



**CITY OF MONROVIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: October 8, 2019

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-6

TITLE: 2018-2019 Canyon Park Outdoor Educational Program Evaluation

OBJECTIVE: To provide the Community Services Commission with an evaluation of the 2018-2019 Canyon Park Outdoor Educational Program.

BACKGROUND: A component of Canyon Park's mission is to provide quality environmental education programs to foster a respect and appreciation for the natural world. Staff is dedicated to providing interpretative based programming connecting the minds and hearts of the students to the natural and cultural resources found Monrovia's foothills.

Since 1997, the City has partnered with the Monrovia Unified School District (MUSD) to provide every kindergarten through fifth grade Monrovia student with an opportunity to learn about Monrovia's rich natural resources. MUSD students receive a grade level appropriate Activity Book, provided by the school district, and use of the Canyon Park Nature Center as an off-site classroom. Educational Programs are offered to non-MUSD schools throughout the region; these groups receive identical programming with the exclusion of activity books.

The cost of an educational tour is \$4.00 per participant. The program includes a Park Naturalists who is trained in the grade level curriculum, a two hour program, use of the Canyon Park Nature Center, and educational materials.

ANALYSIS: The following information outlines the Outdoor Education program:

Kindergarten – “Unveiling Nature”: This program encourages students to discover their environment through sensory exploration. Games and hands-on displays actively guide participants through the functionality of sights, sounds, tastes, touch and smells that occur in nature.

First Grade – “Nature’s Real Estate”: What makes a habitat a home? Participants will discover the components of a habitat (food, water, shelter, and space). Using magnification tools, participants will explore microhabitats found along a guided hike. Participants will then recreate an ecosystem using objects found on their hike.

Second Grade – “Growing Pains”: Participants learn the relationship between members of plant, animal, and insect kingdoms, and how their lifecycles effect one another.

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Third Grade – “Foot Prints in the Canyon”: This program is geared toward a participants’ first time exposure to the park’s natural resources. Participants learn about plant and animal communities and the history and cultural of natural resources within the Park.

Fourth Grade – “Adapt, Migrate, or Disappear”: Participants are provided with an in-depth look at the biological mechanisms plants and wildlife use to survive in their habitat including food, mobility, protection, temperature, and reproduction. Animal pelts, skulls and games are used to demonstrate these lessons.

Fifth Grade – “Get into the Flow”: Designed for participants to examine water’s effect on the eco-system. The water-system is explored and participants learn where water comes from, and which sources supply the Canyon Park waterfall. Riparian vegetation and aquatic insects are examined to evaluate the health of the stream.

The following chart illustrates the number of participants for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS		
	2017-18	2018-19
MUSD Students	2,027	2,160
Non-MUSD students	686	346
Total Students	2,713	2,506

Participation from MUSD increased from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 because of added classes for grade levels kindergarten through second grade. An increase in tours needed for MUSD participants has led to a decrease in spots available for non-MUSD participants.

FISCAL IMPACT: The following table provides information on the revenue generated from the Outdoor Environmental Educational Program from 2017-2019 and 2018-2019.

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REVENUE		
	2017-18	2018-19
Monrovia Unified School District	\$8,108	\$8,640
Non-MUSD School Districts	\$2,743	\$1,384
Total Revenue	\$10,851	\$10,024

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Community Services Commission move to receive and file CC-6 2018-19 Canyon Park Outdoor Education Program Evaluation.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED: If Community Services Commission concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to: Receive and file CC-6 2018-19 Canyon Park Outdoor Education Program Evaluation.