

Teichert Ponds The Accidental Wetland

—Chico's Other Jewel—

Teichert Ponds in Chico, California is an oasis for wildlife in the midst of the City's urban environment. The 40-acre site supports a dense riparian overstory of cottonwoods, valley oaks and willow. Much of the site's lush understory is invasive exotic species, such as pyracantha and blackberry. But these also provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, especially berry eating birds such as cedar waxwings. Resident Canada geese and wood ducks can be seen on the ponds, along with other migratory waterfowl, while songbirds and raptors, such as red-shouldered hawks, enjoy the riparian vegetation bordering Little Chico Creek.



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Careful observers can find evidence of beavers, and see basking western pond turtles, a special status species.

The site's three ponds were created in the mid-1960s by Teichert Construction Company while mining the site's gravel for construction of SR 99. The ponds filled with water after the shallow aquifer was ruptured in 1966. Although the ponds may have been created by accident, they provide a valuable habitat for all kinds of wetland inhabitants. With 90% of the original wetland habitat of California gone, the ponds are something to treasure.

*A pond is an ecosystem —
that is the totality of
living beings and the
environment.*

*The various actions and
reactions of its components are in
equilibrium.*

— Simon & Schuster's
Guide to Freshwater and Marine Fish

*If you or your organizations
are interested in participating in
this community project
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*Private and corporation donations
and grants can be deposited directly to this
account: NVCF #68-0161455*

**Teichert Ponds
RESTORATION FOUNDATION**

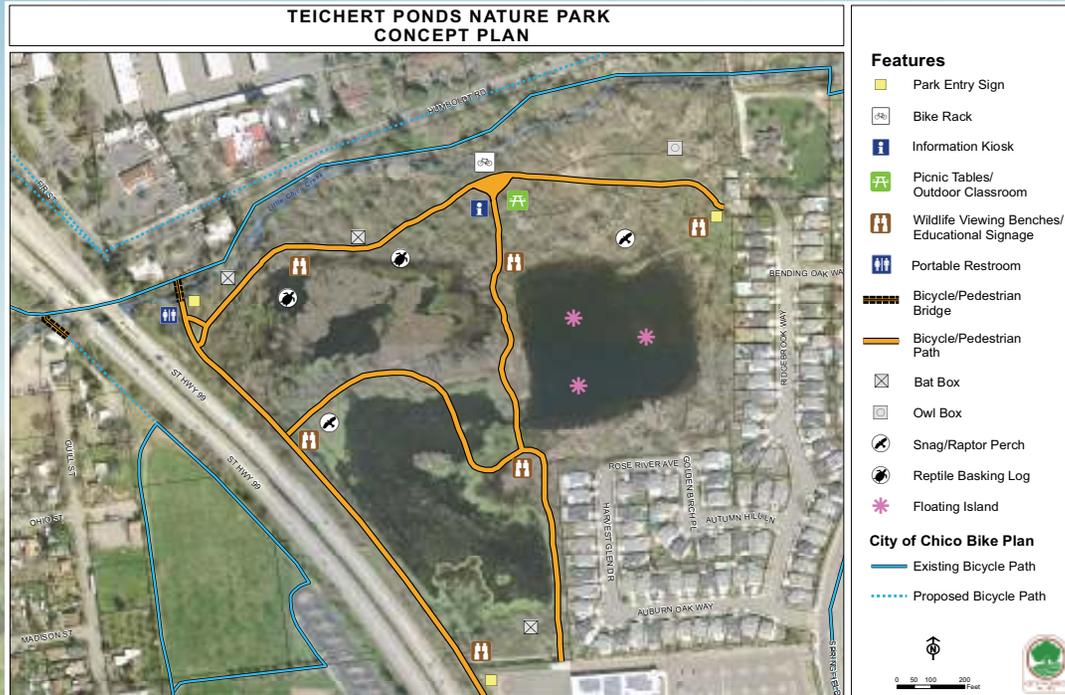


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Teichert Ponds

CHICO, CALIFORNIA

Recreational • Educational • Balanced Wetlands Environment



The ponds collect urban stormwater runoff, which has drowned riparian trees, caused eutrophication (including excessive floating algal mats), and resulted in poor water quality. In 1990, the *Little Chico Creek Educators Consortium* was founded in order to educate the community regarding the needs, value, and potential of Teichert Ponds. At the urging of the consortium, the city assumed ownership of the site in 1999 and later funded a Habitat Development Plan for the site. The restoration effort includes enhancements to hydrology, improved access, conversion of Pond 2 into a treatment wetland, removal of exotic species and establishment of native ones.

More recently, in a group of interested pond stakeholders, including neighborhood members, environmentalists, educators, and city planners, formed a support group called *Teichert Ponds Restoration Foundation*. A non-profit account #68-0161455 was opened with *North Valley Community Foundation* to augment interest and funding of city allocations for developing the ponds as an educational preserve and passive recreational park.

The ponds value as a natural refuge and public amenity will be enhanced with the planned restoration. To accomplish this task, however, volunteers and funding are needed.

