



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

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2023

PREPARED BY: Eugene Suk,
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for June 2023.

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 June 2023.

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. Park Naturalists also respond to calls related to Monrovia's Smoking Ban Ordinance.

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. 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. Since then, limited hiking opportunities in San Gabriel Valley has increased amount of daily visitors to HWP, primarily in Ridgeside and Cloverleaf access points.

Staff continues to work diligently to repair trails and remove hazards in an effort to open Canyon Park as soon as possible. To-date, the City Council has approved \$4.7m for costs associated with debris removal and clean up on Canyon Park and Lower Clamshell Trail. The vast majority of these costs will be reimbursed by the State of California and FEMA. The City has not hauled debris out of the park in efforts to reuse and repurpose the rock, dirt and even fallen trees to help build the park. For example, boulders were collected and saved, then placed along the streambeds to fortify against future erosion. Trees damaged by the Bobcat Fire or floods in 2021 and 2022 have been buried into any landform grading/earthwork, providing greater nutrient levels in the soil. Hydroseed included native grasses and wildflowers seeds, and were applied in certain areas of the park to protect against further erosion.

Our contractors also began work this month on the damaged rock wall just below the Nature Center in Canyon Park. The wall and surrounding roadway began sliding downhill this past spring. Unfortunately, the wall has moved enough that we needed to excavate a large portion of the roadway only to find that fixing the wall will mean removing large portions so we can install a proper footing since the rock wall sat on a foundation of piled rock, and lasted for decades. Fixing the wall means we have to take it down and rebuild.

In addition to the construction work, the City has partnered with Psomas for the environmental planning that we need to rebuild our park's natural features. They have been working in the park for several weeks

CC-2

doing a biological constraints analysis which is essentially a field survey of current site conditions and the true impacts of wildfire and flood on our park. They will also perform a tree risk assessment. With information in hand, they will develop a habitat recovery plan which will be a key component of our repair efforts in years to come.

ANALYSIS: The City has prepared the construction plans for Canyon Park which are close to 100% complete. The project estimate is between \$17-\$18 million. Below is the general scope of work we will be undertaking:

- Replacing the roadway from Canyon Blvd. to the Damkeeper's House. In addition to a new roadway, we are changing the cross-slope of the roadway to prevent future debris from flowing directly down the center of the park in the future, should there be another mudslide
- Replacing all parking lots and adding 24 new parking spaces
- Replacing the water main, installing a booster pump to feed water from the Oakglade tank, and removing the old Canyon Park water tank
- Installing a 6" sewer line and removing septic tanks
- Repairing damaged culverts, guardrails, walls, etc.

One of the exciting components of the park project is we are adding approximately 10 new features or enhancements to the park, which include:

- Enhanced park entrance with new picnic tables and a public art piece
- Enhancing the park entrance kiosk to enclose it, add air conditioning and storage
- A small picnic and parking area just beyond the road to Trask Boy Scout Camp
- A new raised deck/platform near the small picnic area which will provide a quiet and peaceful place to sit next to the stream and observe nature
- A new ADA parking area near the cabin to ensure full accessibility for all users
- A new a small seating area near the cabin nearby a large heritage oak tree
- Enhanced seating area we are calling "Canyon Park Educational Center" with seating near the entrance to 3 Graves Trail. This underutilized space will become a place where park naturalists can teach us about the park, nature, wildlife, plants and much more
- New enhancements to the Veterans Memorial (just below the Nature Center). This area is usually passed by and we want to ensure residents know it's there by adding native landscaping, seating and perhaps signage to make it a destination within the park
- A renovated overlook at the top of the park
- Renovation of the Damkeeper's House to be used for special events and rentals on a limited basis. This area has the best views within the park and we will begin making renovations and repairs for future public use.

The Construction Schedule and Estimated Reopening Date are the Canyon Park project is listed below:

- August 2023: 100% Design Plans and bid documents
- September 2023: Initiate RFP process, host pre-bid meeting and job walk
- October 2023: Receive and evaluate bids and award of contract
- November 2023: Project kick-off and construction starts (*6-9 months of construction*)
- Winter 2024: Tentative Re-opening of Canyon Park

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Community Services Commission move to receive and file CC-2, Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for June 2023.

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 June 2023.

CC-2

**June 2023
Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Activity Log**

Canyon Park and HWP 110 hours of maintenance in June 2023

June 2	Cloverleaf Bypass Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 5	Cloverleaf Bypass Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 7	Bill Cull Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 9	Bill Cull Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 12	Bill Cull Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 14	Ridgeside Trail – Canyon Park Volunteer cleared debris and brush to establish an overgrown trail.
June 16	Ridgeside Trail – Canyon Park Volunteer cleared debris and brush to establish an overgrown trail.
	Cloverleaf Bypass Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 19	Cloverleaf Bypass Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 21	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 23	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 26	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 28	Waterfall Trail - Canyon Park Volunteer cleared overgrown brush growing onto the trail.
June 30	Ridgeside Trail – Canyon Park Volunteer cleared debris and brush to establish an overgrown trail.

June 2022/2023

PATROLS			ACTIVITY																				
	# of staff patrols 2022	# of staff patrols 2023	Pedestrians 2022	Pedestrians 2023	Vehicles 2022	Vehicles 2023	Cyclists 2022	Cyclists 2023	Pets 2022	Pets 2023	Public Service Calls 2022	Public Service Calls 2023	Smoking Ban Calls 2022	Smoking Ban Calls 2023	Wildlife Sightings 2022	Wildlife Sightings 2023	Unsecured Gate 2022	Unsecured Gate 2023	Citations 2022	Citations 2023	Activity Totals 2022	Activity Totals 2023	
Sleepy Hollow																							
June 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
June 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
June 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
June 21-28	14	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June 29-30	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total =	60	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgeside																							
June 1-7	14	14	115	65	0	0	12	16	12	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139	87	
June 8-14	14	14	120	83	0	0	11	5	14	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	96	
June 15-20	14	14	85	75	0	0	5	12	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	99	
June 21-28	14	14	92	87	0	0	12	10	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	98	
June 29-30	4	4	21	32	0	0	2	4	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	42	
Total =	60	60	433	342	0	0	42	47	46	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	521	422	
Cloverleaf																							
June 1-7	14	14	35	17	0	0	2	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	25	
June 8-14	14	14	30	28	0	0	5	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	37	
June 15-20	14	14	20	32	0	0	1	12	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	52	
June 21-28	14	14	18	34	0	0	6	4	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	44	
June 29-30	4	4	7	12	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	14	
Total =	60	60	110	123	0	0	16	31	10	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136	172	
Highland																							
June 1-7	14	14	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	
June 8-14	14	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
June 15-20	14	14	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
June 21-28	14	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
June 29-30	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
	60	60	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	
Grand Total =	240	240	547	467	0	0	59	78	56	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	662	596	

*Higher than average touch points numbers in 2022-23 due to Canyon Park closure from the 2021 December rain storms.