

Butte
Environmental
Council



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The Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and Butte Environmental Council (BEC) are pleased to announce the return of Block Parties with a Purpose. The project is free and aims to encourage residents to come together and clean up their sections of Chico's urban creeks of weeds and garbage.

Over the years, local urban creeks have become choked with invasive plant species, as well as more recent increases in garbage resulting from encampments, that has left our community with a problem that seems to be spiraling out of control. Invasive plant species out compete with beneficial native plants and provide fuel for fires, while excessive garbage pollutes the water and leaves neighborhoods looking neglected. Tackling this problem is intimidating for everyone: neighbors, the city, businesses, and advocacy and environmental groups. But when we get together and boost combined efforts, urban waterways can once again be the beautiful little neighborhood creeks and healthy wildlife habitat corridors that they once were.

Neighbors gathered and these are the spring clean-ups:

- February 28th, Little Chico Creek near Boucher St.
- April 11th, Lindo Channel at Verbena Fields
- April 25th, Big Chico Creek at Lower Bidwell Park

BEC will match participants' efforts the days of the events with \$1,500 in tools, dumpsters, equipment, food, expertise and people power.

Although BEC is not accepting any additional neighborhoods this spring, residents are encouraged to sign up to help with the neighborhoods listed above. To learn more about the project, please contact Nani Teves at watershed@becnet.org or visit the watershed website at www.becnet.org/watershed-program.

In the spring of 2014, the Mount Lassen Chapter of the California Native Plant Society was awarded a Waste Management Think Green® grant to remove invasive weeds and organize creek clean-ups. With CNPS' significant work to restore biodiversity along Chico's creeks through invasive plant removal, and BEC's long history of organizing the community for Creek Clean-up's, the two organizations decided to team up and take these efforts even further by empowering and supporting those who care most to take action – the people living adjacent to urban streams. We've got new partners this year including the City of Chico.