



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

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

**MEETING DATE:** August 11, 2020

**PREPARED BY:** Eugene Suk,  
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

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**TITLE:** Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for July 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 July 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 closed. During the reopening weekend, excessive crowds gathered in HWP and Canyon Park. Due to the lack of respect for the health guidelines by the park visitors, 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 Safer 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 trail 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 “Expereinced 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 nonresidents, 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*
- *Portions 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 July 2020, Park Naturalist worked on maintaining Canyon Park’s hiking trails. Canyon Park Volunteers completed 126 hours of miantenance on various hiking trails and roadways in Canyon Park. The maintenance included brush clearace, tree removal and erosion control.

For the month of July staff monitored two brush fires in neighboring areas of San Gabriel Valley. The Chantry Fire, July 20<sup>th</sup> and the Dam Fire, July 30<sup>th</sup> were closly monitored by staff and the Monroivia Fire Department. The fires did not pose a threat to Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve, keeping the areas open to the public.

Below you will find the details related to the trail reservation system during the month of July for the reservation program. Staff is monitoring trail use through the reservations system and have continued to receive positive feedback on how organized the system is and how safe patrons feel when hiking Canyon Park.

Since the launch of the program, Staff continue to meet with the Trail Task Force to stay up to date on information.

July 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	1,525	1,402	1,002	3,929	NA
Same Day Reservation	72	418	687	1,177	30% of users are same day reserevations
Residents	663	472	272	1,407	36% of users are Residents
Non-Residents	862	930	730	2,522	64% of user are Non-residents
Cars	635	932	702	2,269	58% drive into the Park
Bikes	55	24	33	112	3% bike into the Park
Walkers	835	501	329	1,665	42% walk into the Park

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

<b>July 2020 CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG</b>	
<b>Canyon Park Maintenance – 126 hours of maintenance in July 2020</b>	
July 1	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 3	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 6	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 8	Overlook- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 10	Overlook- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 13	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ½ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 15	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ½ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 17	Overlook- Canyon Park Volunteers installed two edge barriers along the trail to prevent erosion.
July 20	Waterfall Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared a fallen tree that fell blocking access to the hiking trail.
July 22	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ½ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 24	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ½ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 27	Overlook- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
July 29	Overlook- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail and installed one edge barriers along the trail to prevent erosion.
July 31	Saw Pit Road- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared a fallen tree that fell along the road.

# July 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	
<b>Sleepy Hollow</b>																							
July 1-7	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 8-14	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 15-21	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 22-28	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 29-31	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Ridgeside</b>																							
July 1-7	9	9	6	20	0	0	3	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	27	
July 8-14	10	9	15	17	0	0	3	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	22	
July 15-21	9	9	6	12	0	0	3	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	24	
July 22-28	10	9	14	16	0	0	4	1	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	18	
July 29-31	6	3	7	8	0	0	7	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>99</b>	
<b>Cloverleaf</b>																							
July 1-7	9	9	6	12	0	0	2	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	19	
July 8-14	10	9	12	8	1	0	4	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	13	
July 15-21	9	9	4	15	0	2	6	1	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	22	
July 22-28	10	9	10	5	0	1	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	7	
July 29-31	6	3	2	6	0	0	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>70</b>	
<b>Highland</b>																							
July 1-7	9	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
July 8-14	10	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
July 15-21	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
July 22-28	10	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
July 29-31	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>= 176</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>174</b>	