



Partners in Progress with



The City of Chico is one of 17 organizations statewide selected to receive funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act administered by California ReLeaf. The City is responsible for management and upkeep of Bidwell Park – a 3,670 acre recreation area within Chico that is considered one of the largest municipal parks in the United States.



The \$100,000 grant for the Bidwell Park Tree Pruning Project allowed the City of Chico, which like most cities in California has experienced severe budgetary problems, to hire a pruning contractor – who in turn hired county residents to prune the aging Bidwell park trees over high use areas. A large portion of Bidwell Park is located within an old growth riparian forest that includes a number of heritage valley oaks and sycamores, some as old as 200 or 300 years and as tall as 100 feet. Because of their advanced age, many are

decayed, cracked and defected, posing a potential danger to visitors to the park. The pruning helped to increase the life span of the trees, allowing the old trees to provide for wildlife habitat, regeneration and climate control as well as produce new seedlings and shelter young regenerating trees.

Fast Facts for the City of Chico’s ARRA Grant

Jobs created/retained: 3

Trees Maintained: 233

Job Hours Contributed to California Work Force: 1,538

Lasting legacy: this project has made Bidwell Park safer for visitors who come throughout the year for either a cool swim in Sycamore pool, or to enjoy the hiking, biking and horseback riding permitted throughout this expansive recreation area.



“The purpose is to preserve the trees for as long as possible, while new young trees are growing throughout the rest of the forest. But the unique character and continued regeneration of the forest depends on these original trees.” -- Denice Britton, Urban Forest Manager for the City of Chico.

