



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

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

**MEETING DATE:** April 13, 2021

**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 March 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 March 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 Area Emergency Response (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 HWP. A hydrology study of Canyon Park has been conducted by the City Engineer outlining preventative measures such as clearing portion of the streambed and placing k-rail in strategic locations to minimize damage to property and loss of life. In addition, Staff has submitted an Emergency Streambed Alteration Notification with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Staff is prepared to handle each incident on a case by case basis following each rain event including assessing any damage and conducting necessary clean up.

Due to minimal damage in HWP, the trail systems reopened on November 16 2020. Limited hiking opportunities in San Gabriel Valley such as Canyon Park, Sturdevant Falls, Hwy 39, and Eaton Canyon

**CC-2**

has increased number of daily visitors to the HWP, primarily at the Ridgeside and Cloverleaf access points.

**ANALYSIS:** During the month of March 2021, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 116 hours of maintenance in Canyon Park. Maintenance included clearing debris on the trail, erosion control measures to stabilize the trail, and brush clearance around the facility picnic grounds.

Park Naturalists and Park Volunteers are also taking the time to address small maintenance projects within Canyon Park. Some of these projects include: repainting all wood picnic benches, repainting wood railings at the overpasses, power washing of all sidewalks and buildings, re-establishing and re-purposing the wooden kiosk display case near the Nature Center, and deep cleaning of the Nature Center exhibits. In addition, Staff will be working with Public Works to schedule deep cleaning for all the flooring with the Nature Center, Ranger Station, Cabin, and restrooms.

Canyon Park's Instagram page relaunched on March 8, showcasing the natural rehabilitation of the park post fire. Staff have created a thoughtful posting schedule that will include educational photos, interpretive videos, and craft videos. The photo and video posts will give followers an inside look at the recovery of the flora, fauna, and ecological systems until Canyon Park reopens.

On March 10, Staff worked closely with the Monrovia Fire Department to host and participate in a chain saw training course held in Canyon Park. This training course allowed our staff to become properly trained and certified to drop larger size trees creating a hazard within the park. A second course will be offered in May which will complete the training session.

Staff has been working on assessing the best way to repair the damaged trails in order to reopen Canyon Park. Staff contacted Bellfree Contractors Inc., the Contractor who completed the repairs within the HWP Fire Road and Trail System, to assess portions of the Bill Cull and the Waterfall trails which eroded away from rain following the Bobcat Fire. Staff has received the assessment, scope of work, and quote for the work to be complete. Staff will be working on presenting an Award of Contract at an upcoming City Council meeting.

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

**March 2021  
CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG**

**Canyon Park 116 hours of maintenance in March 2021**

March 1	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
March 3	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
March 5	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
March 8	Fireman's Flat – Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
March 11	Fireman's Flat – Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
March 15	Mal Packer Mesa – Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
March 17	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
March 22	Mal Packer Mesa – Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
March 23	Mal Packer Mesa – Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
March 24	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
March 26	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris and brush that fell onto the trail.
March 29	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris and brush that fell onto the trail.

# March 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	
<b>Sleepy Hollow</b>																							
March 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
March 8-14	12	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March 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
March 22-28	14	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
March 29-31	6	6	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>= 58</b>	<b>62</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>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Ridgeside</b>																							
March 1-7	14	14	22	133	0	0	17	21	9	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	175	
March 8-14	12	14	17	141	0	0	8	29	2	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	186	
March 15-21	12	14	12	129	0	0	8	23	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	172	
March 22-28	14	14	5	308	0	0	0	26	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	373	
March 29-31	6	6	0	57	0	0	0	8	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>105</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>100</b>	<b>980</b>	
<b>Cloverleaf</b>																							
March 1-7	14	14	37	82	0	0	17	18	10	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	117	
March 8-14	12	14	14	43	1	0	6	6	5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	58	
March 15-21	12	14	28	15	0	0	11	8	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	27	
March 22-28	14	14	2	46	2	0	0	11	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	67	
March 29-31	6	6	0	7	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>43</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>143</b>	<b>283</b>	
<b>Highland</b>																							
March 1-7	14	14	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	
March 8-14	12	14	0	10	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	
March 15-21	12	14	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	
March 22-28	14	14	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	
March 29-31	6	6	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 58</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</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>49</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>= 232</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>1002</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>154</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>243</b>	<b>1313</b>	