

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Bridgman & Lower Lynn Canyon Park]

Date: Tue, 08 Apr 2003 20:15:43 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: Bridgman & Lower Lynn Canyon Park

Date: Tue, 08 Apr 2003 19:58:35 -0700

From: Don Bell <mayorbell@dnv.org>

To: John Fair <jfair@shaw.ca>, Mayor and Council - DNV <council@dnv.org>

CC: Don Sigston <don_sigston@dnv.org>, Richard Zerr <richard_zerr@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org

John,

Attached is a reply to my most recent inquiry. I will keep informed by staff on this matter, and I am prepared to meet with you and staff at the appropriate time.

Mayor Don Bell

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Sigston

Sent: April 8, 2003 4:43 PM

To: Don Bell; Richard Zerr

Cc: Mayor and Council - DNV

Subject: RE: Bridgman & Lower Lynn Canyon Park

We are still working on our report. It's important to note that the area north of Bridgman Park is an off-leash area, so there are no bylaw violations in this respect. Since Mr. Fair's last e-mail, early March, we have been making regular patrols of this area and there have been no violations when we have been in the park. We have records of each of our visits.

Mr. Fair is looking for change in the off leash aspect of the park. We will meet with him on this. It may form part of Mr. Ferguson's "Dog Walking Company" report that we will present to Council as soon as possible. The report requires input and research from Parks, Environmental and Regulatory staff. Since it is a somewhat sensitive and emotional issue we want to provide a practical yet concise report as possible.

Mr. Fair has agreed to meet with us on this topic as he had considerable input into the development of the park. However, he advises that he never agreed to the park being designated an "off - leash" area. We will meet with him this week or next. Mayor Bell, I will keep you apprised of our progress.

-----Original Message-----

From: Don Bell

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2003 12:34 PM

To: Richard Zerr; Don Sigston

Subject: FW: Bridgman & Lower Lynn Canyon Park

Please advise as to current status so I can reply directly to Mr. Fair.

Mayor Bell

-----Original Message-----

From: John Fair [mailto:jfair@shaw.ca]

Sent: April 7, 2003 4:58 PM

To: Don Bell; Mayor and Council - DNV

Cc: Don Sigston; Richard Zerr; fonvca@fonvca.org

Subject: RE: Bridgman & Lower Lynn Canyon Park

Dear Mayor Bell & council,

A considerable amount of time has lapsed since my last email about the dog problem in Lower Lynn Canyon. I have not heard from Don Sigston or Richard Zerr.

In the meantime, the numbers of dogs and the damage to the area continues. The sheer number of unleashed dogs in the area at any given time has driven almost anyone except dog walkers from this trail.

Sincerely,

John Fair

At 02:07 PM 05/03/2003, Don Bell wrote:

John Fair,
President,

Lynnmour Inter-River Community Assn

Dear John,

I am sorry to learn of the problems you describe in your e-mail. By copy of this reply to you I am asking District staff to consider the issues you raise and your proposals to address these problems. I have spoken to Rick Zerr about this matter and I have asked him to contact you once a staff report is drafted so you can have further discussion with staff directly to determine if more immediate staff action can be taken, or if a decision by Council would be required. In either case, Council will be copied with the staff report.

Mayor Don Bell

-----Original Message-----

From: John Fair [mailto:jfair@shaw.ca]

Sent: March 5, 2003 12:01 PM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV

Subject: Bridgeman & Lower Lynn Canyon Park

Over the last several years, the District of North Vancouver has allowed a very bad situation to develop in the lower portion of Lynn Canyon Park and Bridgeman Park.

Our community association worked with the district parks department to develop a trail network along the west side of Lynn Creek. A pedestrian/cyclist bridge was built to connect Capilano College and our community to this trail network. Large boulders were removed from under the Keith Road bridge to connect this trail to Bridgeman Park and Park & Tilford shopping area. Since that time, district parks has not only allowed this trail to be completely taken over by off-leash dogs, but have also encouraged it! The result has been a very negative environmental impact on the entire area. Bridgeman Park has become a parking lot for dog owners, with a volume of more than 100 cars per day. That translates to more than 100 off-leash dogs in the area every day! Many professional dog walkers use the area as well, with as many as eight animals at one time.

There is also a dangerous health situation in the children's playground at Bridgeman Park. While most dog owners pick up after their pets, off-leash dogs are not always monitored by their owners.

There have also been conflicts with hikers and cyclists because of the large number of dogs running loose.

In the lower part of Lynn Canyon Park, the forested area has sustained a considerable amount of damage from the large number of off-leash dogs. (See report from David Cook to PNEAC dated October 15, 2002.) According to this report, the area has become an environmental wasteland due to dog disturbance. All the indigenous wildlife has also been driven from the area.

We believe the situation can be brought back into balance with the following changes being instituted immediately:

- a) All dogs must be leashed at all times on the west side of Lynn Creek. (This would discourage the large number of dog owners driving here from other municipalities.)
- b) Allow off-leash dogs on the east side of Lynn Creek, from the fire station to Morten Creek Fish Hatchery.

This is a wide gravel path that allows access to the creek, but has a natural barrier of blackberry bushes on the other side of the path.

Our community association requests DNV council to consider these changes as soon as possible in order to restore this sensitive area.

Sincerely,

John Fair

President - Lynnmour Inter-River Community Association

PH: 986-9220

Email: jfair@shaw.ca

Always use this email address when sending email to me: jfair@shaw.ca