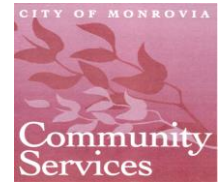




**CITY OF MONROVIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services

MEETING DATE: October 14, 2014

PREPARED BY: Hector Inzunza,
Senior Park Ranger

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-3

TITLE: 2013-14 Canyon Park Volunteer and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Park Ranger Reserve Program Evaluation

OBJECTIVE: To provide the Community Services Commission with an evaluation of the Canyon Park Volunteer and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Park Ranger Reserve Programs.

BACKGROUND: Volunteers have donated their time to Canyon Park since 1911 when a group of volunteers built the first road into the Canyon, giving Monrovia access to the foothills. In 1999 the Volunteer Program was formalized to provide support to Canyon Park operations, including but not limited to: facilities maintenance, trail maintenance, interpretive outdoor programming, and general preservation of the ecological and aesthetic resources of Canyon Park.

In 2010, the Hillside Wilderness Preserve (HWP) Park Ranger Reserve Program was created to provide operational support to Monrovia's hillsides. Reservists assist with trail construction and maintenance, habitat restoration, and fuel reduction projects and surveys alongside the Fire Department, and wildlife monitoring and patrols.

All volunteers and reservists participate in an extensive orientation before being assigned to service. Training includes a review of department policies and procedures, trail construction and maintenance training, interpretive docent training, nature center naturalist training and trail patrol training.

ANALYSIS: The Canyon Park Volunteer Program consists of 38 volunteers who provide Canyon Park staff support on a daily basis. These volunteers contributed a total of 8,676 hours in 2013-14 compared to 7,236 hours volunteered in 2012-13.

Canyon Park Volunteers also support non-Canyon Park programs including the Fountain to the Falls Run/Walk, the Halloween program, 4th of July Fireworks Show, and Urban Park patrols.

The chart on the next page illustrates Canyon Park Volunteer tasks/hours for fiscal years 2012-13 and 2013-14.

AR-3

Canyon Park Volunteer Hours		
	2012-13	2013-14
Activities	Hours	Hours
Trail Maintenance	1,974	3,037
Trail Patrol	1,842	2,302
Interpretation & Nature Center	1,104	286
Facility and Grounds Maintenance	699	151
Special Projects & Events	736	2,246
Monthly Meetings and Training	73	151
Newsletter & Administration	14	45
Staffing Kiosk	783	402
Other	31	56
Total Hours	7,256	8,676

The Ranger Reserve Program was re-instated in the 2013 -14 to support the HWP Park Ranger staff with the implementation of the Resource Management Plan (RMP). The majority of Ranger Reservists were specifically recruited from the Citrus College Natural Resource Management Program. The Reserves knowledge and understanding of natural resources is crucial as the Department continues to move forward with the Resource Management Plan. The Reservists have, for several months, primarily focused on the maintenance and repair of the Lower Clamshell Motorway and Lower Clamshell Connector Trail. Twelve Reservists have volunteered 798 hours to ensure the pathways are safe and maintained for pedestrian and bicycle use. The following chart outlines the Ranger Reserves hours and work assignments for fiscal years 2013-14.

Ranger Reserve Hours by Category		
	2012-13	2013-14
Activities	Hours	Hours
Trail Construction and Maintenance	-	798
Interpretation	-	94
Lower Clamshell Road Repair	-	40
Braunton's Milk-Vetch (Astragalus brauntonii) Monitoring	-	74
Restoration and Fuels Reduction	-	233
Patrols	-	78
Meetings and Training	-	120.5
Special Events	-	126
Total	-	1,563.5

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: All volunteers participate in on the job training with regard to stewardship of Monrovia's hillside flora and fauna. Good stewardship includes removing invasive species, restoration of native flora, resource protection, wildlife monitoring, and interpretation.

FISCAL IMPACT: Canyon Park Volunteers and Ranger Reserves provided \$235,520 in staff cost savings for fiscal year 2013-14 compared to the previous year of \$159,632.

Volunteer Cost Savings		
	2012-13	2013-14
Canyon Park Volunteer Hours	7,256	8,676
National Hourly Rate	\$22	\$23
Total	\$159,192	\$199,548
Ranger Reserve Volunteer Hours	n/a	1,564
National Hourly Rate	n/a	\$23
Total	n/a	\$35,972
Grand Totals	\$159,632	\$235,520

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Staff will partner with other colleges and universities to expand the Ranger Reserve Program.
2. Staff will work with the local colleges and university professors to provide Forestry and Natural Resource Management curriculum for students.
3. Staff will develop and implement a formalized volunteer donation program to offset costs for uniforms, training and volunteer recognition.
4. Ranger Reservists will be recruited and assigned to specific zones within the HWP to assist with the implementation of the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Community Services Commission move to receive and file AR-3 2013-14 Canyon Park Volunteer and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Park Ranger Reserve Program Evaluation.

COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED: If the Community Services Commission concurs, the appropriate action would be a motion to: ***Receive and file 2013-14 Canyon Park Volunteer and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Park Ranger Reserve Program Evaluation.***