



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: May 11, 2021

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

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

CC-2

ANALYSIS: During the month of April 2021, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 156 hours of maintenance in Canyon Park. Maintenance performed included clearing debris on the trails and roadways, and brush clearance around the facility picnic grounds.

On April 5, Park Naturalist and Monrovia Fire Fighters assisting a injured hiker in the Cloverleaf area of HWP. A hiker injured her ankle while on the trail and needed assistance with transportation to a near by hospital for further medical evaluation.

On April 3, Staff assisted with the Spring Stop and Hop Drive Thru EGG stravanza event at Recreation Park. Staff directed patrons through a traffic route to allow social distancing and steady pace for vehicles that drove in and out of the event.

On April 29, staff installed a series of signs along Cloverleaf side of Lower Clamshell Motorway to help remind residents in HWP and the public to “Share the Road” as it is a multi-use trail for the portion of the road.

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

April 2021 CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG	
Canyon Park 156 hours of maintenance in March 2021	
April 2	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 5	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 6	Canyon Park Entrance Trail – Staff cleared brush growing onto the roadway.
April 9	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 12	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 14	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 15	Mal Packer picnic grounds – Staff cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds and parking lots.
April 16	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 19	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 21	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 23	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 26	Bill Cull Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 27	Mal Packer picnic grounds – Staff cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds and parking lots.
April 28	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
April 29	Mal Packer picnic grounds – Staff cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds and parking lots.
April 30	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.

April 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																							
April 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
April 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
April 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
April 22-28	14	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
April 29-30	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	= 62	60	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ridgeside																							
April 1-7	14	14	8	129	0	0	2	16	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	157	
April 8-14	14	14	0	130	0	0	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	142	
April 15-21	14	14	2	211	0	0	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	223	
April 22-28	14	14	0	145	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	
April 29-30	6	4	0	76	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	
Total	= 62	60	10	691	0	0	6	67	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	770	
Cloverleaf																							
April 1-7	14	14	2	35	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	43	
April 8-14	14	14	14	38	1	0	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	43	
April 15-21	14	14	18	47	0	0	3	19	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	66	
April 22-28	14	14	2	65	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	98	
April 29-30	6	4	0	20	0	0	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	29	
Total	= 62	60	36	205	1	0	26	74	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	279	
Highland																							
April 1-7	14	14	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	
April 8-14	14	14	0	11	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	
April 15-21	14	14	1	9	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	
April 22-28	14	14	1	7	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	9	
April 29-30	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	= 62	60	6	27	0	0	2	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	32	
Grand Total	= 248	240	52	924	1	0	34	143	6	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	1083	