
Subject: [Fwd: Mountain View Park Update, December 8,2003]

Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2003 12:17:50 -0800

From: M E Craver

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

CC: Cagebc@yahoo.com, Maureen Bragg <m.bragg@shaw.ca>

For your file and information. We need real support for banning mountain biking in Mountain View Park, and pushing towards Natural Parkland designation vs. Community Park which it is now. Names and contacts of those who are interested in the plight of our little park would be appreciated. It will be the beginning of some control and containment of a "sport" which is out of control, and make the District of North Vancouver accountable for real solutions to this problem, not just band aid solutions. I urge interested parties to contact me for a "tour" of Mountain View Park. Thank you. Monica.

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

Subject: Mountain View Park Update, December 8,2003

Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2003 12:07:24 -0800

From: M E Craver

To: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>

CC: Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, Susan_Rogers <Susan_Rogers@dnv.org>

Dear Mayor, Councillors, Management and Staff:

Another weekend has past with the comings and goings of mountain bikers in our very wet park, leaving tire tracks up to 6 inches deep in the mud. Their off leash dogs seem to be always in tow. Three mountain bikers were riding abreast on McNair slowing traffic. Their off leash dog was running way behind them all over the road and lawns of neighbours. It was desperately trying to keep up to the riders, without much success. We have yet to see any signage telling of no drop offs in the park. My son notified me that early Sunday morning, a bus stopped in front of the park and dropped of a couple hikers. What do we do if it is a couple mountain bikers, instead? I noticed that some of the bus's in the area do carry bikes on the front grill. I would also like to know when the bike structures will be removed from the park, including the "armoured" path that cuts into the stream flow near the north end of the park?

Come Springtime, it will not be wise to disturb the area as a migration of Red-legged frogs and Pacific tree frogs, along with a myriad of newts and salamanders will be mating and breeding in and around the pond. Perhaps we may see ducks in the pond again if the bikers are kept from riding and disturbing the wildlife. Also it is important to keep a rein on the NSMBA because they can't wait to build trails in our park, as proposed for 2004 in their Trail Days. This can be found in the 2003 AGM Minutes on their website. This park is in dire need of real protection. It should not just become a route in and out of trails for mountain bikers. If it becomes the official route, then the recreational overuse will cause the park's demise. This is not what the park was dedicated for. If that was in the clandestine plans for it, and the reason for its 1999 bylaw dedication, then you will have given the prize to the most aggressive group of people to set foot (er, bike) inside our forests and parks. Is that really what we want for Mountain View Park? If it wasn't for the pond, the endangered frog, and stormwater run off in the sensitive wetland area, it might have been a good choice for the bikers to exit and enter. But because of what the park is, it is not a good area for these bikers to be in, just because

they want it.

A wise vision for Mountain View Park is to re-dedicate the park as Natural Parkland, which it is. It is an ecologically sensitive area that need restoration and care. It is a park that harbours the endangered Red-legged frog, and tentatively, the Long-toed salamander (yet to be officially confirmed). The park needs a proper environmental assessment before any decisions are made for it (best done in late spring to summer). It is a natural wetland, which keeps flooding in check. Because of the erosion from heavy mountain biking in the area already, making Mountain View an official route will only damage it further (mountain bikers do not like to stay on trails). Multi-use trails are the mountain bikers mantra, and only cause more problems. Therefore, the band aid solution for mountain bike trails in Mountain View Park should be abandoned, with a proposed ban on mountain biking there, as fits the designation of Natural Parkland zoning bylaw. We have a treasure which should be treated as such, not as a worthless piece of junk jewellery where mountain bikers see nothing wrong with turning the park into a parking lot. It is time to look for viable options for mountain biking, elsewhere, that does not include our park in those plans. We are watching closely that there is no illegal trailbuilding going on in the park in the meantime, like there is in the rest of Fromme Mountain, by Sharon Bader and "friends". Just read the NSMB.com bulletin board under Trail building, if you don't believe me. Please do what is right for Mountain View Park, the Red-legged frog and other flora and fauna there. Please ban mountain biking in the park ASAP, as the end of 2004 or 05 may be too late. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Monica Craver, for Mountain View Park