



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2021

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for October 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 October 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 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 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 number of daily visitors to the Hillside Wilderness Preserve, primarily in Ridgeside and Cloverleaf access points.

Staff worked diligently following the Bobcat fire to repair trails, remove hazards, and assess damages in Canyon Park. On August 30, 2021 Canyon Park reopened to the public; just under a year following the

CC-2

closure due to the Fire. The Park reopened on a reservation system to ease visitors back to the Park. Staff continues to work on remediating potential hazards and improve trail conditions for Park users. Future wind and rain events may temporarily close the Park until Staff can determine the safety of the Park for patron use.

ANALYSIS: During the month of October 2021, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 127 hours of maintenance in Canyon Park. Maintenance performed included clearing debris on the hiking trails, removing fallen trees and limbs, and brush clearance on the trails.

On October 14 Monrovia Fire Department assisted a hiker who injured her ankle while walking to the waterfall trail. Safety personnel assisted the hiker to her vehicle. The hiker decided to treat her injuries on her own.

On October 22 Canyon Park Staff hosted a information booth at Wildrose Elementary's Campout Event. Visitors were able to visit and engage staff to learn about local wildlife and history of Canyon Park.

On October 23 Canyon Park Staff hosted a information booth at Sierra Madre Search and Rescue's 70th anniversary's open house. Visitors were able to visit and engage staff to learn about Canyon Park and the amenities our park has to offer.

October 25th - 31st Canyon Park was closed for public safety following a rain event on October 25th. Following the rain event Park Staff and Volunteer cleared debris and mud that fell on the trail and monitored trail conditions. Canyon Park reopened to the public on November 1st.

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

**October 2021
CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG**

Canyon Park 127 hours of maintenance in October 2021

October 1	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers installed edge barriers to prevent erosion on the trail.
October 4	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers installed edge barriers to prevent erosion on the trail.
October 5	Entrance Road – Park Naturalist cleared debris and vegetation that fell or grew onto the road
October 6	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers installed edge barriers to prevent erosion on the trail.
October 8	Overlook Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush that grew onto the trail.
October 11	Overlook Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared brush that grew onto the trail.
October 12	Nature Center – Park Naturalist cleared debris in the parking lot and surrounding facility areas.
October 13	Bill Cull Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris that fell onto the trail.
October 15	Waterfall Trail – Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris that fell onto the trail.
October 21	Middle Parking Lot – Park Naturalist cleared debris in the parking lot and surrounding facility areas.
October 26	Bill Cull and Waterfall Trail – Park Naturalist cleared debris and mud that fell onto the trail.
October 27	Overlook Trail – Park Naturalist cleared debris and mud that fell onto the trail.

October 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																							
October 1-7	15	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
October 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
October 15-20	15	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
October 21-28	15	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
October 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
Total	= 65	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgeside																							
October 1-7	15	14	1	35	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	45	
October 8-14	14	14	0	18	0	0	0	8	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	
October 15-20	15	14	0	26	0	0	0	11	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	
October 21-28	15	14	0	22	0	0	0	16	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	
October 29-31	6	6	2	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	
Total	= 65	62	3	106	0	0	0	41	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	173	
Cloverleaf																							
October 1-7	15	14	4	11	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	18	
October 8-14	14	14	3	10	0	0	0	10	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	26	
October 15-20	15	14	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	
October 21-28	15	14	0	15	0	0	0	9	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	
October 29-31	6	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	
Total	= 65	62	7	50	0	0	0	23	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	100	
Highland																							
October 1-7	15	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
October 8-14	14	14	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
October 15-20	15	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
October 21-28	15	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
October 29-31	6	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	= 65	62	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Grand Total	= 260	248	10	160	0	0	0	64	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	277	

Note - October 2020 Hillside Wilderness Preserve was closed due to bobcat fire