

## Proposed BPMMP – Overview of Problems

- Removes the conditions and vision of the Bidwell Deed as the primary consideration in decision making – the City now makes the claim that the Deed is 'not legally binding' (Pg. 1-5, Final Draft BPMMP/6-08).
- Reintroduces intensive, developed recreation into the Park, in the form of 37 acres of disc golf, as a list of 'Permissible Uses', and as a call to, "Provide recreational opportunities for Chico residents and others in the Park that currently are not provided for in other local settings" (Various: pgs. 3-44 through 3-55, Appendix H, Final BPMMP; as described in the draft EIR; O. R.C.-1, mpg. 3-11, Final Draft BPMMP).
- Removes policy that directs the City to respond to unauthorized trail construction (1990 BPMMP, pg. 32, Objective 10; pg. 20 'Trails Plan/Appendix E).
- Removes policy that urges the City to establish development standards for Park adjacent property *prior to* development proposals (1990 BPMMP, pg. 91, 'Issue 4').
- Does not integrate with existing policies applicable to Bidwell Park found in the General Plan and Municipal Code, Section 12R. (Pg. 7-11, General Plan; Muni. Code, Sec. 12R, #'s .08.040, .32.060, .04.100, .04.140).
- Provides no clear definition of what Park resources are protected, leaving the location of future developments to the whim of designers.
- Provides no work plan or schedule for the assessment and monitoring of the Park's Natural and Cultural Resources, leaving decision makers without facts about the Park's state of health.
- Contains very few mandatory policies, or work ready implementation strategies, leaving future implementation of the Plan with a mine-field of decision making hurdles – it's a 'Plan to Make a Plan.'
- Of four 'Specific Projects' contained within the proposed Plan, only one, the disc golf facility, is claimed by the City to have received adequate environmental review, making the BPMMP very one-sided with regards to the needs of multiple user groups.
- Utilizes an unauthorized and casual use by a very small number of disc golfers to justify the claim that disc golf was a 'pre-existing, non conforming use' of a 40 acre site, thusly mis-characterizing the Baseline conditions of the EIR as already 'degraded' (after years of unauthorized development!), rather than describe the conditions as they were when the City first declared it would pursue an environmental document in conjunction with the consideration of allowing disc golf to remain at the site (1998), prior to the installation of metal targets, etc.
- Fails to identify effective mitigation for impacts to Blue Oak Woodland, rare plants, nesting/foraging bird sites, and cultural resources at the disc golf project area, and provides no schedule for the monitoring aspect of the Mitigation proposed.

## Ongoing Management Issues that Affect the Interpretation and Implementation of Policy

- Bidwell Park and Playground Commissioners, who are given Carte Blanche control over the Park, are not required to understand biological or conservation issues, nor are they required to consider biological or conservation factors in their decision making.
- The City has no professional Staff who can interpret and implement biological and conservation issues. The City remains “urban-centric” in its abilities to manage City owned lands.
- City Staff are not directed or mandated to prioritize the preservation of Bidwell Park when considering development proposals that affect the Park's aesthetics or ecosystem.
- Limited funding continues to be diverted from maintenance and conservation to new development within the Park.
- The City has a poor record of successful mitigations and their monitoring of mitigation is virtually non-existent.
- The City does not emphasize the protected status of the Park's natural conditions, nor does the City explain the historic reason this is so in educational materials associated with the Park.

## **An Overview of the Inadequacies within the Bidwell Park Master Management Plan and Environmental Impact Report (BPMMP/EIR)**

The Final BPMMP/EIR, published in July of 2008, clearly indicates the BPMMP/EIR has many problems the Public should be concerned about.

### **For example this BPMMP...**

- Steps back from the commitments made by the City (1905, 1990, 1994, and 1996) to prioritize preservation of the Park's fragile resources
- Denies the applicability of Annie's Bidwell's Deed, and the 1905 resolution by the City to honor the Deed, and to preserve the Park into perpetuity
- Provides a mixed message pitting development against preservation
- Contains little mandatory language defining the treatment of natural resources
- Embraces proposed and future development for the sake of intensive recreation
- Requires further planning at almost every juncture
- Started out to propose 4 specific projects aimed at a variety of Park issues, now claiming to have finished with only 1: a promoted 37 acre project with admitted significant impacts to vernal pools, oak woodland, rare plants and soil

### **And this EIR does not honestly address the serious issues regarding Disc Golf in Upper Park**

- Mistakenly refers to an unauthorized use as a pre-existing non-conforming use, and ignores the original 1998 directive of the BPPC to "consider a proposal to allow disc golf to remain"
- Denies obvious and continuous impacts to nesting and foraging birds, aesthetics, and fuel load
- Inadequately identifies mitigation of known impacts to plants, animal and other resources
- Denies the applicability of policy contained in the General Plan's Open Space Action Plan, and Municipal Code section 12R
- Claims mitigations are designed for existing levels of use, and disregards use increases expected from improved facilities, advertising, tournaments and area population growth

All of these subjects (with the exception of the 3 uncompleted project designs) were addressed *in detail* within the Public commentary that followed the June 2007 release of the Draft BPMMP EIR. Despite the Council's assignment of an extra 100,000 dollars, ostensibly to ensure a thorough response to the public comments, many of the straightforward questions directed at the EIR went unanswered.