

# MPWR 2024 Annual Report

Monrovia  
California



1995 ★ 2024

*Together we are better!*

# Meet your MPWR Board



Brian Ulm - **President**



Trudy Trimmer – **Program & Events Chair**



Donna Baker – **Vice President**



Jillian Gomez – **Communications Chair**



Michele Bernal – **Chief Financial Officer**



Edward Belden



Julie Bank - **Secretary**



Giangelo Leos



**CITY OF MONROVIA**  
**HILLSIDE WILDERNESS PRESERVE**

# BOBCAT FIRE

## THE FIRE

The Bobcat Fire ignited on Sunday, September 6, 2020, near Cogswell Dam, nestled in Canyons of the San Gabriel Mountains. Over the subsequent weeks, the fire grew to over 116,000 acres stretching as



## REHABILITATION

The time line for post fire recovery differs depending on the type of environment that suffers from a wildfire. Many different factors can affect the recovery such as weather, climate, the intensity of burn during the fire, and human interaction during post fire recovery.

**MPWR has committed \$32,000 to fund 16 Interpretive Signs throughout Monrovia Parks and the Wilderness Preserve Helping to tell Monrovia's story for years to come**



Monrovia Canyon Park.

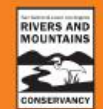


location of trees, rocks, and topography of our landscape after each rain, and wind event.



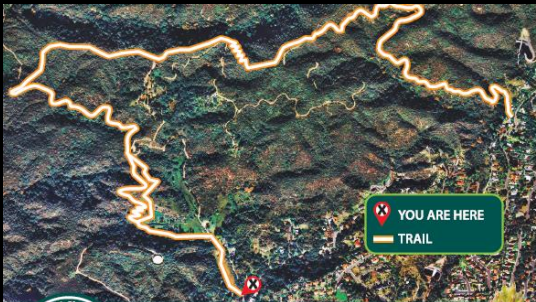
FireFlowers after post fire (flowering phacelia)

Thank you our partners and to the Monrovia Parks, Wilderness and Recreation Foundation (MPWR) for their contributions and to the many donors who contributed to the interpretive signs.



Scan the QR code to learn more or to donate to the Monrovia Parks, Wilderness and Recreation Foundation.





YOU ARE HERE  
TRAIL

Did you know that an endangered and Federally protected plant can be found in Monrovia's Hillside Wilderness Preserve? Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) can be found along the Lower Clamshell Trail. Ensuring we do our part to protect this critical habitat is just one reason why the Hillside Wilderness Preserve is important to us all. Braunton's milkvetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) grows closely with other California native plants, including manzanita, buckwheat, beargrass, chamise, ceanothus, Tecate cypress, and many species of oak and pine. It can be found in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura Counties. Native bees and ants pollinate the Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), which blooms from March to July. It can grow up to 5 feet tall but lives only 2-3 years. Following the 2020 Bobcat Fire, new sprouts of Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) were quickly identified and continue to thrive.

Monrovia's Hillside Wilderness Preserve is a Critical Habitat area and is protected by Monrovia Municipal Code 12.32.050. Healthy ecosystems depend on plant and animal species as their foundations. When a species becomes endangered, it is a sign that the ecosystem is slowly falling apart. Each species that is lost triggers the loss of other species within its ecosystem. Humans depend on healthy ecosystems to purify our environment.



## BRAUNTON'S MILK-VETCH (ASTRAGALUS BRAUNTONII)

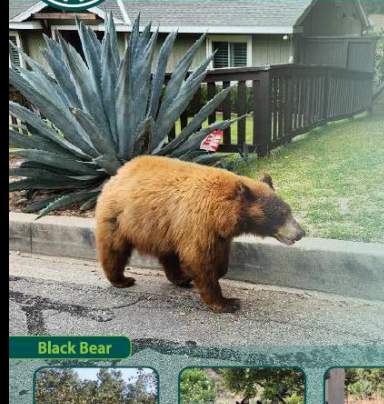


Thank you our partners and to the Monrovia Parks, Wilderness and Recreation Foundation (MPWR) for their contributions and to the many donors who contributed to the interpretative signs.



## LIVING WITH URBAN WILDLIFE

Enjoy and celebrate wildlife with respect and understanding.



Black Bear

City life isn't easy for wildlife. For most species, it means losing their native habitats and navigating people, lights and traffic. Life for wild animals in urban areas consists of many challenges like avoiding crowds and scavenging for food waste and locating shelter to ensure their survival. We can do our part to help wildlife by limiting access to food and water for the animals.

### Things we can do to minimize undesired interaction with local wildlife

- Remove any outdoor pet food, including bird feeders
- Pick up fruit as soon as it falls to the ground
- Keep barbecue grills clean
- Eliminate access to water on your property, like standing water or bird baths
- Wildlife-proof garbage in sturdy containers with tight fitting lids
- Keep trash in a secure location and only take out trash the morning pick up is scheduled
- Keep compost in secure containers
- Secure your garage and don't leave the door open
- Cover your garden with chicken wire
- Trim overgrown landscaping and clear brush, trim hedges 6"-12" off the ground
- Close off crawl spaces under decks and around buildings
- Invest in motion detecting lights that make sound when activated, motion sensing water sprayers, or roll bar fencing also referred to as "coyote rollers"

When you see wildlife in your neighborhood here are some things you can do to ensure the wildlife do not become comfortable near your home:

- Do not feed the animal.
- Do not shake a can of pennies to scare them away.
- Do not use an umbrella that is open or close an umbrella.
- Do not lean over a fence or stand your ground.
- Do not back up or run away.



Mountain Lion, Coyote, Mule Deer, Rattlesnake



Bobcat



## SUNSET BENCH

### History of Hillside Wilderness Preserve

**July 11, 2000** - In response to proposed residential development in our hillsides, Monrovia voters approved Measure A and Measure B. The adoption of Measure A created the "Hillside Wilderness Preserve" and "Hillside Recreation" zoning designations, while approval of Measure B imposed a base tax on Monrovia properties that generated 10 million dollars, to be paid back over 30 years, in order to fund the acquisition of privately held hillside properties. Measure B also authorized the collection of \$80,000 per year for maintenance efforts in the hillsides.

**2000-2004** - With the assistance of the Wilderness Preserve Steering Committee, the City and Committee identified the order in which the properties should be purchased and worked on securing grants. A total of forty-eight (48) public meetings were held to discuss hillside and open space related issues. The City was able to leverage the monies generated from Measure B to obtain additional grant funding which was used to acquire eleven (11) privately owned hillside properties for more than 24 million dollars. These purchases resulted in the City gaining ownership of 1,416 acres of hillside property that have since been designated as the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve (HWP).

Sunset Bench offers views that range across San Gabriel Valley. You can even catch a good look of (1) Los Angeles in the distance and on a clear day (2) Catalina Island. Can you point some of the landmarks from this vantage point? (3) Monrovia High, (4) Santa Anita Racetrack, and (5) the City of Hope Hospital all are visible from Sunset Bench.

**How did Sunset Bench get its name?**  
The "Sunset Bench" landmark prior to 2020 was unofficially called "Coyote Ridge Lookout" by Park staff. During the COVID pandemic, access to open spaces and hiking trails became critical to communities resulting in a significant increase in users. As the Hillside Wilderness Preserve gained more attention more hikers discovered the beautiful views from the overlook. Hikers noticed the bench and the

## Example of signage in development

In order to open the four access points identified above, the City worked with the neighborhoods adjacent to the access points as they would be most impacted. In many cases, the City had to obtain easements on private property which took time to develop these agreements. The City engaged in multiple discussions with stakeholders and addressed residents' concerns regarding the potential impacts to their neighborhood. The potential impacts include, but are not limited to, parking, increased foot traffic, noise and trash. The City implemented an overall neighborhood protection strategy that was developed in concert with a resident committee made up of individuals living on Hidden Valley Road adjacent to the "Overlook Access Point." One of the primary components of the strategy involved implementing on-street parking restrictions on Hidden Valley Road and Ridge Side Drive.

**December 2016** - After many years of outreach, collaboration, and negotiations, the City opened the four access points and 4.5 miles of Hillside Wilderness Preserve trails. The HWP trails provide passive recreational opportunities for the community and the City's Park Naturalists patrol and oversee the maintenance of the trails. The HWP pedestrian gates open at 6:00 a.m. and are locked at 9:00 p.m. If there are hikers in the preserve after 9:00 p.m., they can exit the preserve but persons cannot enter after 9:00 p.m.

The predominant plant community at Sunset Bench is chaparral. Chaparral is typically found between elevations of 1,200 and 3,000 feet and has a tendency of growing along a similar climate next to coastal sage scrub. Chaparral ecosystems adapt to hot and dry conditions. Common chaparral plants include sage, sumac, toyon, sugarbush, yucca, buckwheat, scrub oak, mahogany, and chamise. The chaparral communities are getting harder to find due to the urbanized development of land. These changes affect not only the plants, but also the animals that depend on the specific climate and shade this ecosystem has to offer.



**MPWR has committed to funding 4 Interpretive Signs in the Hillside Wilderness Preserve**





**MPWR contributed \$75,000 towards Library Park Playground Shade Enhancements supporting inclusive play spaces for all youth to enjoy year round**





MPWR has provided \$5,000 in Youth Scholarships (with a \$10,000 commitment) for recreational programming ensuring its available to EVERY young Monroviaian



**Parks Make Life Better!**



**MPWR Board members accepting a Proclamation from the City Council recognizing July as Parks Make Life Better Month**





# Canyon Park Restoration Project





**Tour of the Canyon Park Project for MPWR Board and City Commissions**



**MPWR has committed to fund 8 Interpretive Signs in Canyon Park and 4 Information Kiosks**





COMING SOON...  
**MONROVIA'S NEXT PARK!**

## SATORU TSUNEISHI PARK

📍 1111 Encino Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016



SCAN HERE

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR  
PARK UPDATES!**



The City of Monrovia is currently working on the final design phases for Satoru Tsuneishi Park! We would like to thank the community members who offered their ideas, participated at Community Services Commission meetings, and contributed to the park planning process. As the project moves forward, we expect to complete the design concepts and project engineering Fall 2024, followed by bidding the project for construction by the end of the year. It is anticipated that park construction will be complete in the Summer of 2025.

On our website, you can find background information on the new park project, how the park got its name, and links to learn more about Satoru Tsuneishi.

🌐 [www.monroviaca.gov](http://www.monroviaca.gov) 📞 626-256-8246

CITY OF  
**MONROVIA**  
CALIFORNIA



**MPWR is funding 3 Interpretive Signs in Tsuneishi Park**





## Out and About with MPWR

# Yoga in the Parks



# Community Hikes





# Supporting local restaurants and helping MPWR



**DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE**

Chipotle Fundraiser for  
**MONROVIA PARKS, WILDERNESS & RECREATION (MPWR)**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27TH 5:00PM  
 500 W Foothill Blvd, Monrovia, CA 91016

Chipotle



**CAUSE A SCENE FOR A GOOD CAUSE**

Enjoy yourself and support our cause at a special fundraising event for:

**Organization name:** Monrovia Parks, Wilderness, and Recreation Foundation  
**Date:** September 12, 2024  
**Time:** 5pm to 8pm  
**Location:** 500 W Foothill Blvd, Monrovia  
**Order Mode:** In-Restaurant, Blaze Pizza App, BlazePizza.com

**TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR ORGANIZATION:**

**In-Restaurant:** Bring in this flyer or show it on your phone before paying.

**Online Orders:** Orders must be placed online via the Blaze Pizza App or BlazePizza.com. Enter code **80204** the "Promo Code" field on checkout to have your transaction count toward the fundraiser. If entered correctly, you'll see a \$1.00 discount applied to your check which is that 20% of your transaction will be rounded into the total donation which goes to **MPWR, CUNY and CARROTWOOD**.

**BLAZE PIZZA**



**DAVE'S HOT CHICKEN**

JOIN DAVE'S IN A FUNDRAISER FOR:  
**MPWR FOUNDATION**

**OCTOBER 4, 2024**

502 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016  
 4:00PM - 6:00PM

SCAN THIS CODE AT THE REGISTER OR ORDER ONLINE ON THE DATE ABOVE THROUGH THE DAVE'S APP OR OUR WEBSITE USING THE FUNDRAISER CODE "GIVE", AND DAVE'S HOT CHICKEN WILL DONATE 20% OF YOUR ORDER.

DAVE'S HOT CHICKEN



**JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER** at Raising Cane's

Join us at the Raising Cane's at  
 945 W Huntington Dr, Monrovia, CA 91016  
 on **FRI. NOV 1**  
 from **11:00AM - 9:00PM**  
 and mention the fundraiser at the register, and Cane's will donate **15% of the Net Sales\*** to:  
**MPWR Foundation**

**ONE LOVE**

Raising Funds with Raising Cane's

Learn more about how we can support you at [Cane'sAndCommunity.com](https://Cane'sAndCommunity.com)

**Raising Cane's**



# Rotary Park Improvements - Make a Difference Day



# Volunteering at Monrovia Days



# Crudgington Station Renovations



# MPWR Fall Event 2023



# 2024 Online Auction

- ❖ Over \$15,000 raised
- ❖ 124 Items listed
- ❖ 167 registered bidders
- ❖ 486 bids placed

The screenshot shows the MPWR Virtual Auction 2024 website. The header features the MPWR logo (a green tree with a heart-shaped cutout) and the text "Monrovia Parks, Wilderness, and Recreation Foundation". To the right, it says "Virtual Auction 2024! July 22-28" with a sun icon. A "SALE" sign icon is also present. A "Please Note" section states: "Auction ends Sunday July 28, 8PM PDT - Items must be picked up in Monrovia, CA unless otherwise noted in the item's listing". Below this, a green banner reads: "GalaBid is providing this platform & 24/7 support, staffed by real people, free of charge. To cover these costs, a suggested tip to GalaBid is added at checkout. Please give if you can. Tips are vital in ensuring that this cause, and other great causes, continue to receive the service free of charge." The main content area shows a user profile for "Hi Brian Ulm" with a "Filter" button and a search icon. Below are four auction items:

- Item 1:** "90 Minute VIP Tour of the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve" by Chris Ziegler. Price: \$375. \$350 collected. 1 bid.
- Item 2:** "\$50 Donation for Youth Recreation Scholarship" by Nancy Bond. Price: \$70. \$200 collected. 23 bids.
- Item 3:** "TWO complimentary admission passes to the Huntington Library, Art..." by Nancy Bond. Price: \$70. \$200 collected. 2 bids.
- Item 4:** "\$50 Donation for Canyon Park Upgrades & Signage" by Nancy Bond. Price: \$50. \$200 collected. 22 bids.

The left sidebar contains navigation links: "Total Raised \$13,673", "All Items", "Categories", "Checkout", "My Account", "FAQs", "Activity Feed", and "Favourite Items". It also includes the GalaBid logo and a link to "Create your own campaign here".

*Special Thanks to MPWR VP Donna Baker for leading this annual fundraiser and to everyone who donated items!*

