



- 1 Community Park
- 2 DeGarmo Park
- 3 Hooker Oak Park
- 4 Wildwood Park
- 5 Chico Creek Nature Center
- 6 Dorothy F. Johnson Center
- 7 Lakeside Pavilion
- 8 PV Recreation Center & Pool
- 9 CARD Center & Creekside Rose Garden

- 10 Humboldt Ave. Skate Park
- 11 Hancock Park
- 12 Baroni Park
- 13 Oak Way Park
- 14 Peterson Park
- 15 Rotary Park
- 16 Henshaw Park
- 17 Ceres Park



Since 1948

# CARD

CHICO AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT



EXPLORING THE FUTURE

*Facts & Information*

ChicoRec.com



530-895-4711

## WHAT IS CARD

The Chico Area Recreation and Park District, known locally as “CARD,” is an independent special use district created over 70 years ago to provide park and recreation services for more than 105,000 residents. Our boundaries encompass a more-than 250 square-mile area, which includes the City of Chico and surrounding areas.

### WHAT IS THIS PROJECT ALL ABOUT?

It is the District’s responsibility to provide public parks and recreation facilities that enrich our residents’ quality of life by promoting health, wellness, learning, and fun. CARD is one of the most utilized agencies in our area, with our parks, facilities, and programs serving thousands of people annually. Our parks reflect the quality of our communities, improve property values, contribute to education, reduce crime, attract businesses, and create jobs.

Despite consistent regular maintenance, CARD local parks and recreation facilities are aging and have become outdated over many decades of constant use. This project is intended to find a solution to that problem in an environment of limited resources. One of the options under consideration is to ask the Chico-area community to support establishing a new and stable local funding source (parcel tax) to provide funding for park and recreation facilities that the State can’t take away.

### CRITICAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED FOR PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS:

- **Reducing** crime and homelessness in parks by providing security patrols
- **Providing** clean, safe parks and recreational programs for Chico area residents
- **Upgrading** parks with lighting, security, parking, and other safety features
- **Improving and maintaining** park bathrooms
- **Repairing/updating** aging recreation centers, playgrounds, sports fields, swimming pools, and facilities that promote active and healthy living, and maintain recreational programs for seniors and youth
- **Ensuring** accessibility of parks and recreation for persons with disabilities
- **Renovating/expanding** parks, trails, and recreation areas, and completing parks under construction



### WHY EXPLORE THIS NOW?

The District is more than 70 years old, and with a lack of stable funding comes deferred maintenance. We need to address safety concerns and provide upgrades to aging parks while creating and maintaining health-related programs for all – from our youth to our seniors. CARD has been working for several years investigating options to address its aging park and recreation facility needs. At the same time, the Great Recession and other conditions have greatly impacted the District’s budget, making it impossible to fund needed repairs and upgrades to aging park and recreation facilities while still maintaining services for the community.

### WHAT ABOUT OTHER FUNDING?

CARD makes every effort to use resources wisely and has proven its fiscal responsibility over the years. CARD depends on fees and admissions from our facilities and programs as main sources of income in addition to property taxes, but this is not enough. With State-imposed decreases in taxes allocated to CARD, it is not feasible to keep up with capital improvements without other revenue sources. To fund identified needs, we are exploring all available options, including our own existing budget, State and Federal funding, private grants, and other sources of support. We are also considering asking our community to support a local parcel tax measure. **While NO decisions have been made yet**, this study process is a priority for us this 2019 year.

### DOESN'T THE CITY OF CHICO PAY FOR PARK SERVICES?

Historically, CARD and the City of Chico have both been responsible for parks, recreation, and open space resources, facilities, and services, with the City of Chico having primary responsibility for Bidwell Park and some neighborhood parks and CARD having primary responsibility for recreation programs and community parks. Currently, the City and CARD have been working to realign responsibility of the development and maintenance of neighborhood parks to CARD. In 2010, the City transferred several neighborhood parks to CARD’s care, with more parks potentially transferring to CARD at a later time.

### HAS CARD BEEN AFFECTED BY THE CAMP FIRE?

Yes. Unfortunately, with the Camp Fire’s destruction of local property, property taxes collected to fund local agencies are also reduced due to the loss of those properties. The County collects the property taxes for all of Butte County. Then, a percentage of the whole is distributed to local agencies. Therefore, each public agency, including CARD, will see a reduction in its property tax allocation – funding that would go towards the maintenance of our local parks and recreation programs.

**It is estimated that CARD will lose over \$200,000 in property tax revenue in 2019. Future tax reductions are expected, and plans are being made to adjust expenses.** Additionally, despite the decrease in number of properties in the county, we are seeing an increase in participation in already impacted programs due to the increase in our local population.

### DOES CARD HAVE AN UNFUNDED RETIREMENT LIABILITY?

CARD is part of the Cal PERS retirement system. CARD has established an aggressive payment schedule for the unfunded liability and will continue to adjust payments to minimize interest charges and reduce the payment schedule.

### IS THERE A PLAN FOR CARD PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES PROJECTS?

CARD values park and recreation facilities master planning. We review and update our master plan on an ongoing basis to target services and reflect the needs of our community. The current Master Plan was updated in 2018 and is available online for review at [www.chicorec.com](http://www.chicorec.com).

### WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES UPGRADES?

CARD is one of the most utilized agencies in our area, with our parks, facilities, and programs serving thousands of people annually. Our parks reflect the quality of our communities, improve property values, contribute to education, reduce crime, attract businesses, and create jobs.

### DOES THAT MEAN THE DISTRICT IS GOING OUT FOR A PARCEL TAX MEASURE?

NO decisions have been made. We are conducting our feasibility due diligence, but it is clear that our needs are great and additional tax revenue is a viable solution to meet our critical needs. Any decision by CARD will be made to encompass CARD Master Plan-identified needs and your important community input. Again, no decisions have been made, and we are currently conducting community input across the Chico area.

### HOW MUCH WOULD A PARCEL TAX COST?

NO decisions have been made. CARD is looking at all available solutions to the current budget shortfall, and we are engaging in a formal poll of residents to get feedback. One option currently being discussed is a tax of \$85 per parcel, per year, which comes out to about \$7.08 per household, per month.

### HAVE THERE BEEN OTHER CARD PARCEL TAXES? IF SO, WHEN WAS THE LAST ONE?

CARD strives to be a model of financial responsibility, making every effort to spend taxpayer dollars wisely. There are currently no district-wide parcel taxes in place to raise funds for CARD. Passing a parcel tax measure would create a new and stable local funding source for CARD parks and programs.

### WILL BUSINESSES SHARE IN THE COST OF A POTENTIAL MEASURE?

Yes, commercial and residential property owners will be subject to any assessment.

### WHO MAKES THE FINAL DECISION ON A POTENTIAL TAX REVENUE MEASURE?

The locally elected CARD Board of Directors is the legal entity that must take action to call for an election. Taking such an action would put the question to local voters to decide. Ultimately, **Chico Area Recreation and Park District REGISTERED VOTERS have the final say** when they vote for or against the measure.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE ON A LOCAL PARCEL TAX MEASURE?

All registered voters within the Chico Area Recreation and Park District are eligible to vote on any potential tax revenue measure.