



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2021**

FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION (WEED ABATEMENT) PROGRAM

ISSUE:

Provide an update on the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department's annual Fire Prevention program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission provide feedback on the annual Fire Prevention program currently ongoing throughout the City of Riverside; and receive the report for file.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks Division provides an annual update to Park and Recreation Commission on the ongoing Fire prevention program, which uses mechanical, chemical, and physical methods to create firebreaks to minimize the risk and spread of wildfires near parks and open spaces throughout the City of Riverside.

In past years, the Parks Division has utilized crews from Cal Fire Crews to assist with these responsibilities so Parks Division Staff can continue their day-to-day duties. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Cal Fire Crews and California Conservation Corps' participation has been halted; therefore, the Parks Division has had to use Parks Staff, Parks/PSET Staff, and contractors to create and maintain the firebreak areas throughout the City of Riverside.

DISCUSSION:

Since January 1, 2019 there have been 19 fires within Sycamore Canyon and approximately 700 acres have burned. Major concerns for the Riverside Fire Department at this time is the presence of Santa Ana Wind Conditions over 30 mph, the biggest threat being to the homes east of Canyon Crest Drive, off of Lochmor, and to the South in Santa Ana Wind Conditions to the Mission Grove Neighborhood, as well as the Mission Grove Neighborhood South of the Gas Line Road near Canyon Crest Drive.

The Parks Division has continued to create firebreaks in those areas to assist with keeping fuel (dry grass and weeds) cut back and creating fire breaks in those areas to date.

The maps attached are examples of sites where the Parks Division performs Fire Prevention maintenance. Staff performs handwork (132 acres), mowing (360 acres) and chemical application (119 acres) at 15 sites annually.

PARK SITES	Acres of Mowing	Acres of Chemical Application	Acres of Chemical Application
Mt. Rubidoux	5	12	26.6
Sycamore Canyon	98.5	5.46	30.02
Fairmount	18	11.65	13.3
Castleview	11	3	5.3
Mt. Vernon	14	1.9	3.9
Islander	6.8	1.7	1.7
Tequesquite	96	24	12
Loring	0	2.7	2.7
Victoria/Cross	6.7	2.7	2.7
Challen	0.5	2	2
Hole Lake	12.5	4.3	2.2
Mission Ranch	5.1	1.5	0.5
1802 Elsinore	0	0.4	0.4
Gage	0	4.3	4.3
Seven Mile Trail	0	8.2	18
Grand Total:	359.9	110.91	132

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The work contributes to **Strategic Priority 1 – Arts, Culture and Recreation** of the Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan, which aims to provide diverse community experiences and personal enrichment opportunities for people of all ages.

The work specifically supports **Goal 1.3**, to improve parks, recreational amenities, open space, and trail development, and fulfill critical lifecycle and facility maintenance needs; and, **Goal 1.4**, to prioritize safety at parks, trails, arts, cultural and recreational facilities.

It also aligns with EACH of the five cross-cutting threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Riverside is transparent and makes fire prevention decisions based on sound policy, inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards & Commissions, and timely and reliable information. Activities and actions by the City serve the public interest, benefit the City’s diverse populations, and result in the greater public good.
2. **Equity** – The fire prevention measures is supportive of the City’s attributes of diversity and is committed to advancing the equitable distribution of services.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Fire prevention is completed in compliance with the Purchasing Resolution for competitive bids and ensures responsible management of the City’s financial resources while providing quality public services to all.

4. **Innovation** – Fire prevention is addressed in a collaborative method using innovative solutions to complete the required services through multiple partnerships and shared resources.

5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Fire prevention provides a sustainable and resilient community and continues the effort to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time

Prepared by: Kyle Raphael, Parks Superintendent

Approved by: Randy McDaniel, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Interim Director

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

- Attachments:
1. Indian Hill Map
 2. Mt. Vernon Map
 4. North Hill Map
 5. Rin Tin Tin Map