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MOUNTAIN LION SIGHTED IN UPPER BIDWELL PARK

Chico, CA 8/14/11- The City received a report of a mountain lion sighting in Upper Bidwell Park off of Ten Mile House Road near Bloody Pin Trail on Sunday afternoon. The incident has been reported to the Department of Fish and Game.

Mountain lions are part of Bidwell Park's natural environment and sightings in the park have occurred in recent years. Although attacks on humans are rare, the City offers a few precautions:

- Avoid surprising animals. Make noise and stay aware-especially on sections of trail with limited sight lines.
- Tune into your surroundings so you can hear approaching animals and leave the headphones at home.
- Avoid hiking or running alone from dusk to dawn, as the animals are less likely to approach a large group than an individual.
- 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, don't run. Instead stay calm, maintain eye contact, and back up slowly. Try to appear larger than the lion by raising 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.

The City of Chico's Park Division works closely with the California Department of Fish and Game and informs them of all unusual wildlife situations. If you encounter a mountain lion, or have future questions, please contact the Park Division at 530-896-7800 or the Police Department at 530-897-4900.

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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.

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

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