



Paradise Recreation and Park District

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRPD Hosts “Good Fire Workshop” at Noble Park

Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD) Hosts “Good Fire Workshop” at Noble Park to Explore Healing, Stewardship and Social Connection through Fire

Paradise, CA - February 28, 2026 - Members of the press and community members are invited to gather for the Good Fire Festival, a day of free, hands-on workshops exploring beneficial fire as a tool for stewardship, safety, healing and community resilience. This event will take place on **Saturday, February 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Noble Park (6712 Pentz Road, Paradise).**

The festival is part of a larger series of over 500 events hosted by PRPD, focused on building social connection and community resilience in areas most impacted by the 2018 Camp Fire, including Paradise, Magalia, Concow/Yankee Hill, and Butte Creek Canyon. These events are organized in collaboration with more than 30 community-based organizations and partners, supporting residents in wildfire resilience, ecological stewardship, and trauma-informed community healing.

Funding for the Good Fire workshops and other events is provided by Neighbor-to-Neighbor, an initiative of California Volunteers, Office of the Governor to facilitate programs that strengthen neighbor-to-neighbor social connection and community resilience.

PRPD will also highlight its recent resolution supporting the “Meet 6 Neighbors” initiative, encouraging residents to intentionally strengthen social ties and community connection.

“The Good Fire Festival is about reclaiming our relationship with fire,” said Dan Efseaff, District Manager of the Paradise Recreation & Park District. “Fire has always been part of this landscape — and bringing our neighbors together with our capable partners allows us to fortify community connections and builds local knowledge to make our community safer and more resilient and makes our ecosystems and watersheds healthier.”

“We are fortunate to have the strong support of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program from the Office of the Governor and California Volunteers. The partnerships provide a strong demonstration of how the state of California can nurture local innovations that may have state-wide significance.”

The festival reflects a broad partnership of regional leaders and organizations committed to wildfire recovery and preparedness, and showcases collaborative efforts with the Butte County Prescribed Burn Association, Chico State Enterprises, the Fire Safe Council, Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, and other local partners, combining Indigenous cultural knowledge, prescribed fire expertise, and trauma-informed approaches to support healing and ecological stewardship.

By combining Indigenous knowledge, fire science, and trauma-informed facilitation, the event fosters neighbor-to-neighbor connection, strengthens community resilience, and helps survivors of the Camp Fire safely re-engage with fire as a tool for ecological stewardship.

Event Highlights:

- **Community Pyrotherapy (Fire Therapy):** Guided by **Blake Ellis (BCCER)**, integrating storytelling, mindfulness, and nature-based practices to help Camp Fire survivors and others reimagine their relationship with fire and address wildfire trauma.
- **Indigenous Cultural Fire:** Led by **He-Lo Ramirez (BCCER)**, covering traditional fire stewardship practices of California Indians and their ecological and cultural benefits.
- **Prescribed Fire in Practice** – Led by **David Mitchell (Butte County RCD)**, exploring fire behavior, safety protocols, and hands-on demonstration of prescribed burns as well as offering hands-on opportunities with live fire.

Event Schedule:

10:00 – 10:15 – Introductions, sign-in, safety overview

10:15 – 11:15 – Indigenous Cultural Fire

11:15 – 12:00 – Pyrotherapy

12:00 – 1:00 – Prescribed Fire in Practice

1:00 – 1:30 – Lunch

1:30 – 1:45 – Pyrotherapy

1:45 – 2:00 – Closing remarks, tamales and refreshments over the fire

Media will have the opportunity to capture live prescribed fire demonstrations, indigenous cultural fire education, guided pyrotherapy (fire therapy) sessions, community members engaging directly with controlled fire.

The Good Fire Festival demonstrates the power of collaboration, cultural knowledge, and trauma-informed fire education to rebuild both ecological health and social cohesion — neighbor-to-neighbor — in communities still healing from the 2018 Camp Fire.

Interviews Available: For more information or to schedule interviews please contact:

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Since 1948, the Paradise Recreation and Park District provides recreation facilities and programs to the residents of Paradise, the Butte Creek Canyon area, and the unincorporated communities of Magalia/Paradise Pines and Concow/Yankee Hill. The District serves 50,000 people living in a 170-square mile area and manages over 1,000 acres of park land and facilities.