



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: June 9, 2020

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for May 2020

OBJECTIVE: To provide an update on incidents, maintenance, and public comments related to Canyon Park and the Hillside Wilderness Preserve (HWP) recorded for the month of May 2020.

BACKGROUND: For over a century, Canyon Park has been used as a recreational park by visitors and Monrovia residents. Services in Canyon Park include special events; Naturalist led night hikes, interpretive tours, a Nature Center, trails, a waterfall, and views of the San Gabriel Valley. In addition, Naturalists and volunteers maintain the trail systems and facilities.

In 2016, the City opened over 4.5 miles of HWP trails providing passive recreational opportunities for the community. Park Naturalists patrol the HWP and urban parks two times a day by vehicle, utility terrain vehicle and foot. Park Naturalists also respond to calls related to Monrovia's Smoking Ban Ordinance.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, in response to the potential exposure of COVID-19 and under the guidance received by local, state and federal officials, the decision was made to close the Community Center, Library, HWP and Canyon Park to the public.

In effort to provide recreation for the community the decision was made to reopen HWP and Canyon Park on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. All programs were canceled and facilities remained close. During the reopening weekend, excessive crowds gathered in HWP and Canyon Park. Due to the lack of visitors not respecting health guidelines, such as wearing face masks and social distancing the decision was made again close HWP and Canyon Park until further notice. Park Naturalist have remained at the entrance gate at Canyon Park to ensure the park security.

On May 7, 2020, the Governor's Office lifted portion of the Stay at Home Order to allow for the reopening of trails as part of a multi-phased approach to allow public access to outdoor recreational facilities throughout Los Angeles County. In preparation of trail openings, guidelines were developed which included: operational hour limitations, various restrictions, maintenance protocols, monitoring recommendations, and other key considerations. These protocols were developed in consultation with the County Department of Public Health and in coordination with federal, state, and local trail managing partners. Adherence to the plan is critical to safely operate these important facilities so the community can enjoy the emotional and physical benefits provided by hiking and riding on trails.

On Friday, May 8, 2020 HWP and Sawpit Wash reopened to hikers and mountain bikers, however sections of narrow trails remained closed or modified to create one-way loops to ensure physical

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distancing. The “expired hiker trail” and “Bobcat Ridge Trail” remain closed in HWP since social distancing cannot be maintained. Since Canyon Park qualifies as a high use trail, additional safety measures and monitoring protocols were necessary and delayed the opening of the Park.

On Tuesday, May 26, 2020 Canyon Park reopened to the public through a reservation only online system. The new reservation system helps ensure a limited number of visitors, both residents and non-residents, have the opportunity to enjoy Canyon Park while also managing large crowds. Reservations are limited to 70 per timeslot, with three timeslots available every weekday. All visitors looking to enter the park must have a reservation, whether driving, biking or walking into Canyon Park. A \$5.00 parking fee is required for visitors to park inside Canyon Park. Trail modifications were established to ensure safe, physical distancing such as:

- *One-Way Trail Loops*
- *Potions of the Waterfall Trail and Ben Overturf Trail closed*
- *Limited Trail Use Hours*
 - *Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.*
 - *Closed - Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays*

ANALYSIS: During the month of May 2020, Park Naturalist worked on maintaining Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserves’ hiking trails. Although HWP and Canyon Park was closed for portion of May, Park Naturalists still completed 54 hours of maintenance throughout the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and 90 hours in Canyon Park. The maintenance included brush clearance and erosion control.

The table below details the activity for the month of May. Staff observed an increase amount of patrons using the Hillside Wilderness Preserve. Staff believes this is due to the limited access of hiking and mountain biking trails in Los Angeles County.

Below you will find the details related to the trail reservation system during the first week of the program. Staff has reported a number of positive comments from Park visitors. The community thought the system was easy to use, smart, and a responsible approach. Those who were not aware of the program, understood the reasoning and appreciate the update.

Since the launch of the program, the City has received significant praise for developing an effective and user friendly system. Staff has reported back to the Trail Task Force, Spoken with the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation, and shared with the City of Sierra Madre. Furthermore, news media covered the Park on opening day and provided positive press for the City.

MAY 2020 TRAIL RESERVATION TOTALS					
Reservation Time	6:30 – 10 a.m.	10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.	2:30 – 6 p.m.	TOTAL	Percentage
Total Number of Reservations	280	280	263	823	NA
Same Day Reservations	0	48	113	161	20%
Residents	142	101	63	306	37%
Non-Residents	138	179	200	517	63%
Cars	88	168	163	419	51%
Bikes	29	9	5	43	50%
Walkers	163	103	84	350	43%

Staff will continue to monitor the trail use and look to expand access as things begin to normalize and we can still ensuring proper social distancing as well as adherence to the Trail Use Guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Community Services Commission move to receive and file CC-2, Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for May 2020.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED: If the Community Services Commission concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to: Receive and file CC-2 Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for May 2020.

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**May 2020
HWP AND CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG**

HWP Maintenance – 54 hours of maintenance in May 2020

May 1	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 4	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 6	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists cleared water bars to prevent erosion on the trail.
May 8	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 11	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists installed water bars on the trail to prevent erosion.
May 13	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 14	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 19	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 20	Cloverleaf - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.

Canyon Park Maintenance – 90 hours of maintenance in May 2020

May 5	Waterfall - Park Naturalist cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 7	Nature Center - Park Naturalists cleared brush growing onto the trail and in the surrounding area.
May 12	Nature Center - Park Naturalists cleared brush growing onto the trail and in the surrounding area.
May 15	Bill Cull - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 18	Bill Cull - Park Naturalists cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 21	Bill Cull - Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists cleared approximately 150 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 22	Waterfall/Bill Cull - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 25	Bill Cull - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 27	Overlook - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
May 29	Overlook - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.

May 2019/2020

PATROLS			ACTIVITY																				
	# of staff patrols 2019	# of staff patrols 2020	Pedestrians 2019	Pedestrians 2020	Vehicles 2019	Vehicles 2020	Cyclists 2019	Cyclists 2020	Pets 2019	Pets 2020	Public Service Calls 2019	Public Service Calls 2020	Smoking Ban Calls 2019	Smoking Ban Calls 2020	Wildlife Sightings 2019	Wildlife Sightings 2020	Unsecured Gate 2019	Unsecured Gate 2020	Citations 2019	Citations 2020	Activity Totals 2019	Activity Totals 2020	
Sleepy Hollow																							
May 1-7	13	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 8-14	13	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 15-21	12	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 22-28	13	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 29-31	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	= 56	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgeside																							
May 1-7	13	14	20	3	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	3	
May 8-14	13	14	14	113	0	0	10	18	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	142	
May 15-21	12	14	13	122	0	0	1	8	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	138	
May 22-28	13	9	16	114	0	0	5	28	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	142	
May 29-31	5	3	5	48	0	0	1	18	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	66	
Total	= 56	54	68	400	0	0	22	72	11	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101	491	
Cloverleaf																							
May 1-7	13	14	12	2	0	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	2	
May 8-14	13	14	11	188	0	3	8	31	2	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	246	
May 15-21	14	14	10	106	0	0	12	11	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	131	
May 22-28	13	9	22	98	0	4	1	30	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	141	
May 29-31	5	3	1	22	0	0	2	6	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	31	
Total	= 58	54	56	416	0	7	29	78	6	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	551	
Highland																							
May 1-7	13	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
May 8-14	13	14	0	16	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	
May 15-21	12	14	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
May 22-28	13	9	1	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	27	
May 29-31	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	= 56	54	2	50	0	0	0	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	60	
Grand Total	= 226	216	126	866	0	7	51	154	17	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	194	1102	