



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2021

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-3

TITLE: Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for February 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 February 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) is 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.

The post Bobcat Fire, Burn Emergency Area Respose (BEAR) report from the US Forest Service Department shows potential rainfalls this winter and spring season creating heavy mud and debris flows in Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve. Staff is prepared to handle each incident with a case by case study after each rain event to assess damages and a response type based on each outcome.

Due to minimal damage in Hillside Wilderness Preserve the trail systems reopened on November 16 2020. Limited hiking opportunities in San Gabriel Valley such as Canyon Park, Sturdevent Falls, Hwy 39, and Eaton Canyon has increased amount of daily visitors to the Hillside Wilderness Preserve, primarily in Ridgeside and Cloverleaf access points.

ANALYSIS: During the month of February 2021, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 56 hours of maintenance in the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and 118 hours of maintenance

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in Canyon Park. Maintenance performance included brush clearance, erosion control measures to stabilize the trail for the winter season, and facility repairs to our picnic grounds.

On February 8 and 11 Rio Hondo Fire Academy held a wildland fire fighting training class in the areas around Station 103 and the Cloverleaf access point. The training involved fire cadets learning wildland fire fighting suppression techniques with hand tools and instrument on a natural resource terrain. The training was mutually beneficial as the group of cadets gain valuable experience and the City enjoyed improvements to the trail systems. Specific areas and trails included Bobcat Ridge, Cloverleaf Byass, and Mahogany Ridge. Improvements of widening the trails and installing natural waterbars for trail erosion were complete during this time.

On Friday, February 19, Hillside Wilderness Preserve Staff partnered with the Monrovia High School Mountain Bike Team to remove a unauthorized bicycle dirt ramp that was built off trail in the Highland Preserve area of HWP. Seven (7) high school students along with two (2) Team Coaches removed the dirt ramp within a couple of hours creating a safer environment for the community.

For the month of February, Staff continued to monitor the increased activity in HWP. The Ridgeside and Cloverleaf trail systems show an increased number trail users, similar to the previous month. Staff continues to monitor the trails two times a day to identify trail capacity and the daily use of each trail system.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Community Services Commission move to receive and file CC-3, Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for February 2021.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED: If the Community Services Commission concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to: Receive and file CC-3 Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for February 2021.

**February 2021
CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG**

Canyon Park 118 hours of maintenance in February 2021

February 1	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
February 3	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
February 5	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
February 8	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
February 10	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
February 15	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
	Mal Packer Mesa- Canyon Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
February 16	Mal Packer Mesa- Canyon Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
February 17	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
February 19	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
February 22	Entrance Trail- Canyon Park Naturalist worked on clearing brush growing onto the road.
	Mal Packer Mesa- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on refurbishing the picnic grounds informational kiosk sign.
February 24	Entrance Trail- Canyon Park Naturalist working on clearing brush growing onto the road.
February 24	Mal Packer Mesa- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on refurbishing the picnic grounds informational kiosk sign.
February 25	Entrance Trail- Canyon Park Naturalist working on clearing brush growing onto the road.
February 26	Mal Packer Mesa- Canyon Park Volunteers worked on refurbishing the picnic grounds informational kiosk sign.

Hillside Wilderness Preserve 56 hours of maintenance in February 2021

February 1	Arcadia Ridge Trail- HWP Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail.
February 4	Arcadia Ridge Trail- HWP Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail.
February 5	Arcadia Ridge Trail- HWP Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail.
February 12	Cloverleaf Bypass Trail- HWP Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail.
February 16	Cloverleaf Bypass Trail- HWP Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail.
February 18	Cloverleaf Bypass Trail- HWP Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail.
February 23	Cloverleaf – HWP Naturalist cleared waterbars along the trail to prevent trail erosion.

February 2020/2021

PATROLS			ACTIVITY																				
	# 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																							
February 1-7	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February 8-14	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February 15-21	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February 22-28	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February 29-31	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	= 58	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgeside																							
February 1-7	14	14	24	32	0	0	6	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	38	
February 8-14	14	14	16	21	0	0	3	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	29	
February 15-21	14	14	21	160	0	0	5	4	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	175	
February 22-28	14	14	36	114	0	0	13	12	11	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	141	
February 29-31	2	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	
Total	= 58	56	102	327	0	0	29	29	38	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	169	383	
Cloverleaf																							
February 1-7	14	14	27	17	1	0	14	4	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	26	
February 8-14	14	14	30	19	0	0	3	14	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	36	
February 15-21	14	14	25	85	0	0	12	6	13	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	105	
February 22-28	14	14	21	67	0	0	12	15	7	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	99	
February 29-31	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	
Total	= 58	56	105	188	1	0	43	39	39	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	188	266	
Highland																							
February 1-7	14	14	1	6	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	
February 8-14	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
February 15-21	14	14	6	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	
February 22-28	14	14	4	9	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	12	
February 29-31	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	= 58	56	11	18	0	0	5	0	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	23	
Grand Total	= 232	224	218	533	1	0	77	68	81	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	377	672	