



NEWS RELEASE
City of Chico
www.ci.chico.ca.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jessica Erdahl, Sr. Park Ranger
ORGANIZATION: Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways, and Preserves Division, General Services Department,
City of Chico, 965 Fir Street, POB 3420 Chico, CA 95927.
PHONE: 530-896-7834 **FAX:** 530-895-4731
EMAIL: jerdahl@ci.chico.ca.us
WEB ADDRESS: www.chico.ca.us

Pet Waste In The Park Dispose of Dog Waste Properly

Chico, CA, 11/02/2010 – Bidwell Park dog owners will begin to notice reminders of the necessity of picking-up and disposing their pets' waste in the park.

The unsightly presence of dog waste at major trailhead areas and parking lots has prompted the City of Chico's Park Division to launch a "Scoop the Poop" campaign with colorful signs on kiosks. Park Rangers are taking an increased educational and enforcement stance with pet owners by alerting them to the fact that pet waste has potentially serious health risks especially in recreational areas. Unlike horse manure, which contains mainly vegetation and breaks down quickly, dog feces puts other pets and people at risk for infection from disease causing bacteria and parasites. Pet waste can also affect water quality, which compromises recreational usage and undermines stream health.

Park Staff are taking a light-hearted, humorous approach to the signs, but under the Chico Municipal Code, dog owners may be cited for leaving dog waste in the Park. Pet owners are urged to use the bags provided at trailheads throughout the park and dispose of used bags in trash cans. In the next few months, the Park Division will be providing park users with information on park rules or courtesies that benefit park users.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Park Rangers at 530-896-7800.

###

The Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways, and Preserves Division is within the General Services Department, and is responsible for maintaining and operating City parks, open space, and recreation areas including Bidwell Park, Children's Playground, Depot Park, City Plaza, Lindo Channel, Little Chico Creek Greenway, Teichert Ponds, and other preserves. Park Division programs include: Maintenance, Ranger, Lifeguard, and Volunteer Programs.

###

Distribution:
All City of Chico
All Media