



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**City of Chico**  
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## **POSSIBLE MOUNTAIN LION ACTIVITY IN BIDWELL PARK**

The City has received reports of possible mountain lion activity in both Upper and Lower Bidwell Park. Although the chance of meeting a mountain lion is extremely small, the City would like to remind park users that mountain lions are part of Bidwell Park's natural environment and offers the following precautions:

- Do not hike or run alone, especially from dusk to dawn. While mountain lions are not likely to approach humans, they are even less likely to approach a more threatening larger group.
- Keep children in sight, and talk to them about mountain lions and what to do if they encounter one.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, stay calm, maintain eye contact, and do not run. Try to appear larger than the lion by raising and waving your arms, or opening your jacket. Pick up small children, and throw stones, branches or whatever is in reach without crouching or turning away from the lion. Speak firmly in a loud voice so that it begins to understand that you are not prey, but that you actually pose a danger.

The City of Chico's Park Division works closely with the local Department of Fish and Game Department and informs them of all unusual wildlife situations. If you encounter a mountain lion, or experience property damage or the loss of a pet or livestock that you believe may be associated with one, please contact the Park Division at 530-896-7800, or the Police Department at 530-897-4900.

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