Footprint Visible	8 or more soil moisture readings are less than 8 units
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Trails/Disc Golf Course Remains
Closed

Open Trails/Disc Golf Course



Monthly Summary of Closures 2009-2010

Table 1. Monthly Summary of Chico Weather Data and Trail Closures.

Month		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Trend	Total
Days	In Month	31	30	31	30	28	31	30	31		242
	With PPT	4	5	13	21	14	8	11	7	---	83
	With Rainfall > 0.25 in	1	3	4	9	7	3	8	2	---	37
	UP Trails Closed	8	11	21	31	28	14	22	4	---	139
	Hwy 32/DG Trails Closed	8	11	18	31	25	13	21	4	---	131
Ave. Daily Temp. (°F)		61	52	43	47	51	53	55	61		53
Average Daily CDD (°F)		2.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	2.7	---	0.74
Ave. Daily Rainfall (in.)		0.05	0.04	0.15	0.31	0.17	0.06	0.17	0.04	---	0.12

Ave. = Average. CDD = Cooling Degree Day for 60 °F (average temp – 60). PPT = precipitation. Temp. = Temperature. UP = Upper and Middle Park Trails. Hwy 32/DG = Highway 32 trailhead and disc golf course area.

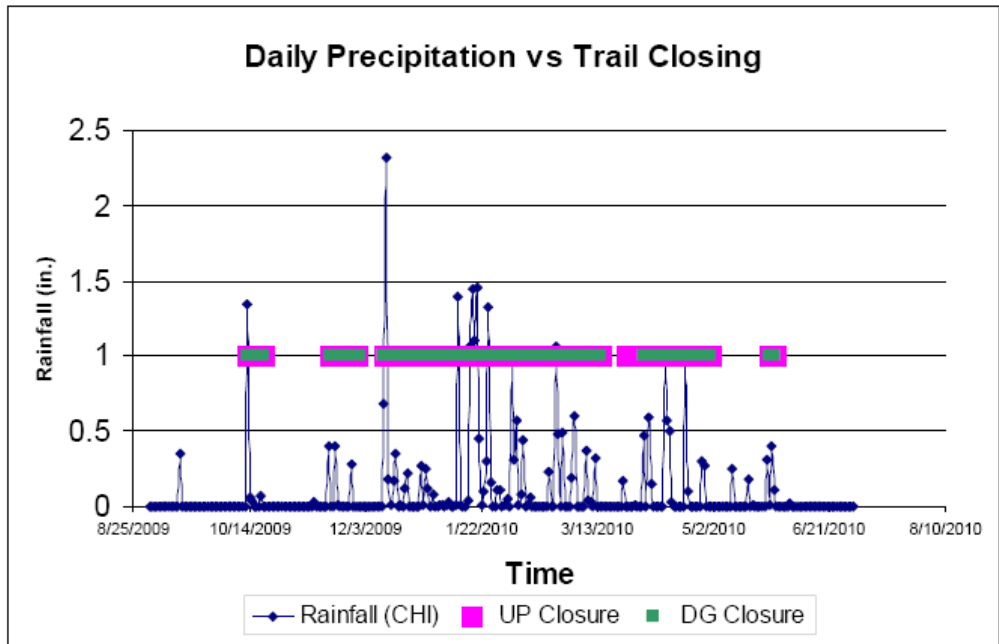


Figure 3. Graph of Trail Closures Versus Daily Rainfall Amounts.

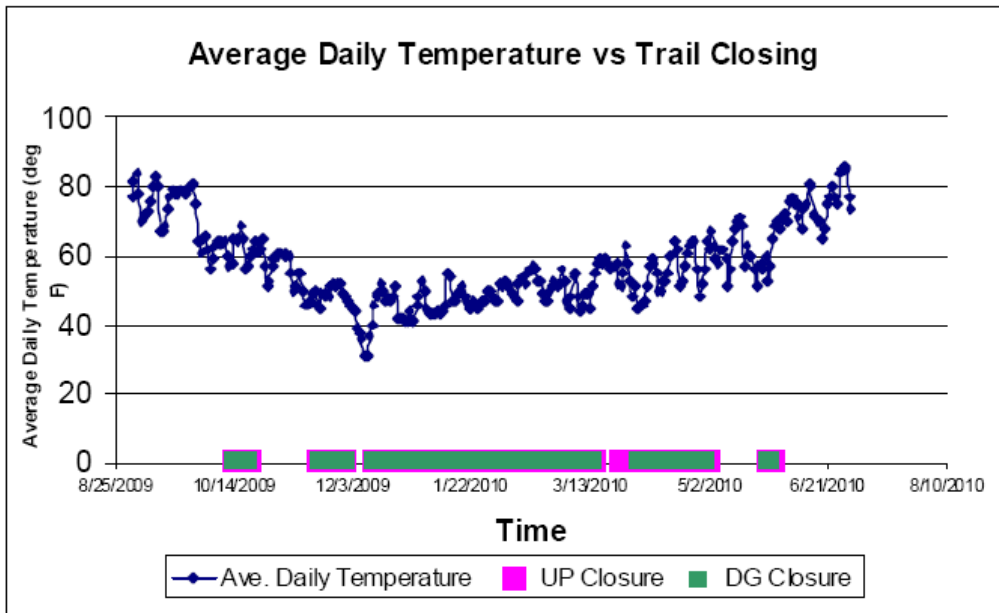


Figure 4. Graph of Trail Closure versus Average Daily Temperature.

Oct. 2009 - May 2010 Findings

- ◆ Precipitation fell approx. 83 out of 242 days, totaling, 29 inches.
- ◆ Approx. 145 assessments were conducted.
- ◆ Middle/Upper Park Trails- Closed 139 out of 242 days (57%)
- ◆ Hwy 32 Disc Golf Site- Closed 131 out of 242 days (54%)

Future Wet-Weather Policy Directions

- ◆ Transform Interim (Adaptive) Wet-Weather Management Plan into a Policy and update protocol.
- ◆ Construct all weather trails.
- ◆ Maintain, upgrade or re-route trails in problem areas.
- ◆ Consider seasonal closure of areas.
- ◆ Additional outreach and education.

Public support and compliance is
critical for preserving and protecting
Bidwell Park!

BPMMP Priorities for Implementation

Based on public input and Trail Plan:

1. Maintain existing trails.
2. Discourage off-trail use.
3. Maintain, upgrade or re-route trails in known problem areas (Monkey Face, Jeep Trail, North Rim Trail, B Trail, and Bloody Pin Trail).
4. Address unofficial trails for either closure, or repair and establishment as an official trail.
5. Construct proposed trails that provide connections to key areas not accessible now and to alleviate safety concerns.

Upcoming Efforts to Implement BPMMP

2010-2011 BPMMP Priorities:

- ◆ Update Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP).
- ◆ Create an inventory of park infrastructure
- ◆ Update Trails Plan and Manual

Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP).

- ◆ Determine management units and needs.
- ◆ Develop an invasive plant list.
- ◆ Describe natural communities.
- ◆ Revise the fire management plan.
- ◆ Develop a monitoring plan.
- ◆ Identify data gaps.

Inventory of Park Infrastructure

- ◆ Create an inventory, include description, features, year constructed, estimated lifecycle, replacement estimates, etc.
- ◆ Develop information needs and identify features that will be recorded.
- ◆ Collect GPS locations of features.

Trails Plan and Manual

- ◆ Guide for maintenance, improvement, construction, and closure.
- ◆ Revise the Trails Manual (2006).
- ◆ Inventory trails, signs, and collect additional info.
- ◆ Triage needs.
- ◆ Identify environmental issues.
- ◆ Develop concepts for a trail system (developing or closing trails, etc).
- ◆ Host workshops to seek public input on key issues.

Next Steps

- ◆ Information collection (trails inventory, soils, gradient, etc.)
- ◆ Development of funding and volunteer trail days
- ◆ Work on BPMMP implementation priorities. Education and Outreach.
- ◆ Timeline: Initiate many of these tasks in 2011.

How you can help?

- ◆ Stay informed on BPPC meetings and Natural Resource Committees
 - http://www.chico.ca.us/government/minutes_agendas.asp,
 - subscribe at parkinfo@ci.chico.ca.us
- ◆ Participate in upcoming planning efforts
- ◆ Volunteer opportunities and donations



Input and Q & A

- ◆ Suggestions on providing outreach and education to trail users.
- ◆ Ideas on preventing conflicts.
- ◆ Questions about the overall program?
- ◆ One on one with Park Staff to collect questions or input on trails.