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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 a new project called Block Parties with a Purpose. The project is free and supports residents joining together to clean up 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 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.

How this project works:

- An interested neighbor steps forward and gathers twenty volunteers, they sign-up on the BEC website, choose a block party date (10/25, 11/8, or 11/22), and get ready to make a difference.
- CNPS and BEC match their efforts the day of the event with \$1,500 in tools, dumpsters, equipment, food, expertise, and people power.

A little background:

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 organization 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.

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