



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: February 9, 2021

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for January 2021.

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 January 2021.

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 September 12, the Bobcat Fire entered Monrovia Canyon Park, firefighters used a defensive approach to protect buildings and structures, including the Nature Center, Ranger Station, Cabin, and restrooms. The fire suppression tactics, which included controlled burns, burned a significant amount of brush in the park but all buildings remain intact with only smoke damage. Popular hiking trails are no longer accessible and debris from high above is already rolling down the hills and landing on park trails. In total, about 278 acres of Monrovia owned open space (including 80 acres of Monrovia Canyon Park) was damaged. With the need for ongoing damage assessments and emergency preventative measures needed, we anticipate the park will be closed for some time. During this time, to secure Monrovia Canyon Park, a secondary fence has been installed at the gate to further secure the park after hours. Additionally, signs are posted as the area remains very dangerous.

Due to minimal damage in Hillside Wilderness Preserve the trail systems reopened on November 16 2020.

On January 28, a strong and slow-moving rain storm brought periods of heavy rains ultimately dropping 3 inches of rain to the foothill areas. In preparation of the rain, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works issued a Phase II Debris and Mudflow Forecast. A Phase II forecast indicates residents should anticipate moderate to heavy flooding and mud or sediment deposition. In Canyon Park, the preparation for the first strong rain event was effective. The debris basin, which was cleared by our Public Works Department, as well as the ditch they created near the Ranger Station forced the flow of debris into the basin and was very effective. Clearing dead trees and debris from the creek also helped control and keep debris in basins. Staff reported sediment build up, as expected, on the main road which is currently being cleared by our Public Works Department.

CC-2

ANALYSIS: During the month of January 2021, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 60 hours of maintenance in the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and 114 hours of maintenance in Canyon Park. Maintenance performance included brush clearance and erosion control measures to stabilize the trail for the winter season.

HWP has been heavily used by the public. Staff reports an increase of approximately four times the number of pedestrian use than normal. Staff also reports a large increase in the number of mountain bikers. Staff suspects the increase is due to the closures of nearby hiking trails, such as Canyon Park and Chantry Flats.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Community Services Commission move to receive and file CC-2, Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for January 2021.

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 January 2021.

| January 2021 CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG | |
|---|---|
| Canyon Park 114 hours of maintenance in January 2021 | |
| January 6 | Overlook - Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| January 8 | Overlook - Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| January 11 | Overlook - Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| January 13 | Overlook - Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| January 20 | Bill Cull - Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| | Fireman's Flat – Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding picnic grounds |
| January 21 | Mal Packer Mesa – Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding picnic grounds |
| January 22 | Bill Cull - Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| | Mal Packer Mesa – Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding picnic grounds |
| January 25 | Bill Cull - Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| January 27 | Bill Cull - Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| Hillside Wilderness Preserve 60 hours of maintenance in January 2021 | |
| January 4 | Bobcat Trail – Volunteers cleared approximately 100 yards or brush that grew onto the trail. |
| January 6 | Cloverleaf Bypass Trail - Park Naturalist cleared approximately 50 yards of brush that grew onto the trail. |
| January 8 | Cloverleaf Bypass Trail - Park Naturalist cleared approximately 50 yards of brush that grew onto the trail. |
| January 11 | Cloverleaf Bypass Trail - Park Naturalist installed water bars on the trail to prevent trail erosion. |
| January 15 | Coyote Ridge Switchback Trail – Volunteers installed water bars on the trail to prevent trail erosion. |
| January 18 | Coyote Ridge Switchback Trail – Volunteers installed water bars on the trail to prevent trail erosion. |
| January 20 | Cloverleaf Bypass Trail - Park Naturalist cleared approximately 50 yards of brush that grew onto the trail. |

| | # of staff patrols 2020 | # of staff patrols 2021 | Pedestrians 2020 | Pedestrians 2021 | Vehicles 2020 | Vehicles 2021 | Cyclists 2020 | Cyclists 2021 | Pets 2020 | Pets 2021 | Public Service Calls 2020 | Public Service Calls 2021 | Smoking Ban Calls 2020 | Smoking Ban Calls 2021 | Wildlife Sightings 2020 | Wildlife Sightings 2021 | Unsecured Gate 2020 | Unsecured Gate 2021 | Citations 2020 | Citations 2021 | Activity Totals 2020 | Activity Totals 2021 |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Sleepy Hollow | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1-7 | 13 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January 8-14 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January 15-21 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January 22-28 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| January 29-31 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | = 61 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ridgeside | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1-7 | 13 | 12 | 18 | 102 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 5 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 126 |
| January 8-14 | 14 | 14 | 26 | 98 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 119 |
| January 15-21 | 14 | 14 | 34 | 138 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 163 |
| January 22-28 | 14 | 14 | 26 | 37 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 46 |
| January 29-31 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 35 |
| Total | = 61 | 60 | 112 | 404 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 50 | 32 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 168 | 489 |
| Cloverleaf | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1-7 | 13 | 12 | 26 | 32 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 13 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 60 |
| January 8-14 | 14 | 14 | 34 | 42 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 36 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 | 84 |
| January 15-21 | 14 | 14 | 31 | 79 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 104 |
| January 22-28 | 14 | 14 | 20 | 53 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 16 | 7 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 82 |
| January 29-31 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 22 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 29 |
| Total | = 61 | 60 | 123 | 228 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 81 | 54 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 202 | 359 |
| Highland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1-7 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 2 |
| January 8-14 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| January 15-21 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 24 |
| January 22-28 | 14 | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| January 29-31 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Total | = 61 | 60 | 24 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 43 |
| Grand Total | = 244 | 240 | 259 | 661 | 3 | 2 | 43 | 133 | 91 | 93 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 399 | 891 |