



**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 May 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 May 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, the City 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 at Ridgeside and Cloverleaf access points.

CC-2

ANALYSIS: During the month of May 2021, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 124 hours of maintenance in Canyon Park. Maintenance performance included clearing debris on the hiking trails, and brush clearance around the facility picnic grounds.

On May 13 and 14 staff worked closely with the Monrovia Fire Department to host and participate in an advanced chainsaw training course held in Canyon Park. This training course allowed staff to become properly trained and certified to drop larger size trees creating a hazard within the park. The trees used during this exercise were dead or dying as a result of the Bobcat Fire. This training, allowed several trees to be removed at no cost to the City.

On May 24, Bellfree Contractors started work on the Bill Cull trail, rebuilding and stabilizing the trail that eroded from the Bobcat fire. The trail repair work is scheduled to take 3-5 weeks to complete.

On May 25 and 26, staff met with Cal OES representatives to conduct a site visit and check on damages in Canyon Park and City Facilities related to the Bobcat Fire. Staff continue to work with State to identify potential funding to cover the cost to rebuild the park and facilities.

On May 27, staff toured Hillside Wilderness Preserve to identify potential locations for destination points and benches along the hiking trail in an effort to continue to enhance HWP.

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

**May 2021
CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG**

Canyon Park 124 hours of maintenance in May 2021

May 3	Bill Cull Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
May 5	Bill Cull Trail– Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
May 7	Waterfall Trail– Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
May 10	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
May 12	Waterfall Trail– Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
	Fireman’s Flat – Canyon Park Natualist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
May 14	Overlook Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
May 17	Overlook Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
May 19	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail, and cut up fallen trees along the stream bed.
	Fireman’s Flat – Canyon Park Natualist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the picnic grounds.
May 21	Waterfall Trail– Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail, and cut up fallen trees along the stream bed.
May 24	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
	Middle Parking Lot – Canyon Park Natualist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the parking lot.
May 26	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
May 28	Bill Cull Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush and debris that fell onto the trail.
	Middle Parking Lot – Canyon Park Natualist cleared brush in the surrounding areas of the parking lot.

May 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																							
May 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
May 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
May 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
May 22-28	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May 29-31	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	= 54	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgeside																							
May 1-7	14	14	3	125	0	0	0	30	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	165	
May 8-14	14	14	113	108	0	0	18	10	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	142	128	
May 15-21	14	14	122	91	0	0	8	12	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	138	111	
May 22-28	9	14	114	148	0	0	28	10	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	142	177	
May 29-31	3	6	48	55	0	0	18	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	63	
Total	= 54	62	400	527	0	0	72	66	19	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	491	644	
Cloverleaf																							
May 1-7	14	14	2	19	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	28	
May 8-14	14	14	188	23	0	0	31	5	24	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	243	35	
May 15-21	14	14	106	33	0	0	11	10	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	131	53	
May 22-28	9	14	98	49	0	0	30	8	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	137	61	
May 29-31	3	6	22	15	0	0	6	2	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	24	
Total	= 54	62	416	139	0	0	78	31	50	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	544	201	
Highland																							
May 1-7	14	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	
May 8-14	14	14	16	1	0	0	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	2	
May 15-21	14	14	7	9	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	11	
May 22-28	9	14	27	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	7	
May 29-31	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	= 54	62	50	30	0	0	4	1	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	40	
Grand Total	= 216	248	866	696	0	0	154	98	75	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1095	885	