

CHWP Sign Program Proposal (September 2020)

Overview

The Claremont Hills Wilderness Park (CHWP) Master Plan contains a number of elements whose intent is to ensure preservation of the natural habitat while promoting recreational use and educating the public. One of these elements is a signage program that is effective but not obtrusive. A clear and comprehensive system is needed for visitors as they are unlikely to meet Park Rangers. Such a system will also be used by emergency services. The current signs have been installed over the years with no attempt to minimize “sign pollution”.

A draft of this proposal will be presented to the Leadership Team of the Friends of the Wilderness Park (FWP) and to City Staff, after which the CHWP Signage Policy and Guidelines will be finalized. The Parks, Hillside and Utilities Committee and the Community and Human Services Commission will review the Policy and implementation plan, possibly leading to further changes.

Proposal

This proposal recommends a more consistent system of signage that aligns with location and purpose, reduces the number and impact of signs, and improves the information on the signs. Guidelines including types of sign structures, sign information, and sign standards shall be maintained as an addendum to the CHWP Master Plan. All existing signs not consistent with the Guidelines shall be removed, with the exception of the current Park Open and Park Closed signs. Recommendations for removal, replacement, and installation of signage are included in Attachment 1.

A large kiosk is recommended for the main entrance at the top of Mills Avenue. Smaller structures (map signs) are recommended for major access points. The sign at the Indian Hill parking lot providing access to the Thompson Creek Trail is a favored example of such a structure. Signposts for trail junctions are also proposed, as well as location indicators at regularly spaced intervals on the trails like those located at 0.5-mile intervals on the Cobal and Burbank trails, and culvert markers as needed for safety purposes and maintenance. These structures are described in greater detail in the Guidelines, and suggestions for the design of the structures are included in Attachment 1.

Six types of information may be displayed on the signs depending on the purpose of the sign. This information includes regulatory, safety, wayfinding, etiquette, and educational information, and may be displayed in text, QR code, and maps. Basic standards to apply to all signage located in and around the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park are proposed, as described in greater detail in the Guidelines.

Installation and removal of signs shall be implemented as time, funds, and staffing permits. The City staff member responsible for implementation of actions related to signage shall

consult regularly with the Leadership Team of the FWP. Work by volunteers such as Scouts will be overseen by park rangers or members of the FWP.

Acceptance of these guidelines and implementation of the actions included in this proposal will enhance visits to the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park by providing a safer and more informed experience.

Claremont Hills Wilderness Park (CHWP)

Signage Guidelines

Sign Structures

Six types of structures shall be installed in and at the entrances to the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park.

Kiosk:

- located in a highly visible area near the main entrance
- includes hours of opening, a map, emergency phone number, a list of the park rules and relevant municipal codes, user etiquette, “back country” precautions, educational information, and a community board section for news and upcoming activities
- includes advice to visitors to take a photo of the map
- allows for information to be easily updated but protected against defacement
- large enough for several people to access concurrently
- located close to benches (may require the construction of additional benches)

Access Map Sign:

- located at entrances and access points to the park, other than the main entrance
- includes a map, emergency phone number, a list of the park rules and relevant municipal codes, user etiquette, “back country” precautions, QR code links to additional information
- includes advice to visitors to take a photo of the map
- allows for information to be easily updated but protected against defacement

Secondary Access Sign:

- located at the four access points for Johnson’s Pasture (Via Santa Catarina, Mountain Avenue, High Point, and Webb Canyon)
- includes ‘Welcome to Claremont Hills Wilderness Park’; ‘the trail is open/closed’
- states that trail information, hours, and regulations are posted ahead
- includes ‘enter at your own risk’
- possibly contains a QR code that would link to a picture of the map

Signpost (wayfinding):

- located at every junction of two or more trails
- includes names of the trails and indicates the direction of each trail

Location Indicator:

- located at regularly spaced intervals along each trail (0.5-mile intervals are recommended)
- color coded according to trail

- includes name of trail, distance along trail, emergency phone number and QR code links to additional information

Culvert Marker:

- located at culverts to identify location for maintenance purposes, band at top color-coded according to trail
- small, unobtrusive metal signs, attach to culvert where possible
- where necessary, free-standing metal signs, with culvert number stenciled in black to avoid confusion with color-coding

Signage Information

Six types of information shall be included on the sign structures.

- Regulatory: park rules including hours for use and relevant municipal codes
- Trail Etiquette: how to share the trails and respect the environment and other users
- Safety: trail conditions and cautionary information about plants and wildlife
- Wayfinding: trail names and direction indicators, closed trails, and property boundaries
- Informational/Interpretive: educational information such as local geology, habitat, plants, and wildlife

The information may be displayed as:

- Text or symbols
- QR codes that direct visitors to the Claremont Hills Wilderness Park page on the city website, or to a page on the FWP website with educational information about the local geology, habitat, plants, and wildlife, and preservation efforts within the park
- Maps with “you are here” notation and clear boundaries of the park

Sign Standards

- Use consistent design elements such as size, mounting methods, material, lettering, and use of color. Standards may differ according to sign structure type.
- Use positive statements whenever possible to encourage good etiquette.
- Make signs distinct from those used by fire, county, or other agencies.
- Post signs to be unobtrusive but easily accessible and visible to hikers, equestrians, and cyclists.
- Set signs against vegetation, berms, or outcroppings rather than in the open so as not to detract from the habitat or view.
- Color-code signposts and location indicators according to the trail.
- Clearly mark permanently closed and unauthorized trails.

Attachment 1: Suggested sign designs and locations

Example A: Kiosk

Suggested design:



Location:



1. Main gate

Actions:

1. **Remove** all signs attached to chain link fencing.
2. **Remove** old fire wheel sign.
3. Keep open/closed sign.
4. **Install** Kiosk at the main gate inside the park.

Suggested design:



Locations:



● = Access Map
Sign locations

1. Marshall Canyon
2. Miller Lateral
3. Sycamore Canyon Entrance
4. Pomello near Thompson Creek Trail
5. Evey Canyon Trailhead at Mt. Baldy Rd.
6. Trail Junction: Cobal Canyon Mtwy/ Cobal Canyon Fire Trail Rd.
7. Trail Junction: Johnson's Pasture/ Webb Canyon

Actions:

1. **Remove** existing signs at select access points at and inside the park.
2. Keep open/closed signs.
3. **Install** information signs with a map.

Example C: Secondary Access Sign

Suggested design:



Locations:



● = Secondary
Access Sign
locations

1. Mountain
2. High point
3. Via Santa Catarina
4. Webb

Actions:

1. **Remove** existing signs at select trail junctions.
2. Keep open/closed signs.
3. **Install** secondary access signs.

Example D: Sign post (Wayfinding)

Suggested design:



Locations:



1. Cobal Canyon & Burbank Mtn
2. Burbank Mtn & Johnson's Pasture
3. Pomello Dr. & Gale Mtn
4. Sycamore Canyon & E. Pomello Dr.
5. Pomello (BP&L) & Johnson's Pasture
6. Johnson's Pasture & Gale Mtn

7. Johnson's Pasture & Miller Lateral
8. Johnson's Pasture & Cobal Canyon Fire Trail Rd. (Access from Marshall Canyon)
9. Gale Mtwy & Tower Rd.
10. Cobal Canyon Fire Trail Rd./Palmer Evey Mtwy/ West Fork Palmer Mtwy
11. Palmer Evey Mtwy/Potato Mtn
12. Trail Junction: Cobal Canyon Mtwy/ Cobal Canyon Fire Trail Rd.
13. Trail Junction: Johnson's Pasture/ Webb Canyon

Actions:

1. **Remove** existing signs at select trail junctions trail Junctions.
2. **Install** wayfinding sign posts.

Example E: Location Indicators

Suggested design:



Markers to be color-coded according to trail with colored band at top and colored square with trail name, as shown by yellow coding for Johnson's Pasture Rd in example.

Locations:

Located at regularly spaced intervals along each trail (0.5-mile intervals are recommended)

Actions:

1. Keep existing conforming location indicators
2. **Install** new location indicators where currently lacking. (See Attachment 2: Implementation.)

Example F: Culvert Markers

Suggested design:



Where possible, markers will be placed directly on culvert:



Metal post with stenciled black lettering and band color-coded to trail. To be used when markers cannot be placed directly on culvert.

Locations:

Located at culverts to identify location for maintenance.

Actions:

1. **Replace** damaged and obtrusive culvert makers.
2. **Install** markers at necessary locations

Attachment 2: Implementation (Priorities and suggested phasing):

Because funds to implement the entire Signage Plan are unlikely to be available soon, we suggest that the project be broken into separate sections which can be completed over time, as funding allows.

The following list indicates our suggested priorities; however, the order is not strict, and we realize that factors may arise that make a current low priority item more urgent. In addition, if funds became available to complete a lower priority, but less expensive portion of the plan, we would support moving ahead with implementing that portion of the plan.

In all cases the existing signs are to be removed when new signs are installed, except for the open/closed signs at entrances and access points.

1. Entrance kiosk:
 - currently in the planning stage
 - to be completed, within the next year
2. Map signs at access points:
 - existing structures (Indian Hill parking lot for Thompson Creek Trail and south parking lot at Mills and Baldy Road) should be fitted with updated maps
 - new structures are needed for 7 additional access points
3. Secondary access signs:
 - needed at the 4 access points to paths which converge at Johnson's Pasture
4. Signposts (Wayfinding):
 - located at all 13 points where two or three trails meet
5. Location markers: (color coded and indicating distance from beginning of trail)
 - currently present at 0.5 mile intervals on the loop
 - one marker to be added 0.5 miles from beginning of Sycamore Canyon trail
 - markers to be placed at 0.5 mile intervals from Johnson's Pasture map until trail intersects with loop
 - possible additional location markers to be added on Evey Canyon, Gale Mountain Mtwy, etc.
6. Culvert markers:
 - maintenance is an ongoing project of Rangers
 - replacement of existing markers with the standard approved style will be carried out on an individual basis as needed