



Environmental Sentinel

Your source for Butte County's environmental news and events

Brought to you by the **Butte Environmental Council**
Protecting Butte County's land, air, and water since 1975

Butte Environmental Council Newsletter

December 2015

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Dear Robyn,

'Tis the season for gratitude and we want to say THANK YOU to all who donated on [Giving Tuesday](#) and who came out to the recent climate march and to our oak plantings in Upper Bidwell Park.

This December we have many more opportunities for you to help BEC make a difference in the community -- for our creeks, for our foothills, and our future.



Upcoming BEC Events

Saturday, December 5 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

[Block Party with a Purpose](#), neighborhood cleanup on Lindo Channel, at the end of Montecito Ave., Chico

Saturday, December 12 at 12 noon

[Chico Climate Rally "High Noon for the Planet"](#)
Downtown Chico City Plaza

Sunday, December 13 1 - 4 p.m.

[Acorn Planting Day](#)
Bidwell Park Horse Arena, Chico

Thursday, December 17 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

[BEC Holiday Party](#), at our new & improved downtown offices, 116 West 2nd St, above Naked Lounge

Saturday, December 19 1 - 4 p.m.

[Last Acorn Planting Day of the season](#)

Upper Bidwell Park, Chico

Saturday, January 2 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

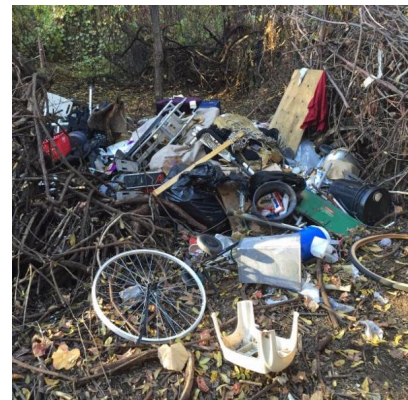
[Block Party with a Purpose](#), neighborhood cleanup on Big Chico Creek (specific location TBA)

(See articles below for all event details or visit our website at www.becnet.org/events)

Lindo Channel Neighborhood Cleanup: Block Parties with a Purpose

We are excited to announce the return of our Block Parties with a Purpose program! Beginning in December, we will host a neighborhood cleanup event on the first Saturday of each month.

**Our first event will be held on
Saturday, December 5, 2015
from 9:00 - 12:00
[Meet at the end of Montecito Ave
off Mission Ranch Blvd](#)
(Click link for map)**



Over the years, invasive plant species have been out-competing beneficial native plants, consequently providing fuel for fires. In addition, excessive garbage pollutes the water and leaves neighborhoods looking neglected. Tackling this problem is intimidating for everyone 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.

This project is sponsored by the City of Chico, Golden Valley Bank, Sewing Chico, and Orchard Supply Hardware. The goal of this program is to support residents joining together to clean up sections of Chico's urban creeks filled with invasive species and garbage.

[Learn More on our website and sign up to volunteer.](#)

Volunteers needed for Acorn Planting in Upper Bidwell Park

Our first two dates of acorn planting were a great success. In November we planted 70 acorn plots at two planting dates, the first with 60 fabulous volunteers including a team from Klean Kanteen, CAVE's Adopt-a-Park program, and other longtime community volunteers. The 2nd date over Thanksgiving had 45 volunteers including local families, CAVE students, and a group from Butte County Juvenile Probation. Participants had a great time and made a big impact to help oak woodlands thrive in our area.

We are halfway through the acorn planting for this year and we still need volunteers for two more planting days:

Sunday, December 13th from 1-4 PM

at the [Bidwell Park Horse Arena](#) (click for map)

**Saturday, December 19th
from 1-4 PM**
at the Chico Rod & Gun Club.

[Please register online](#) so we know how many volunteers are coming.

Once, you have registered, you will receive an e-mail/phone call with information on meeting location. All materials are provided; however, volunteers are welcome to bring their own gloves and shovels. This is a family-friendly event and a lot of fun for kids. For more information on the project, click [HERE](#).



Thank you to the [California Wildlife Foundation](#) for funding this project and to our sponsor [Orchard Hardware Supply](#) for donating so many supplies for this project.

High Noon for the Planet Climate Rally: December 12 at 12 noon
Thinking globally, acting locally

The largest climate rally in Chico's history took place on Saturday, November 28th with over 250 attending. [Check out the great photos online here.](#)

The Paris Climate Talks are now underway and there are going to be thousands of events around the world culminating in a mass mobilization on Dec 12th.



In solidarity with the People's Climate Action mass mobilization, we're coming together to make our voices heard about this incredibly important issue. Join the global movement for climate justice and come together locally. Show up to show Chico that we care and be part of the worldwide movement.

Saturday, December 12: High Noon for the Planet, downtown Chico Plaza
Speak out about the climate! Come for music, art, keynote speakers and ACTION! Join BEC and Chico350.org on the afternoon of December 12th at 12:00 noon (12/12 at 12) in the downtown Chico plaza as the people of Butte County come together to address our local and national leaders in creating immediate policy addressing the effects of climate change happening in our community and our world.

There will be live music by Smokey the Groove, climate education based activities, and many solutions for climate change provided by local businesses and groups who recognize our stake in climate change. **We invite all of Butte County on this day** to join us and find multiple solutions for us and our families to combat climate change in our personal lives. This is a FREE event.

[Visit BEC's website](#) for more details about the event or to [register your group for a booth or table space](#) at the event.

[Check the Facebook group Chico 350](#) , or email Chico350.org@gmail.com to get involved in our local climate action movement.

BEC Holiday Party on Thurs, December 17

Please join us on the 17th from 5:30 - 7:30 PM to reunite with old friends, make new ones, and to celebrate all of our individual and collective efforts to protect the land, air and water of Butte County! We are excited for all to come and see our new and improved office spaces in downtown Chico. For those who haven't been, our offices have expanded and improved over the last year and we welcome you to enjoy our new space with us.



It is also great time to show appreciation by sharing a dish or treat with others. Without obligation, we welcome folks to bring a dish or beverage to share. We will have labels available to note ingredients, vegetarian, vegan, etc. We recommend that dishes are finger food type appetizers or desserts to minimize the need for dishes and utensils. This is a family friendly event. Feel free to bring an instrument for some holiday jams everyone can enjoy as well.

We hope to see you there!

For disability accommodation in our building, please call 891-6424 in advance.

Upcoming Environmental Events in the Community

Sat, Dec 5 Block Parties Neighborhood Cleanup on Lindo Channel

Sun, Dec 6 Fundraiser for Move the Junkyard campaign 2-6pm

an afternoon featuring International Small-bites Buffet and beverages from Around the World Out of this World Desserts.

Hosted by Jane Martin and Chris Loizeneaux, 1712 N Cherry St, corner of East 8th & N Cherry. Call 530-521-6964 for more info or email movethejunkyard@gmail.com

Sat, Dec 12 Chico Climate Rally - High Noon for the Planet

12/12 @ 12PM at the City Plaza.

Sun, Dec 13 BEC Acorn Planting in Upper Bidwell Park

meet at the Bidwell Park Horse Arena for planting from 1-4 PM. All materials provided. Volunteers needed, all volunteers welcome, great family and group event. Please register [HERE!](#)

Dec 16 to Jan 30 Swan Exhibit at Chico Creek Nature Center

The beauty, ecology and conservation of Tundra Swans is vividly depicted on a traveling photographic exhibit that will showcase at the Chico Creek Nature Center.

The amazing migration of the Sacramento Valley's largest waterfowl is featured in addition to informing viewers of self-guided and free, guided wildlife viewing opportunities each fall and winter in the Sacramento Valley. The 20 photograph exhibit is a service of the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. 11am to 4pm Wednesday to Saturday \$4 for adults \$2 for children and seniors. Free for members and during the Snow Goose Festival.

Thu, Dec 17 Butte Environmental Council's Holiday Party from 5:30 - 7:30 at the BEC Office

Fri, Dec 18 Sierra Club Holiday Party at Valley Oaks Village

Sat, Dec 19 BEC Acorn Planting in Upper Bidwell Park

meet in Upper Bidwell Park for planting from 1-4 PM. All materials provided. Volunteers needed, all volunteers welcome, great family and group event. Please register [HERE!](#) After registration, volunteers will receive updates on location.

Dec 20 Chico Permaculture Guild Monthly Gathering

Techniques & Strategies #5: Seeds, Seed Saving and Drought Tolerant Annual Crops. 10am - 1pm at the Chico Library meeting room (1108 Sherman Ave.) Free and open to the public. 1-2 hour interactive discussion, Holiday potluck and 'Share the Surplus Swap'. More information: <https://chicopermaculture.wordpress.com/what-we-do/monthly-gatherings/> [This gathering is co-hosted with the Chico Seed Lending Library and also completes the CPG education cycle for 2015]

December 21, 22, 23, and 28, 29, 30, 2015 Camp Chico Frozen @ The Chico Creek Nature Center

Full Day: 9am to 4pm, Half Day: 9am to 1pm

Join Olaf' your friends this winter break as Camp Chico Creek transforms into Camp Chico Frozen. Let your child experience the frozen wonders of Bidwell Park!

Learn about ice, cold blooded animals and other "cool" things in nature.

More info at: <http://bidwellpark.org/camp-chico-frozen-winter-camp/>

Jan 17 Chico Permaculture Guild Monthly Gathering (renewing our educational cycle) Permaculture Ethics and Principles. 10am - 1pm at the Chico Library meeting room (1108 Sherman Ave.) Free and open to the public. 1-2 hour interactive discussion, potluck and 'Share the Surplus Swap'. For more information, email modcpg@gmail.com or <https://chicopermaculture.wordpress.com>.

Jan 25 Public Workshop on the proposed Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP)

6-8pm Chico Masonic Center 1110 W. East Ave., Chico

Plan documents available online:

News article explaining this issue: <http://www.chicoer.com/environment-and-nature/20151118/plan-to-ease-development-while-protecting-the-environment-ready-for-review>

Jan 26 Public Workshop on the proposed Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP)

2-4pm in Oroville: Southside Oroville Community Center, 2959 Lower Wyandotte Road.

6-8pm in Gridley: Gridley City Council Chambers, 685 Kentucky St.

Jan 27-31 Snow Goose Festival (Save the Date!)

Registration for workshops, fieldtrips, and more begins in December and events fill up fast!

Jan 30 7th Annual Seed Swap

from 12-3pm at Trinity Church (285 E. 5th Street Chico, CA). Hosted by Earthshed Solutions and Grub Education Program. More information coming soon!

Jan 27-30 FREE Admission to Chico Creek Nature Center

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