



E3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION



MASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE AND ASSOCIATED PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

E3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Brief descriptions of the BPMMP and the four site-specific Park Improvement Projects are provided below. These descriptions are intended to aid the reader by providing a brief overview of each project. For more detail, please refer to Volume 1 of the BPMMP and the accompanying Technical Appendices E through H.

E3.1 OVERALL BPMMP

The BPMMP Update (Volume 1) presents a complete update of the 1990 Master Management Plan completed for Bidwell Park (the Park). The updated BPMMP incorporates the acquisition of 1,455 acres of additional park land, updates baseline data on park resources, addresses important planning issues pertaining to management and public use of the Park, provides a venue for public input, and clarifies allowable uses in the Park. The BPMMP was developed with extensive input from a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) formed specifically for the BPMMP update process, as well as with significant input from the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission (BPPC), which is charged with oversight on issues pertaining to management of the Park.

Chapter 1 of the BPMMP includes an introduction to the location and context of the Park, the planning process, and the overall structure of the document. Chapter 2, Existing Conditions of the BPMMP provides a comprehensive description of the Park, including information on Park zones, and land uses in and around the Park. It also provides a detailed overview of the physical resources in the Park, as well as a description of all Park facilities. Maintenance and operation staff and volunteer resources are also discussed in Chapter 2, along with planning influences and key planning issues and opportunities addressed in the planning process. Chapter 3 contains the Park Vision which anticipates what the Park will be like as the BPMMP is implemented. Chapter 3 also contains the goals, objectives, implementing strategies and guidelines for the management of Bidwell Park. As such, Chapter 3 presents the policy portion of the BPMMP. Goals and objectives, implementing strategies and guidelines are presented by resource topic, with each policy element identified by a unique identifier name and number. Chapter 4 identifies plan preparers and Chapter 5 includes all references used in the preparation of the BPMMP and accompanying EIR. The BPMMP also contains Technical Appendices that provide further guidance or information related to the description conditions of and proposed actions for Bidwell Park.

APPENDIX A ANNIE BIDWELL DEED

This important document includes the original deed by which Annie Bidwell transferred the ownership of lands to the City of Chico.

APPENDIX B VISITOR AND COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

In support of the BPMMP Update, a visitor and community survey was conducted to assess Park use and gather input for the planning process. The survey was administered on site, as a mail-in survey to a random sample of the Chico community, and as a mail-in survey available on the City of Chico's website. Appendix B contains the analysis and results of the survey, as well as samples of all three original survey forms.

APPENDIX C NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) is intended to provide a resource management framework for Bidwell Park that supports the goals and objectives of the BPMMP. It provides information on how to achieve the goals and objectives provided in the BPMMP and supplements the implementation strategies and guidelines with more specific technical information. The NRMP is designed to be a living document that can be modified and expanded in the future as more is learned about the Park's resources, and as more funding may be available. In its current version, the NRMP addresses three important natural resource management topics: management of the Park's oak woodlands, invasive plant management, and fire management.

APPENDIX D CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendix D provides an annotated outline of a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) for Bidwell Park. Development of a CRMP in close cooperation with the sovereign Nation of the Mechoopda was identified as a high priority aspect of implementation of the BPMMP during the planning process. The annotated outline was developed as a first step towards achieving this goal and is intended to form the basis of the CRMP to be developed in the future.

APPENDIX E TRAILS PLAN

The Trails Plan was developed to serve as a guide for future trail maintenance, improvement, construction, and closure within Bidwell Park. The Trails Plan is one of the proposed Park Improvement Projects and a summary of the plan is provided under Section E3.2.1 below.

APPENDIX F HORSESHOE LAKE AREA CONCEPT PLAN

The Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan, also one of the four Park Improvement Projects, provides concepts for improvements to the Horseshoe Lake Area to support its primary function as the prime destination in Middle Park, and as a strategic staging area for access to Upper Park. The concept plan includes improved parking and circulation, picnic areas, signage, fencing, and various lake edge treatments. A brief summary of the key points of the Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan is provided under Section E3.2.2 below.

APPENDIX G CEDAR GROVE AREA CONCEPT PLAN

The proposed concept plan for the Cedar Grove Area, another of the four Park Improvement Projects, includes rehabilitation, enhancement, and renovation of existing facilities at the site to support its important function as one of the primary centers of activity in Lower Park. Elements contained in the concept plan include improvements to existing parking, circulation, and facilities, such as restrooms and the addition of lighting and signage. A brief summary of the key points of the Cedar Grove Area Concept Plan is provided under Section E3.2.3 below.

APPENDIX H DISC GOLF/TRAILHEAD AREA CONCEPT PLANS

Appendix H provides several different concepts for the use of the Disc Golf Course/Trailhead Area located off State Route (SR) 32 on the south side of Upper Park. This also represents one of the four proposed Park Improvement Projects. Three concepts that vary in the level of improvements are included. Proposed elements include a long and short disc golf course, improved parking and circulation, restrooms and signage, scenic overlooks, picnic facilities, and habitat restoration. A brief summary of the key points of the Disc Golf/Trailhead Area Concept Plans is provided under Section E3.2.4 below.

APPENDIX I REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This Appendix provides a brief overview of the state and federal regulations pertaining to resource protection that need to be considered when making management decisions and implementing the goals and objectives of the BPMMP.

APPENDIX J CITY OF CHICO GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES AND MUNICIPAL CODES

Appendix J provides those elements from the City of Chico General Plan and Municipal Code that are relevant to the implementation of the BPMMP.

APPENDIX K CULTURAL RESOURCES INFORMATION (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix K contains information on cultural resources currently known to occur in Bidwell Park. Because of the need to protect cultural resources, this information is provided to the City only and not available for public review.

APPENDIX L DESIGN STANDARDS

Appendix L provides updated design standards for various Park features, including picnic sites, parking lot delineation, restrooms, fencing, bridges, park logo signage, information kiosks, wayfinding signs, closure signs, trail markers, and interpretive panels.

APPENDIX M CITY OF CHICO BENCH POLICY

Appendix M contains the policy adopted by the City for memorial/dedication/recognition opportunities for placing benches in Bidwell Park, as adopted by the Bidwell Parks and Playground Commission (BPPC) on June 1, 2004.

APPENDIX N DEPOSITORY FOR FUTURE BPPC GUIDANCE ON BPMMP INTERPRETATION

This appendix has been created as a depository for guidance issued by the BPPC on topics pertaining to interpretation of the BPMMP that may arise during Plan implementation, or as new proposed uses of the Park are brought forward by the community. BPPC determinations will be added to the appendix, to ensure that all past interpretations are available in one location.

VOLUME 2

Volume 2 of the BMMP contains the environmental analysis, which examines the potential impacts of implementation of the BPMMP and four site specific Park Improvement Projects on the environment.

E3.2 PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Each of the four Park Improvement Projects is summarized in more detail below, and overview maps for each of the projects are provided.

E3.2.1 TRAILS PLAN

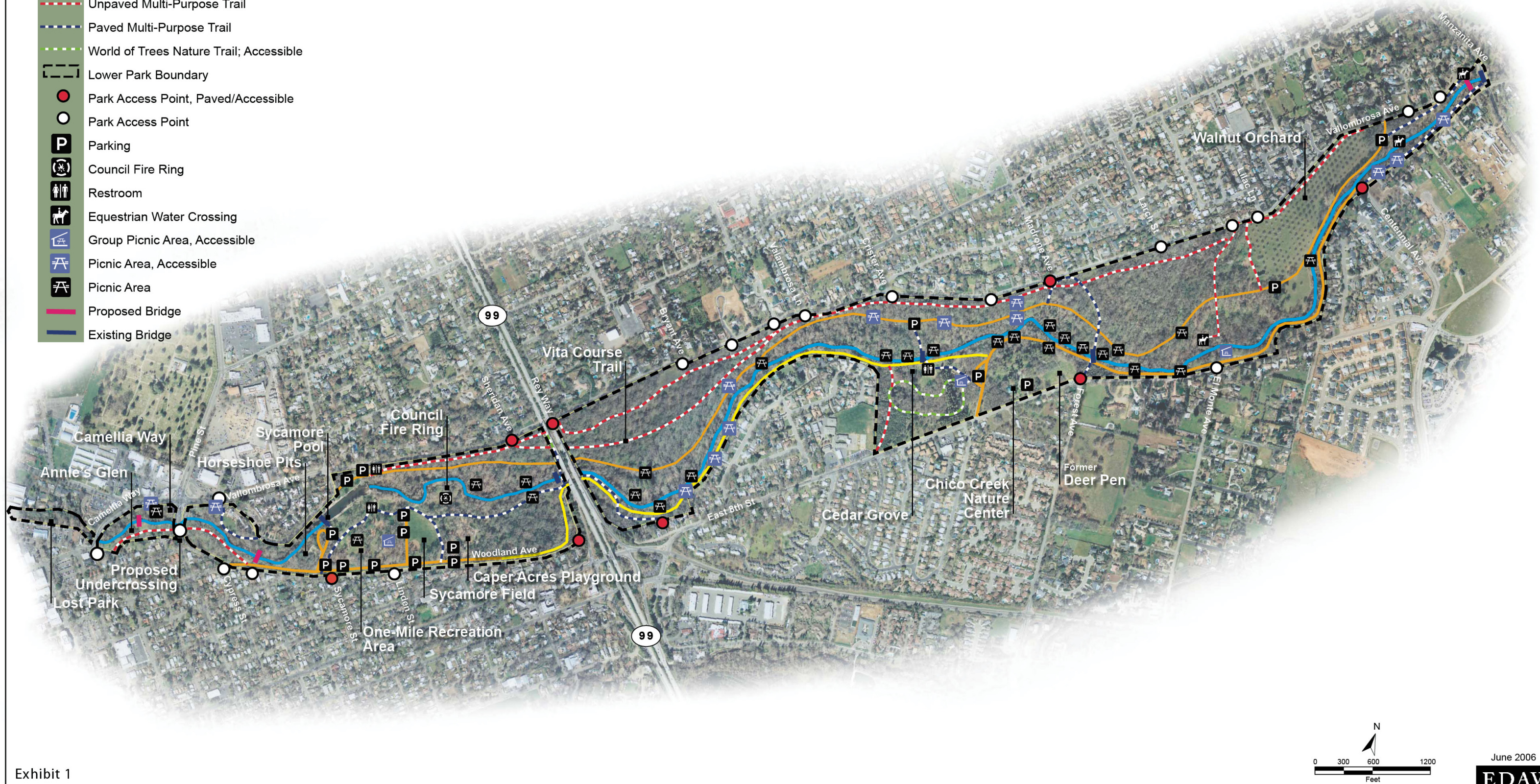
The Trails Plan (Exhibit E3.2.1.1 and E3.2.1.2) for Bidwell Park was developed to provide guidance for future trail maintenance, improvements, construction, and closures throughout the Park. It was developed utilizing a preliminary trails plan that was conceptually approved by the BPPC in 2002. The preliminary trails plan was revised and refined to reflect current uses, use patterns, and desired outcomes. Public input, a technical workshop, and field review provided input and guidance for the development of the Trails Plan. Key elements of the Trails Plan include the following:

Bidwell Park Master Management Plan

TRAILS PLAN - LOWER PARK

LEGEND

- Paved Road, No Motor Vehicles Permitted
- Paved Road, Motor Vehicles Permitted
- Big Chico Creek
- Unpaved Multi-Purpose Trail
- Paved Multi-Purpose Trail
- World of Trees Nature Trail; Accessible
- Lower Park Boundary
- Park Access Point, Paved/Accessible
- Park Access Point
- Parking
- Council Fire Ring
- Restroom
- Equestrian Water Crossing
- Group Picnic Area, Accessible
- Picnic Area, Accessible
- Picnic Area
- Proposed Bridge
- Existing Bridge



Bidwell Park Master Management Plan

TRAILS PLAN - MIDDLE AND UPPER PARK

LEGEND

-  Existing Trail
-  Proposed Trail
-  Accessible Trail
-  Proposed Trail Closure
-  Paved Road
-  Unpaved Road
-  Upper Park Alternatives
-  Existing Bridge
-  Proposed Bridge
-  Existing Parking/Trailhead
-  Proposed Parking/Trailhead
-  Swimming Area
-  Park Boundary

Upper Park Alternative B

- Close Upper Park Road at Parking Lot S
- Closed Road Becomes Trail Connection
- Expand Parking Lot S
- Lower Bridge Crossing

Upper Park Alternative A

- Upper Park Road Remains Open to Lot U
- Reconfigure/Expand Parking Lot U
- Use Yahli Trail Connection to Bridge Crossing
- Upper Bridge Crossing

Note: Trail alignments shown are general corridor locations. Minor relocations of existing trails may be required within the corridors shown. All alignments and relocations to be designed and field verified prior to construction.



- ▶ Upgrading and maintaining existing trails;
- ▶ A limited number of new trail segments that would be constructed to provide easier access, create a loop, create a new connection between major trails, or provide convenient access to trailheads;
- ▶ Design alternatives to provide a safe crossing of Big Chico Creek in Upper Park and address constraints at Parking Lot U;
- ▶ Identification of unmitigated trails that should be targeted for closure and restoration;
- ▶ Identification of key areas of concern to address during future implementation of the Trails Plan;
- ▶ Circulation patterns in Lower Park;
- ▶ Implementation strategies; and
- ▶ Funding opportunities.

The Trails Plan is to be implemented in conjunction with the City's Trails Manual (1999) which provides the City's standards and guidelines for trails management. The Trails Manual was reviewed by professional trails planners during the development of the BPMMP Update and Trails Plan.

E3.2.2 HORSESHOE LAKE AREA CONCEPT PLAN

The Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan (Exhibit E3.2.2.1) formalizes the area's importance as the primary destination in Middle Park and as the primary access point to Upper Park. The Concept Plan includes elements that define destination points; clarify and delineate access; provide additional trails and reduce user conflict; close redundant unofficial trails; regulate access to the lake's edge; and provide additional parking, signage and destination points, such as overlooks and picnic areas. The Concept Plan would be implemented in close coordination with the Trails Plan. Specific elements of the Horseshoe Lake Area Concept Plan include the following:

- ▶ Enhancement and clear delineation of Parking Lot B to provide 58 standard and 4 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) spots;
- ▶ Enhancement and clear delineation of Parking Lot C to provide 52 standard and 4 ADA spots;
- ▶ Enhancement and clear delineation of Parking Lot E to provide 55 standard and 2 ADA spots;
- ▶ Restrooms, picnic area and informational signage at each parking lot;

- ▶ Consolidation of trails to formalize key access points and destinations and discourage social trails;
- ▶ Native plantings to provide shade for picnic areas and overlooks and screen parking lots;
- ▶ Entry signs at access points;
- ▶ Upgrades to the lake perimeter trail to provide all weather access;
- ▶ Consolidation of access trails to Monkey Face;
- ▶ Overlook on the top of Monkey Face;
- ▶ Low barrier fencing and education signage to discourage the continued use of unmitigated trails;
- ▶ Three types of lake edge treatments to reduce erosion, control/guide access, and provide varied user experiences around the perimeter of Horseshoe Lake;
- ▶ Native tree plantings to provide shade to key use areas and visual separation between users; and
- ▶ Overlook and seating areas around the lake.

E3.2.3 CEDAR GROVE AREA CONCEPT PLAN

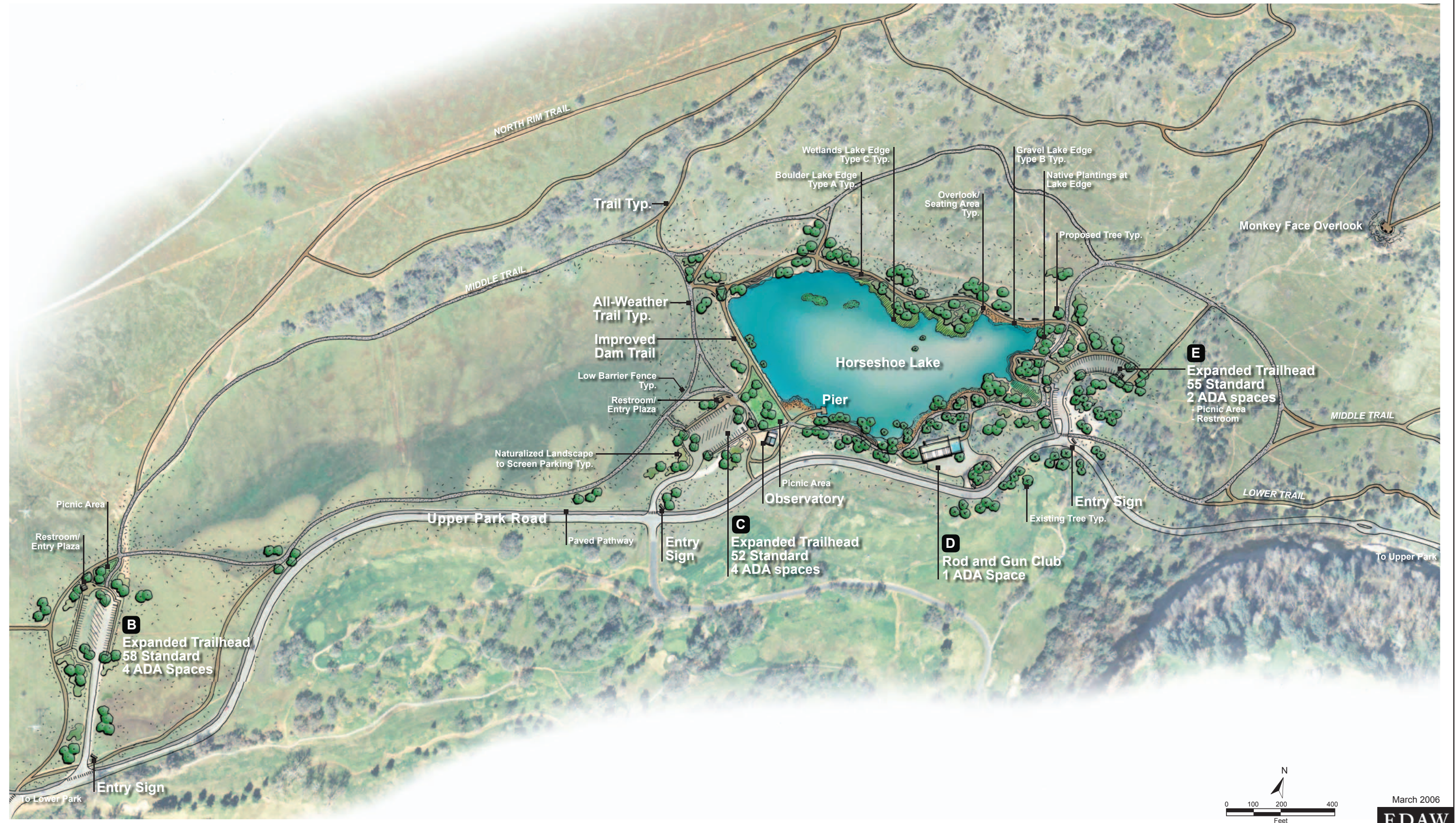
The Cedar Grove Area Concept Plan (Exhibit E3.2.3.1) includes rehabilitation, enhancement, and renovation of existing facilities at the site. Improvements would be made to parking, circulation, signage, lighting, and facilities, such as restrooms. The purpose of the improvements is to provide enhanced infrastructure for the area to accommodate the existing events and functions taking place in the Cedar Grove Area, such as the annual Endangered Species Fair, Shakespeare in the Park event. It would also support use of the area by individuals for picnics, hiking/ walking, nature exploration along the World of Trees Nature trail, and visiting the Big Chico Creek Nature Center. The Cedar Grove Area Concept Plan separates the overall area into two distinct use areas: the group picnic/festival meadow area and the nature center area. Although separate vehicle access points are provided, pedestrian pathways connect the two areas and a proposed overflow parking area could serve either area during high visitation events. Specific improvements proposed in each of the two areas include the following:

In the Nature Center area:

- ▶ Paving and delineation of the existing parking lot to maximize parking efficiency with 38 standard and 2 ADA parking spaces;
- ▶ Accommodation of school bus and emergency vehicle access and required turning radius;

Bidwell Park Master Plan

HORSESHOE LAKE AREA CONCEPT PLAN

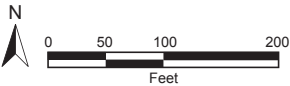


Bidwell Park Master Management Plan

CEDAR GROVE AREA CONCEPT PLAN



Parking/Trail Examples



- ▶ Planting of additional trees in/near parking area to provide shade and soften the appearance of delineated parking;
- ▶ Establishment of trail and sidewalk connections to enable access to other areas of the Park;
- ▶ Use of low barrier fencing in high use areas to direct pedestrian traffic and discourage off-trail use; and
- ▶ Establishment of an entry plaza to the Park, including an information kiosk and benches.

In the group picnic area:

- ▶ Improved access from Cedar Way;
- ▶ Paving and delineation of the existing parking lot to maximize parking efficiency with 45 standard and 4 ADA parking spaces;
- ▶ Planting of additional trees in/near parking area to provide shade and soften the appearance of delineated parking;
- ▶ Installation of electricity to provide lighting along trails during community events;
- ▶ Improvement of restrooms;
- ▶ Installation of a small playground/play structure in the group picnic area;
- ▶ Establishment of a “meadow trail” around the festival meadow;
- ▶ Use of low barrier fencing in high use areas to direct pedestrian traffic and discourage off-trail use; and
- ▶ Establishment/formalization of an unpaved overflow parking area providing 48 standard spaces that would be used during major events only.

E3.2.4 DISC GOLF/TRAILHEAD AREA CONCEPT PLAN

The Disc Golf Course/Trailhead Area Concept Plan provides three design options for the use of the disc golf course area off SR 32 in Upper Park (Exhibits E3.2.4.1 through E3.2.4.3). All three design options have been developed according to environmental design criteria, taking into consideration the extent and location of sensitive biological resources present on the site. All three options also provide for multiple use of the area, including disc golf, multiuse trails, picnicing, and scenic overlooks. Two separate trailhead layouts are also provided, depending on the site use option chosen for the site. The following three options have been developed:

- ▶ **Option A:** an 18-hole long course and an 18-hole short course with parking lot alternative A;
- ▶ **Option B:** an 18-hole long course and a 12-hole short course (eliminating holes 4, 8, 10, 12, and 15 from the short course proposed in Alternative A) with parking lot alternative A;
- ▶ **Option C:** an 18-hole long course only (no additional short course) with the smaller parking lot alternative B.

Bidwell Park Master Management Plan
Conceptual Disc Golf Course Layout

Alternative A

LEGEND

Stuart Data

- Butte County Checkerbloom
- ▨ Bidwell's Knotweed

EDAW Data

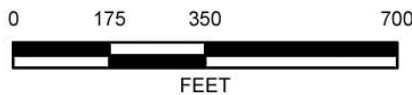
- Bidwell's Knotweed, March and May Surveys
- Butte County Checkerbloom, March and May Surveys
- Wildflower Field with Bidwell's Knotweed, May Survey
- Wildflower Field, May Survey
- Vernal Pool
- Vernal Pool Complex (Contains 6 Pools)
- Vernal Swale

- Overlook
- Tee Location
- Pins
- Summer Fairway
- Winter Fairway
- All Season Fairway
- - Parking Lot Concept (68 cars)
- Old Humboldt Road Alignment
- - Drainage
- Proposed Trail
- ▭ Disc Golf Course Boundary

Sources: EDAW 2005, City of Chico 2004,
Mike Belchik 2005, Stuart Data 2002



1 Inch = 350 Feet



August 26, 2005

EDAW

Bidwell Park Master Management Plan
Conceptual Disc Golf Course Layout

Alternative B

LEGEND

Stuart Data

- Butte County Checkerbloom
- ▨ Bidwell's Knotweed

EDAW Data

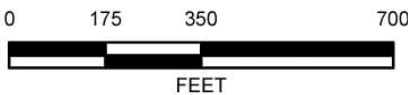
- Bidwell's Knotweed, March and May Surveys
- Butte County Checkerbloom, March and May Surveys
- Wildflower Field with Bidwell's Knotweed, May Survey
- Wildflower Field, May Survey
- Vernal Pool
- Vernal Pool Complex (Contains 6 Pools)
- Vernal Swale

- Overlook
- Tee Location
- Pins
- Summer Fairway
- Winter Fairway
- All Season Fairway
- - Parking Lot Concept (68 cars)
- Old Humboldt Road Alignment
- - Drainage
- Proposed Trail
- ▭ Disc Golf Course Boundary

Sources: EDAW 2005, City of Chico 2004,
Mike Belchik 2005, Stuart Data 2002



1 Inch = 350 Feet



August 26, 2005

EDAW

Bidwell Park Master Management Plan
Conceptual Disc Golf Course Layout

Alternative C

LEGEND

Stuart Data

- Butte County Checkerbloom
- ▨ Bidwell's Knotweed

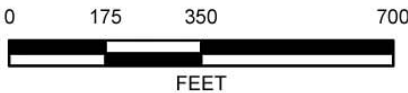
EDAW Data

- Bidwell's Knotweed, March and May Surveys
- Butte County Checkerbloom, March and May Surveys
- Wildflower Field with Bidwell's Knotweed, May Survey
- Wildflower Field, May Survey
- Vernal Pool
- Vernal Pool Complex (Contains 6 Pools)
- Vernal Swale
- Overlook
- Tee Location
- Pins
- Summer Fairway
- Winter Fairway
- All Season Fairway
- - - Parking Lot Concept (34 cars)
- Old Humboldt Road Alignment
- - - Drainage
- Proposed Trail
- ▭ Disc Golf Course Boundary

Sources: EDAW 2005, City of Chico 2004,
Mike Belchik 2005, Stuart Data 2002



1 Inch = 350 Feet



August 26, 2005

EDAW