



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2022

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for April 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 April 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 as we work to make the needed repairs. During the closure, photos, aerial footage, and much more information will be shared with the community on the City website.

Staff has been intimately involved with clean up and rehabilitation towards Canyon Park roads, trails and infrastructure. Over the next several months Staff will continue to assess and identify damages from the December 2021 rainstorm clean up, identify infrastructure repairs, and oversee the possibilities of upgrades to Canyon Park.

ANALYSIS: During the month of April 2022, Canyon Park Volunteers and Park Naturalists completed 121 hours of maintenance in Canyon Park, Maintenance performance that 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 April, 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 mitigations. Staff is continuing to monitor the progress of work as they assist in Canyon Park and HWP's post fire rehabilitation.

April - Clean up of mud and debris began in Canyon Park. Pokrajac Contractors began the initial phase of the Canyon Park rehabilitation. Contractors are in the process of cleaning debris, boulders, and fallen trees off the main road, repairing trail access, clearing culverts and working on minor repairs to water system to regain usage in the park.

April 5 – Staff presented a show and tell program for Sunshine Company. Staff engaged with participants and taught them about the different wildlife in Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve.

April 7 – Stefan Bank a member of Boy Scout troop 66 met with Staff to discuss a potential Eagle Scout project for the Canyon Park Entry Station. This initial step will be the first of many on Stefan earning his Eagle Merit by creating a more welcoming Ranger Station for staff, volunteers and visitors.

April 9 – Park Naturalist assisted with the Spring Egg Hunt and Healthy Kids Day Event at Recreation Park. The event provided a fun and safe way to celebrate the spring holiday. Staff helped with the egg hunt, a toddlers fun zone, and many other features for visitors and participants to enjoy.

April 20 – Staff, City Departments, and Park Naturalists hosted an Earth Day at Library Park. Participants were able to learn about water conservation, partake in a nature scavenger hunt, create nature inspired crafts, and learn about the wildlife in Canyon Park.

April 27 – Canyon Park Staff and Public Works met with West Coast Arborist to identify the risk assessment with perished trees along the Canyon Park roadway and hiking trails that would potentially have to be removed for public safety.

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

April 2022 Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Activity Log	
Canyon Park and HWP 121 hours of maintenance in April 2022	
April 1	Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 4	Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 6	Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 8	Bill Cull trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 11	Bill Cull trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 13	Bill Cull trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 14	Cloverleaf – Park Natualaist cleared brush grown onto the trail.
April 15	Bill Cull trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 18	Overlook trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 20	Cloverleaf – Park Natualaist cleared brush grown onto the trail.
	Overlook trail - Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
April 21	Cloverleaf – Park Natualaist cleared brush grown onto the trail.
April 22	Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing a tree that fell onto the trail.
April 25	Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing a tree that fell onto the trail.
April 27	Waterfall trail– Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail.
	Cloverleaf – Park Natualaist cleared brush grown onto the trail.
April 29	Waterfall trail – Canyon Park Volunteers worked on clearing debris and slides that fell onto the trail .

April 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																							
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 15-20	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April 21-28	14	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
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	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Ridgeside																							
April 1-7	14	14	129	87	0	0	16	12	12	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	157	107	
April 8-14	14	14	130	79	0	0	12	6	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	142	90	
April 15-20	14	14	211	125	0	0	12	18	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	223	155	
April 21-28	14	14	145	116	0	0	26	29	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	151	
April 29-30	6	4	76	52	0	0	1	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	62	
Total	= 62	60	691	459	0	0	67	73	12	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	770	565	
Cloverleaf																							
April 1-7	14	14	35	62	0	0	8	12	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	76	
April 8-14	14	14	38	44	0	0	5	18	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	68	
April 15-20	14	14	47	69	0	0	19	17	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	94	
April 21-28	14	14	65	73	0	0	33	25	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	104	
April 29-30	6	4	20	22	0	0	9	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	30	
Total	= 62	60	205	270	0	0	74	78	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	279	372	
Highland																							
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	11	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	2	
April 15-20	14	14	9	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	
April 21-28	14	14	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	
April 29-30	6	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Total	= 62	60	27	4	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	6	
Grand Total	= 248	240	924	733	0	0	143	152	16	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1083	943	

*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.