



What do you for outdoor fun?

Asked in
downtown Chico

Ryan Reaves

Mountain biking—in Upper Park. I like to go uphill on the south side, and then cross the creek and come back on the north side.



Kim Hamberg

Go to the park, ride my bike in the park. I usually go to Lower and Middle [Bidwell Park]. And we love going to the farmers' market every Saturday.



Jose Trujillo

When we have outdoor fun, [we head] to the park. We have a little one, and parks around our place are pretty clean. Maybe Upper Park later when she's old enough to handle it.



Frankie Granberry

I ride a Harley, so I do a lot of riding my motorcycle for fun. It's one of my biggest hobbies. I want to go ride by the coast. The scenery would be the best part.



Growing pain

Re: Editorial: "We decide Chico" (Feb. 2, 2023)

When I read what's happening (and has happened) to Chico, I have to remind myself that I can't go back to the 1970s. And for those who can't remember or weren't born yet, Chico was a small town that grew quiet, dusty and blistering hot in the summer.

My tiny apartment needed air conditioning, so I went to Bidwell Park to cool off. I liked Five Mile best at first, and often met friends there. But once I discovered Upper Park, there were days I found myself alone, basking on a water-worn rock in the middle of Big Chico Creek. Soon, I started taking a canteen with me, staying until the shadows fell in the canyon. There were days when not a single person shared Salmon Hole with me. Now there are houses overlooking Upper Park.

I am trying to remember the names of all the housing projects that have come and gone in Chico, but developers stopped building one when I was there because of environmental concerns (at least in part). But now, more bulldozing and ecological destruction is coming? Given the housing crisis in Chico and elsewhere in California, opposing this may be selfish, but I would have signed the [Valley's Edge] referendum petition if I could. I loved watching trout jump as the shade drifted closer to me on a late afternoon. It saddens me that more and more places like that are being destroyed.

I am writing this after the petition deadline, but the Butte Environmental Council office was once just a few blocks from where I lived. Finding affordable housing was a nightmare even then, and Chico needs answers. Still, I studied what we needed to be doing in 1975 when I took a class at Chico State on the environment and man, Geography 114. Sadly, what I learned in 1975 is trumpeted today as breaking news: The things needed to save ourselves and our planet from environmental destruction.

Good luck, my friends.

C. DeForest Switzer
Sioux City, Iowa

Write a letter

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