



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: September 8, 2020

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for August 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 August 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.

Since mid-March 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 May 2020, HWP and portions of Canyon Park reopened to the public. To ensure proper social distancing in Canyon Park, additional steps were implemented to restrict access. A new reservation system was developed to help 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 August 2020, Park Naturalist worked on maintaining Canyon Park and HWP hiking trails. Canyon Park Volunteers completed 118 hours of maintenance on various hiking trails and roadways in Canyon Park. Park Naturalist completed 15 hours of maintenance on HWP hiking trails. The maintenance included reinforcing hiking trails, brush clearance, tree removal, and erosion control.

CC-2

On August 14-19 Canyon Park and HWP were closed to the public due to high temperatures, poor air quality from neighboring fires, and high fire danger.

On August 19 Bellfree Contractors began work on the two locations in HWP where previous rains washed out the trail causing concerns for public safety. The project finished on August 24 with minimal trail closures to the public, resulting in a safer trail for patrons to hike and mountain bike.

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

Since the launch of the program, Staff continue to meet with the Trail Task Force to provide and use up to date information that is consistent with LA County health officers guidelines related to COVID-19.

August 2020 TRAIL RESERVATION TOTALS		
Reservation Time	Total	Percentage
Total Number of Reservations	2,157	NA
Residents	802	37%
Non-Residents	1,355	63%
Cars	1,205	56%
Bikes	71	3%
Walkers	881	41%

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 August 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 August 2020.

**August 2020
CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG**

Canyon Park Maintenance – 118 hours of maintenance in August 2020

August 3	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
August 5	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared a tree that fell onto the trail
August 7	Waterfall- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ½ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
August 10	Overlook- Canyon Park Volunteers installed 3 edge barriers to prevent erosion on the side of the trail.
August 12	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers installed 2 edge barriers to prevent erosion on the side of the trail.
August 14	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers removed a large branch covering a large portion of trail.
August 17	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ½ mile of brush growing onto the trail and installed 1 edge barrier to prevent erosion
August 19	Waterfall- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared approximately ¼ mile of brush growing onto the trail.
August 21	Waterfall Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers installed 2 edge barriers to prevent erosion on the side of the trail.
August 24	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers replaced 2 edge barriers to prevent erosion on the side of the trail.
August 26	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers removed 2 trees that fell onto the trail.
August 28	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers finished removing the 2 trees that fell onto the trail continuing from the previous days work.
August 31	Overlook- Canyon Park Volunteers installed 2 edge barriers along the trail to prevent erosion on the side of the trail.

Hillside Wilderness Maintenance – 15 hours of maintenance in August 2020

August 7	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalist reinforced a bench that was unstable from erosion
August 20	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalist re established the trail that was filled with debris.
August 24	Ridgeside- Park Naturalist cleared approximately ½ mile of brush growing onto the trail

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																							
August 1-7	14	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
August 8-14	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August 15-21	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August 22-28	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August 29-31	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	= 60	45	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ridgeside																							
August 1-7	14	10	28	26	0	0	4	4	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	36
August 8-14	14	10	31	25	0	0	15	12	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	41
August 15-21	14	10	31	14	0	0	8	1	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	25
August 22-28	14	10	37	16	0	0	16	4	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	22
August 29-31	4	5	11	8	0	0	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	10
Total	= 60	45	138	89	0	0	47	22	43	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	228	134
Cloverleaf																							
August 1-7	14	10	25	32	1	0	4	2	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	37
August 8-14	14	10	19	22	1	0	11	4	11	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	28
August 15-21	14	10	14	18	2	0	2	7	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	30
August 22-28	14	10	26	45	0	0	9	6	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	52
August 29-31	4	5	8	3	0	0	3	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	8
Total	= 60	45	92	120	0	0	29	21	36	14	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	163	155
Highland																							
August 1-7	14	10	5	4	0	0	0	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	8
August 8-14	14	10	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
August 15-21	14	10	6	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4
August 22-28	14	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
August 29-31	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	= 60	45	13	14	0	0	0	3	8	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	23
Grand Total	= 240	180	244	223	0	0	76	46	88	43	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	411	312