



January 10, 2004

Dear Lost Park Neighbors,

On Sunday mornings for the last six months, Friends of Bidwell Park has been sponsoring a trash cleanup and invasive plant removal project in Annie's Glen. When we have enough volunteers, we also pick up trash in Camellia Way Park (the area on the north side of Big Chico Creek between the Pine Street and Camellia Way bridges) and Lost Park (the area between the Esplanade and Camellia Way bridges, mostly on the south side of Big Chico Creek). Every time we worked in Lost Park, we filled a pickup truck with the debris we found. We've come to realize that this occasional cleanup isn't frequent enough to have a lasting effect on the problems there. For this reason, we're initiating a monthly volunteer cleanup and invasive plant removal project in Lost Park, starting Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our official work session will be from 9 am to noon, but anyone who wants to help can stop by anytime during those hours. As with our other volunteer projects in the park, we provide tools, gloves, and water.

Even if you don't have time to help at these Saturday sessions, you can improve conditions in Lost Park in other ways. If you use a gardening service, please remind them not to blow leaves and trash from your yard onto the park property.

You can also help by reporting illegal overnight camping and alcohol consumption in Lost Park. The City of Chico bans these activities for good reasons—many of the campers and drinking parties use the creek for a bathroom and leave trash and garbage strewn around their sites. It can take the Park Department many hours to clean up a single homeless encampment, a significant drain on the resources of an already understaffed department.

Probably one of the most important ways you can help to improve Lost Park is to spend time there. Your presence will help to deter illicit activities and encourage a more positive use of this area. Chicoans are very fortunate to have access to a riparian area in their downtown, something that other cities are spending millions of dollars to recreate. With a little effort from all of us, it can become one of the attractions of visiting our downtown.

If you have any questions about the rules regarding Lost Park or other areas of Bidwell Park, please contact Park Director Dennis Beardsley at 895-4849 (on January 24<sup>th</sup>, this will change to 896-7801). For future volunteer dates in Lost Park or other FOBP volunteer projects, see our calendar at [www.FriendsofBidwellPark.org](http://www.FriendsofBidwellPark.org) or send an email to [info@FriendsofBidwellPark.org](mailto:info@FriendsofBidwellPark.org). Information about what plants are considered to be invasive in Bidwell Park can also be found on our web site.

Sincerely,

Susan Mason  
President, Friends of Bidwell Park

Cc: Dennis Beardsley, Park Director  
Bidwell Park and Playground Commission

P.O. Box 3036, Chico, CA 95927

[www.FriendsofBidwellPark.org](http://www.FriendsofBidwellPark.org)