



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: January 11, 2022

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

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

In September 2020, the Bobcat Fire forced the closure of Canyon Park and HWP for an extended period of time, as the areas were unsafe and significant repairs were needed.

Due to minimal damage in HWP following the Bobcat Fire, 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 has increased amount of daily visitors to HWP, primarily in Ridgeside and Cloverleaf access points.

Staff worked diligently to repair trails and remove hazards in an effort to open Canyon Park as soon as possible. On August 30, 2021 Canyon Park was reopened to the public through a reservation system to ease visitors back into the Park. Staff continue to work on remediating potential hazards and improve trail conditions for Park users. Future wind and rain events may temporarily close the Park as needed to improve safety conditions for Park users.

In addition, following the Fire, the Burn Emergency Area Response (BEAR) report from the US Forest Service Department showed potential rainfalls could create heavy mud and debris flows in Canyon Park and HWP. Staff is prepared to handle each incident on a case by case basis and will assess damages and coordinate repairs as needed.

The first significant rain event following the Bobcat Fire occurred on December 13, 2021. This strong storm event brought heavy rain to the LA County area on the evening of Monday, December 13 and continued through Tuesday, December 14. LA County Department of Public Works issued a Phase 2 Debris and Mudflow Forecast. To prepare the community for the rain event:

CC-2

- Closed Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve
- Staff notified residents of Ridgeside Drive and Oakglade Drive of the potential debris and mudflow by going door-to-door to provide information.
- Staff patrolled and assessed the areas of concern throughout event.
- Public Works provided gravel and prepared for tractors and dump trucks to respond as needed.
- Public Works and Los Angeles County Flood Control / Public Works assessed and cleared the existing drainage infrastructure so that it is available and functional to take on any flows brought on by the rain event.

The National Weather Service reported that the event accumulated over 5 inches of rain which caused significant damage to Canyon Park. Preliminarily damage includes:

- Sections of roadway are gone
- Culverts are filled with sediment and debris.
- The stream has cut new paths throughout the park and in some areas, 6-12 feet of earth has been eroded away.
- There are rocks of all sizes, scattered throughout the park.
- A broken water main within the park, may have contaminated the water system with mud and debris, resulting in a Do Not Use order for Canyon Park.

Due to the damage, a Local Emergency Proclamation was authorized by City Council at the December 21 meeting. This Proclamation recognizes the existence of a local emergency and assists the City to mobilize resources and enables the City to seek reimbursement for expenditures made when responding to the emergency. Staff is preparing plans to:

- Clear out debris
- Remove silt, sediment and rock from the park
- Begin to repair the damaged infrastructure

Monrovia Canyon Park will remain closed indefinitely for a period of time. During the duration of the closure, photos, aerial footage, and much more information will be shared with the community.

There was minimal damage reported within HWP during this first significant rain event.

A second Storm Event occurred on Thursday, December 23, 2021. Staff followed all of the same precautions as the previous storm. Canyon Park had further mud and debris flow, but no further damage has been documented at this time. HWP trails, Ridgeside, had approximately 1/2 mile of trail erosion. Staff is beginning to repair the damage areas. HWP reopened on Saturday, January 1, 2022, notices of trail damage have been posted at all access points in HWP.

ANALYSIS: During the month of December 2021, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 61 hours of maintenance in Canyon Park, including clearing debris on the hiking trails to prevent trail erosion.

During the month of December, Management Career Solutions (MCS) assisted with post fire recovery in Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve (HWP). Recovery efforts include ash and debris removal that fell on the trail, erosion mitigations, and tree bucking to break down the length of fallen trees. Staff is

continuing to monitor the progress of work as they assist in Canyon Park and HWP's post fire rehabilitation.

- December 2 - Park Naturalist assisted with the City's annual holiday parade on Myrtle Ave. Staff helped divert traffic, and organize the parade route for participants in the event.
- December 9-10 - Canyon Park hosted Precision Training Group with a S 212 III tree fallers training class. This class gave staff training and practice on cutting up and maintain fallen trees from bobcat post fire in Canyon Park.
- December 14 - Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve closed for public safety due to heavy rains storms that reached Southern California. Canyon Park's assessment showed significant mud and debris flows impacting the roadway and hiking trails.
- On December 17 - HWP reopened to the public for recreational use. Hiking trails did suffer mild storm damage, but was safe for passive recreation. On December 22 HWP did have to close again due to a significant rains storm that created an unsafe environment on the hiking trails.
- December 31 - Park Naturalist assisted with the Noon Year's and New Year's events at Library Park and festivities on Myrtle Ave. Staff helped with crowd control, park monitoring and City booths.
- Jan 1 - HWP reopened to the public for recreational use. Hiking trails did again suffer mild storm damage for the recent rains, but has been determined safe for passive recreation.

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

**December 2021
CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG**

Canyon Park 61 hours of maintenance in December 2021

December 1	Waterfall Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris that fell onto the trail.
December 3	Waterfall Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris that fell onto the trail.
December 6	Waterfall Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris that fell onto the trail.
December 8	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris that fell onto the trail.
December 10	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris that fell onto the trail.
December 13	Bill Cull Trail- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared debris that fell onto the trail.

December 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																							
December 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
December 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
December 15-20	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December 21-28	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December 29-31	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	=	56	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgeside																							
December 1-7	14	14	86	41	0	0	2	3	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97	48	
December 8-14	14	14	66	27	0	0	9	2	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	35	
December 15-20	14	14	47	14	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	14	
December 21-28	10	10	45	12	0	0	6	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	15	
December 29-31	4	6	5	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	
Total	=	56	58	249	96	0	0	18	7	32	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	299	114	
Cloverleaf																							
December 1-7	14	14	97	47	0	0	4	4	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	55	
December 8-14	14	14	48	36	0	0	1	2	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	40	
December 15-20	14	14	24	2	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	2	
December 21-28	10	10	36	12	0	0	10	2	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	26	
December 29-31	4	6	13	1	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	1	
Total	=	56	58	218	98	0	0	21	8	24	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	263	124	
Highland																							
December 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
December 8-14	14	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
December 15-20	14	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
December 21-28	10	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
December 29-31	4	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Total	=	56	58	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	
Grand Total	=	224	232	470	197	0	0	39	15	56	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	565	241	