



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

**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services

**MEETING DATE:** August 13, 2019

**PREPARED BY:** Eugene Suk  
Hillside Wilderness Preserve Supervisor

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

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**TITLE:** Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for July 2019

**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 July 2019.

**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, staff led hikes, interpretive tours, a Nature Center, access to trails, a waterfall, and views of the San Gabriel Valley. In addition, the staff and volunteers maintain the trail system 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 as well as 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 parks.

The included Patrol Log provides additional information related to the Comments, Maintenance, Incidents, and Events for July 2019.

**ANALYSIS:** During the month of July 2019, Staff and Volunteers worked on maintaining Canyon Park and HWP hiking trails. Staff and Volunteers completed 102 hours of maintenance throughout HWP and 123 hours in Canyon Park. The maintenance included brush clearance, erosion control, and invasive species removal.

Each year, as a precaution, Canyon Park and the HWP are closed to the public from July 3 – July 5. The closure is in response to limited resources related to Fire Protection during the holiday weekend as well as heightened risk of unsafe use of fireworks. On July 4, Park Naturalist assisted with the City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event in Library Park.

On Monday, July 29, Canyon Park's Waterfall Trail was temporarily closed due to a large branch that fell onto the trail making it unsafe for hikers to pass. On Wednesday, July 31 West Coast Arborist removed the large branch and the trail was reopened to public.

Park Naturalist and Volunteers hosted two Family Hike and Campout Events on Saturday July 13 – Sunday, July 14 and Saturday, July 27 – Sunday, July 28. Participants enjoyed day and night hikes, family craft activities, library Storytime, s'mores, and camping related activities.

In July, Park Naturalists, in partnership with the Junior Research Academy, led group hikes on Tuesday July 2, 16 and 30.

At the July 9, 2019 Community Services Commission meeting, the Commission presented staff with some questions related to the June 2019 Patrol Log. Specifically, the Commission questioned the drop in the number of Patrols as well as the number of Pedestrians Counted in 2019 as compared to 2018. Again, this month, the number of Patrols as well as the number of Pedestrians Counted is less as compared to 2018. Staff has reviewed the item carefully and can attribute the differential to a few factors.

1. In 2018, Park Naturalist patrolled the Hillside Wilderness Preserve in a vehicle. Doing so allowed the staff to cover a larger territory as well as do more patrols in one shift. This approach did allow for more coverage; however, staff began to notice hazards were being overlooked and needed maintenance items were being missed. Understanding how many users we have in HWP is important; however, ensuring the trails are safe is critical. In response to this finding, staff are now parking the vehicle and conducting foot patrols more frequently. This takes much longer and as a result, we are seeing fewer Patrols on the monthly Log. Less frequent Patrols yields a lower Pedestrian Count.
2. In 2018, Canyon Park was fortunate to have a few dedicated volunteers able and willing to work the Entry Station at Canyon Park. One of the key responsibilities for this position is to collect payment from visitors for parking in Canyon Park. The practice had been in place for many years and of course the team has ultimate trust in the volunteers; however, having volunteers handle cash transactions without the assistance of staff is not best practice. As a result, a staff member is now needed in this role and therefore we have one less staff this year able to conduct patrols as compared to prior years. This again results in fewer Patrols and lower Pedestrian Counts.
3. Staff has reviewed the time in which the patrols are being conducted. Currently, staff are patrolling HWP twice a day, once in the late morning and once in the early afternoon. Staff recognizes that conducting the patrols during the times when the trails are more active may be preferred. Patrolling the trails in the early morning or late afternoon, when it is cooler, may allow for more interaction with the trail users. Staff will be looking into adjusting the schedule to allow for more frequent patrols during more active times of the day.

Staff is also looking into trail counters that may be deployed at the access points to capture more accurate counts. Doing so would allow us to have information that is consistent over time and not require additional staff resources. Staff will continue to research our options and report back to the Commission as needed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the Community Services Commission move to receive and file CC-2, Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve Patrol Update for July 2019.

**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 July 2019.

**CC-2**

**July 2019  
HWP AND CANYON PARK ACTIVITY LOG**

**HWP Maintenance – 102 Hours of Maintenance Work in July**

July 2	Ridgeside- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush and invasive species growing onto the trail.
July 3	Ridgeside- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush and invasive species growing onto the trail.
July 5	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 8	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 75 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 9	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 11	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 12	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 15	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 17	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 18	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 23	Ridgeside- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 25 yards of brush and invasive species growing onto the trail.
	Cloverleaf- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 25	Ridgeside- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush and invasive species growing onto the trail.
July 26	Ridgeside- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush and invasive species growing onto the trail.
July 29	Ridgeside- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush and invasive species growing onto the trail.
July 30	Ridgeside- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 25 yards of brush and invasive species growing onto the trail.
July 31	Ridgeside- Park Naturalists cleared approximately 50 yards of brush and invasive species growing onto the trail.

**Canyon Park Maintenance – 123 Hours of Maintenance Work in July**

July 1	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
	Ben Overturf- Park Naturalist cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
	Nature Center- Park Naturalist cleared brush in the surround area of the facility.
July 5	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 8	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers placed an edge barrier on the trail to prevent erosion.
July 8	Nature Center- Park Naturalist cleared picnic areas of overgrown grasses.
July 9	Canyon Park Cabin- Park Naturalist maintained interior of cabin area.
July 10	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared 100 yards of brush growing onto the trail and placed an edge barrier on the trail to prevent erosion.
July 10	Nature Center- Park Naturalist cleared picnic areas of overgrown grass.
July 11	Fireman's Flats- Park Naturalist cleared picnic areas of overgrown grass.
July 12	Waterfall- Canyon Park Volunteers placed an edge barrier on the trail to prevent erosion
July 12	Fireman's Flats- Park Naturalist cleared picnic areas of overgrown grass.
July 15	Waterfall- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail.

July 16	Dam House- Park Naturalist cleared surrounding facility area of debris and brush.
July 17	Bill Cull- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 17	Dam House- Park Naturalist cleared surrounding facility area of debris and brush.
July 18	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 19	Dam House- Park Naturalist cleared surrounding facility area of debris and brush.
July 22	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 24	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers placed an edge barrier on the trail to prevent erosion.
July 26	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail.
July 29	Ben Overturf- Canyon Park Volunteers placed an edge barrier on the trail to prevent erosion
July 29	Ben Overturf- Park Naturalist cleared 200 yards of brush growing onto the trail and in surrounding areas.
July 30	Fireman's Flats –Park Naturalist installed storage bins in picnic areas.
<b>Canyon Park Incidents</b>	
July 3, 4, & 5	Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve were closed to patrons for fire safety.
July 29 - 31	Waterfall Trail - Park Naturalist closed the waterfall trail because of a large tree branch that fell onto the trail. West Coast Arborist cleared the tree branch on Wednesday, July 31 and the trail reopened.
<b>Canyon Park Events</b>	
July 2, 16, 30	Canyon Park Naturalist assisted Junior Researcher Academy with an Educational Tour, collection of samples, and hike to waterfall.
July 13-14 & 27- 29	Canyon Park hosted the Family Hike and Campout event at Fireman's Flats Campground.

# July 2018/2019

PATROLS			ACTIVITY																				
	# of staff patrols 2018	# of staff patrols 2019	Pedestrians 2018	Pedestrians 2019	Vehicles 2018	Vehicles 2019	Cyclists 2018	Cyclists 2019	Pets 2018	Pets 2019	Public Service Calls 2018	Public Service Calls 2019	Smoking Ban Calls 2018	Smoking Ban Calls 2019	Wildlife Sightings 2018	Wildlife Sightings 2019	Unsecured Gate 2018	Unsecured Gate 2019	Citations 2018	Citations 2019	Activity Totals 2018	Activity Totals 2019	
<b>Sleepy Hollow</b>																							
July 1-7	14	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 8-14	16	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
July 15-21	18	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 22-28	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 29-31	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total =</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Ridgeside</b>																							
July 1-7	20	9	14	6	0	0	2	3	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	12	
July 8-14	24	10	41	15	0	0	2	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	23	
July 15-21	26	9	25	6	0	0	12	3	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	13	
July 22-28	16	10	20	14	1	0	5	4	12	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	25	
July 29-31	8	6	24	7	0	0	0	7	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	18	
<b>Total =</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>91</b>	
<b>Cloverleaf</b>																							
July 1-7	22	9	25	6	0	0	10	2	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	11	
July 8-14	24	10	12	12	0	1	6	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	19	
July 15-21	30	9	18	4	0	0	3	6	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	12	
July 22-28	24	10	12	10	0	0	8	4	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	18	
July 29-31	8	6	6	2	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	
<b>Total =</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>67</b>	
<b>Highland</b>						0																	
July 1-7	14	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 8-14	20	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 15-21	24	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 22-28	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July 29-31	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total =</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Grand Total =</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>158</b>	