

What are you planting in your garden?

**Asked in
downtown Chico**

Stephanie Rose
university employee



Right now? Green beans, zucchini and maybe some tomatoes [in my] back yard—up in Paradise.

Claire Renar
photographer/
student



Well, I rent and my back yard's a mess. We do have a lot of fresh herbs—rosemary, stuff like that. They kind of just free grow in our front yard and our back yard.

Joy Lucas
retired



I just planted some tomato starts and I just bought a bunch of flowers.

Jake
student



I wish I had a garden. I have no space, or any sun. I would be planting herbs, probably thyme and basil, nightshades—like tomatoes, chilis.

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“Most government aid goes to families that need it the least,” Desmond says. “If you add up the amount that the government is dedicating to tax breaks—mortgage interest deduction, wealth transfer tax breaks, tax breaks we get on our retirement accounts, our health insurance, our college savings accounts—you learn that we are doing much more to subsidize affluence than to alleviate poverty. If you look at the amount of money we spent on homeowner tax subsidies, like the mortgage interest deduction, that’s around \$190 billion a year. Well, how much have we dedicated to housing assistance for low-income families? About \$50 billion a year. It’s a colossal difference.”

Charles Withuhn
Chico

Road less travelable

One of the best, easily accessible to everyone trails in Bidwell Park was Upper Park Road. The City of Chico destroyed it for hiking to provide a better roadway for gas-powered vehicles. What was an accessible road/path for everyone has been covered in 4 to 6 inches of volcanic railroad ballast. It is a nightmare to walk on. Besides the looseness of the material, the crunching sound of steps or bike tires drowns out the sounds of nature that were so nice to hear.

The roadway had problems—because of the failure of Public Works to maintain it and the City to invest in it—but only in a few areas, not the entire 3.4 miles of road. In addition, this erosion control project built swales into the roadway requiring hikers on foot to walk through or jump over running water in the swale when it is rainy.

Upper Park Road is no longer accessible to casual hikers, strollers (try pushing one through that stuff), wheelchairs (a failure to follow ADA requirements?), narrow-tire bicycles, or horses (the ballast has very sharp edges and are not small stones).

You can thank the City of Chico for creating this mess.

Tom Barrett
Chico

Write a letter

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