

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dog Etiquette in the Park (Be a Responsible Pet Owner)

Chico CA, 10/17/11- Many people enjoy visiting Bidwell Park with their dogs, however incidents involving dogs such as bites, accidents, and complaints are on the rise. The City of Chico's Park Division is launching a "Responsible Pet Owner" campaign with increased education and enforcement of dog issues. As part of the campaign, Park Rangers will post informational signs and educate dog owners on park rules and etiquette. They will also ramp up enforcement of park rules.

Park Rangers note that well-behaved pets, and pet owners, that follow a few simple rules help minimize conflicts and make the park safer for park patrons and wildlife. These rules include:

- Dogs are allowed on a leash, less than 6 feet long, in many areas of the park,
- Dogs that are under effective voice control of their handlers, may be allowed off leash in:
 1. Lower Park from sunrise to 8:30 am , and
 2. In Middle and Upper Park on trails north of the road.
- Dogs are prohibited in all designated swimming areas, including Upper Park swimming holes and the Sycamore Pool and adjacent lawn areas.
- Keep dogs away from wildlife.
- Owners are responsible for picking up and disposing of pet waste properly.

The City asks that park users always carry a leash and a means to carry waste whenever you are in the park. Allowing dogs in off leash areas is a privilege that many cities do not offer. You can help maintain this privilege by being a responsible pet owner.

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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.