

Contact:
Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director
Butte Environmental Council
(530) 891-6424
robynd@becnet.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Butte Environmental Council, City of Chico, and Volunteers
Remove Trash from Bidwell Park and Chico Creeks**

Chico, California – The Butte Environmental Council (BEC) and the City of Chico are gearing up for the annual Bidwell Park & Chico Creeks Cleanup on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 9:00am – 12:30pm.

In partnership with the City of Chico, Butte County, and the Great Sierra River Cleanup, this annual legacy event has been a BEC tradition since 1986. Each year hundreds of volunteers help pull several TONS (literally) of garbage and recyclables out of Chico's creeks and our beautiful, beloved Bidwell Park.

Last year over 400 volunteers helped with this cleanup effort, resulting in thirty tons of garbage and recyclables being pulled from the park and creeks. Despite the ongoing cleanup efforts led by the city and other citizen groups, there is still a huge quantity of material to be collected. The cleanup is timed to take place just before the fall rains, as any trash in the creeks will get washed out to the river, and ultimately to the Pacific Ocean.

This year we anticipate 400-500 volunteers to participate from many areas of our community: schools, churches, youth groups, university organizations and families.

In recent years, we've had participation from several local businesses, including Klean Kanteen, FISHBIO, ChicoBag Company, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, and Orchard Supply Hardware, who bring a team of employees to volunteer. This is a great community service opportunity and a way for local businesses to show their support for Chico's parks and creeks. Groups have been encouraged to wear their company or organization logo on the day of the event. There will be a social media photo contest with prizes offered for the best group action shots or unique items found.

BEC has joined with the City of Chico to hold these community cleanups for over 15 years to keep our parks and creeks beautiful. Since then, BEC volunteers have pulled over 17 tons of recyclables, 15 tons of scrap metal and 123 tons of garbage out of the park and creeks. For the general public, participating in this event is a great opportunity to have a personal impact and help clean up the park and the creeks. But for many citizens, it is also an opportunity to witness how much trash is out there. "It's core to BEC's mission that we

facilitate civic engagement and get these local citizens involved in helping the environment,” says Robyn DiFalco, BEC’s Executive Director.

To register as a volunteer for this event, please visit <http://www.becnet.org/bidwell-park-clean-up>. Volunteers will check in at one of the two starting locations: The Hooker Oak Recreation Area (off Vallombrosa) or the Annie K. Bidwell Parlor at 10th & Salem. Families with children or school groups are encouraged to check in at Hooker Oak where they will be dispatched to areas of Bidwell Park.

Volunteers are encouraged to wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and to bring gloves and a re-fillable water bottle. Water stations will be provided by event sponsor Klean Kanteen. Because of there was a record number of volunteers that turned out last year, and because volunteers will be coming from all over town, we need a larger, more centralized space to accommodate for our Volunteer Appreciation event after the clean-up, which will take place at the municipal parking lot downtown at 4th and Wall St. Our generous sponsor, Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, will provide a Beer Garden at the new location. All volunteers will be treated to a free BBQ provided by Madison Bear Garden afterwards and prizes will be given out as well (must be present to win).

This event is made possible with the help of many generous sponsors.

[The City of Chico](#) and [The Butte County Fish and Game Commission](#) are once again covering the costs of essential supplies and promotional materials. [Orchard Supply Hardware](#) has contributed 250 buckets and supplies that will be used by volunteers to collect recyclables, keeping them separate from the trash! [Klean Kanteen](#) has not only supported the event financially, but they are also providing a “hydration station” for all of the volunteers. Other generous support has come from [Tri Counties Bank](#) and [Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.](#) Both [ChicoBag](#) Company and [FISHBIO](#) are also providing financial support, as well as bringing enthusiastic teams of volunteers. Our volunteers will keep energized thanks to the coffee, pastries, bagels, and cream cheese provided by [Upper Crust Bakery](#) and [Brooklyn Bridge Bagel Works](#). Pizza will also be provided by [Woodstock’s Pizza](#) pre-event volunteer work. And after working hard all morning, hungry volunteers will enjoy a BBQ lunch provided by [Madison Bear Garden](#) and organic rice chips from [Lundberg Family Farms](#). [Butte County Public Works](#) waives the fees at the Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility for all of the waste collected. [The Printed Image](#) has again provided T-shirts for volunteers at a discounted rate. Special thanks also to the [Chico Area Recreation District](#) for allowing us the use of Hooker Oak Recreation area as a dispatch site and as the site of our volunteer picnic. Thanks also to our media sponsor [The Chico News & Review](#) for providing ad space.

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The Butte Environmental Council is a non-profit environmental organization based in Chico, California. BEC’s mission is to protect and defend the land, air and water of Butte County and the surrounding region through action, advocacy and education. Since 1975,

BEC has played a significant part in shaping the environment and policies of Butte County and surrounding areas.

For further information, visit <http://www.becnet.org/bidwell-park-clean-up> or contact:

Robyn DiFalco, Executive Director
robynd@becnet.org

Lindsay Wood, Watershed Program Coordinator
watershed@becnet.org

On the day of the event, press inquiries may call cell phone 530-588-3605 or 513-1191.

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