



Park and Recreation Commission

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS **DATE: AUGUST 17, 2020**
FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL WEED ABATEMENT PROGRAM

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department's annual weed abatement program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission receive a report on the annual weed abatement program currently ongoing throughout the City of Riverside and provide feedback as appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

The Parks Division provides an annual report to the Park and Recreation Commission on the ongoing weed abatement program. This program uses mechanical, chemical, and physical methods to create firebreaks to stop or hinder the spread of wildfires near parks and open spaces throughout the City of Riverside.

In past years, the Parks Division has recruited the assistance of Cal Fire Crews and California Conservation Corps to take on these responsibilities so Parks Division Staff can continue with their day to day duties.

DISCUSSION:

The weed abatement process follows a specific timeline and utilizes maps to track regrowth. Weed abatement is performed utilizing various methods to maintain areas, as detailed below.

Weed Abatement Timeline:

Each year at the beginning of February, pre-emergent is put down to help control some weed growth.

In the beginning of April, Parks Division Staff start using mechanical methods in open areas inside Sycamore Canyon and around Mt. Rubidoux.

In mid-April, physical methods are started by Parks Division Staff to create a 50 to 100-foot break along trails, homes, hills and other areas where a fire outbreak can occur.

Weed Abatement Maps:

Maps are used to track areas of the City where mechanical, chemical, and physical removal has been completed. This allows Parks staff to track upcoming regrowth of new native grasses.

Mechanical Method:

The use of a tractor with an attached flail unit to knock down/cut invasive weeds and native grass that could ignite and cause a fire outbreak is used in large open spaces.

Chemical Method:

A select few chemicals are applied to the areas after Parks Division Staff cut them back to restrict future growth for the upcoming months.

Physical Method:

Parks Division Staff uses a variety of line trimmers, brush hog mowers, hoe rakes, shovels, pitch forks, etc.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Kyle Raphael, Parks Superintendent

Approved by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachments: 1. Indian Hill Map
2. Mt. Rubidoux Map
3. Mt. Vernon Map
4. North Hill / Jacaranda Hill Map
5. Rin Tin Tin / Bubbling Well Map
6. Sycamore Canyon Map