



November 29, 2004

Dear Woodland Avenue Neighbors,

Friends of Bidwell Park (FOBP) volunteers have recently started a privet removal project along Woodland Avenue between the East 4th St. entrance to South Park Drive and the entrance to the One Mile Recreation Area that's between Alder and Sycamore Streets.

Japanese privets (*ligustrum vulgare*) are included on both Butte County's Noxious Weed of Special Concern and on Bidwell Park's Most Invasive Plant Lists. The Chico Park Department and FOBP are in the process of developing a plan to remove all Japanese privets from Bidwell Park. Along Woodland Ave. and South Park Dr., removal of these shrubs and trees will encourage regeneration of oak seedlings by reducing the competition for sunlight and nutrients, improve security, and reduce maintenance costs by eliminating the annual pruning back required to keep the privets from overtaking the lawn. The fence line area may look somewhat barren for a few months, but, by spring, it will look much better. In the Five Mile Recreation Area, where, so far, we've removed about 80% of the tens of thousands of privets that were there last spring, the change is barely noticeable, except that the oaks, sycamores, spice bush and other native plants are much more visible.

If you have any questions about this project or other invasive plant removal projects that are underway in the park, please contact Park Director Dennis Beardsley at 895-4792.

Sincerely,

Susan Mason
President, Friends of Bidwell Park