



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: April 12, 2022

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for March 2022.

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 2022.

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.

CC-2

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

ANALYSIS: During the month of March 2022, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 110 hours of maintenance in Canyon Park. Maintenance activities included clearing debris on the hiking trails, building retention walls preventing trail erosion, and cutting up trees and limbs that fell on the trail.

During the month of March, 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, cutting up trees that fell on the trail, and erosion control. Staff continues to monitor the progress of work as they assist in Canyon Park and HWP's post fire rehabilitation.

March 9 to 11 – Staff attended the California Parks and Recreation Society's annual conference in Sacramento. At the conference Staff celebrated and accepted the 2021 California Park & Recreation Society Award of Excellence for the Community Services YES internship program. The conference also offered session where staff could attend and learn about new and innovative trends in the field of Park and Recreation.

March 26 – Monrovia Parks Wilderness and Recreation (MPWR) foundation hosted a volunteer work day in the Hillside Wilderness Preserve. MPWR coordinated with a group of residents to help manage and reduce the amount of invasive species growing around the Cloverleaf access point in the Hillside Wilderness Preserve.

March 29 – The Pokrajac Company contractors began clean up for the Canyon Park recovery project. December 2021 brought significant mud and debris flows to Canyon Park damaging the road, waterlines, culverts, and fence lines that were in need of clean up, repairs and recovery. Staff will continue to monitor the progress of work and the recovery of Canyon Parks rehabilitation.

March 30 – Staff hosted the annual Canyon Park Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Canyon Park volunteer joined together to congratulate each other for a great year of dedicated work. At the event the Volunteers got to recognize Ed Cunningham, and Doug Elson with a Spirit Award, and Bonny Hidas for the Canyon Park Volunteer of the Year award.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Community Services Commission move to receive and file CC-2, Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for March 2022.

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 2022.

March 2022
Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Activity Log

Canyon Park and HWP 110 hours of maintenance in March 2022

| | |
|----------|--|
| March 2 | Bill Cull trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing the trail from mud and debris. |
| March 4 | Bill Cull trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing the trail from mud and debris. |
| March 7 | Waterfall trail - Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing the trail from mud and debris. |
| March 9 | Waterfall trail - Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing the trail from mud and debris. |
| March 11 | Waterfall trail - Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing the trail from mud and debris. |
| March 14 | Bill Cull/Fern Canyon trail - Waterfall trail - Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing the trail from mud and debris. |
| March 15 | Cloverleaf – Park Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail. |
| March 16 | Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteer worked on clearing the trail from fallen tree limbs blocking access. |
| March 18 | Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers installed a retaining wall along the trail to prevent erosion. |
| March 21 | Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers installed a retaining wall along the trail to prevent erosion. |
| March 22 | Cloverleaf – Park Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail. |
| March 23 | Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers installed a retaining wall along the trail to prevent erosion. |
| | Cloverleaf – Park Naturalist cleared brush growing onto the trail. |
| March 25 | Bill Cull trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing the trail from mud and debris. |
| March 31 | Bill Cull trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing the trail from mud and debris. |

March 2021/2022

| PATROLS | | | ACTIVITY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| | # of staff patrols 2021 | # of staff patrols 2022 | Pedestrians 2021 | Pedestrians 2022 | Vehicles 2021 | Vehicles 2022 | Cyclists 2021 | Cyclists 2022 | Pets 2021 | Pets 2022 | Public Service Calls 2021 | Public Service Calls 2022 | Smoking Ban Calls 2021 | Smoking Ban Calls 2022 | Wildlife Sightings 2021 | Wildlife Sightings 2022 | Unsecured Gate 2021 | Unsecured Gate 2022 | Citations 2021 | Citations 2022 | Activity Totals 2021 | Activity Totals 2022 | |
| Sleepy Hollow | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| March 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 |
| March 21-28 | 14 | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 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 |
| Total | = 62 | 62 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Ridgeside | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| March 1-7 | 14 | 14 | 133 | 102 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 6 | 21 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 175 | 119 | |
| March 8-14 | 14 | 14 | 141 | 142 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 14 | 16 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 186 | 162 | |
| March 15-20 | 14 | 14 | 129 | 135 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 18 | 20 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 172 | 167 | |
| March 21-28 | 14 | 14 | 308 | 122 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 21 | 39 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 373 | 149 | |
| March 29-31 | 6 | 6 | 57 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 74 | 59 | |
| Total | = 62 | 62 | 768 | 552 | 0 | 0 | 107 | 61 | 105 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 980 | 656 | |
| Cloverleaf | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| March 1-7 | 14 | 14 | 82 | 74 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 15 | 17 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 117 | 97 | |
| March 8-14 | 14 | 14 | 43 | 81 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 58 | 92 | |
| March 15-20 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 51 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 63 | |
| March 21-28 | 14 | 14 | 46 | 64 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 76 | |
| March 29-31 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 12 | |
| Total | = 62 | 62 | 193 | 282 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 39 | 43 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 340 | |
| Highland | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| March 1-7 | 14 | 14 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 3 | |
| March 8-14 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 1 | |
| March 15-20 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 4 | |
| March 21-28 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | |
| March 29-31 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | |
| Total | = 62 | 62 | 40 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 9 | |
| Grand Total | = 248 | 248 | 1002 | 842 | 0 | 0 | 157 | 101 | 154 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1313 | 1005 | |
| *Higher than average touch points numbers in 2021 due to Canyon Park closure from the Bobcat Fire. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Higher than average touch points numbers in 2022 due to Canyon Park closure from the 2021 December rain storms. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |