

Subject: [Fwd: Re: FW: Wickenden Park Vandalism]

Date: Sat, 24 Jan 2004 17:25:33 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Ms. Craver requests that her e-mail address be removed.

Subject: Re: FW: Wickenden Park Vandalism

Date: Sat, 24 Jan 2004 16:23:20 -0800

From: M E Craver

To: Crawford Kilian

CC: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mr. Kilian,

Your concern about Wickenden Park is certainly not the only park having this problem. As you may be aware, NV District Parks has had a number of meetings on the future of Mountain View Park - and currently has yet another Open House at the Karen Magnusson Rec Centre this week. You will find when you see the display that NV District Parks have all but totally sold out to the mountain bikers and the North Shore Mountain Biking Association (NSMBA). While there was an offer from our neighbourhood towards Stewardship of the park, including financial support from a thriving DNV based business, it has been ignored in favour of the mountain bikers and the NSMBA.

There is a great lie that has to be addressed---a fact that should stop the whole process from going ahead. DNV Parks are stating that due to the efforts of the NSMBA and something called the E-Team, there were "improvements"???? made in Mountain View Park. If they are referring to the pilot projects, those failed miserably. Everybody has seen the damage to the park in the past years and that is what initiated this process. They neglect to mention the Red-legged frog is an endangered species, under both provincial and federal jurisdiction. To paint a "glowing" picture of the NSMBA in this presentation to the public (who for most part will swallow the highly distorted pro-biking propaganda fed them) is an affront to our Upper Lynn neighbourhood -- and the refused offer of Stewardship--. of this sensitive wetland park and pond, harbouring an endangered amphibian. What happens when the Residents' Parking Only zone ends? We are back to square one with not only heavier bike traffic, but motor vehicle traffic. Lesser parks have Natural Parkland protection over smaller things. Why not Mountain View Park? Because the process has been biased from the beginning without intervention from Council on these matters. In fact, Councillor Richard Walton's pet project was to help the first North Shore Mountain Bike Conference and Festival to be approved for August 2004 with \$10,000 in NV District funding, in advance of the Recreational Strategic Study Task Force's recommendations to be submitted at the end of 2004.

Councillor Crist did not approve of this move, yet the other four councillors approved it. So here we are, most likely to see this park "ready" for the biking conference (to be held at Capilano College) and festival. Free riding on Fromme Mountain will be allowed and our beautiful little park will be the NSMBA's prize. So unless there is a real public outcry against such **vandalism** in our parks, Mr. Killian, your problems are just beginning in Wickenden. We need a united voice to hold the NSMBA and other mountain bikers accountable for their actions and demand regulation and containment of this out of control sport all over what they call "the Shore". Like Mr. Crist has stated, we have to have a louder voice than the mountain bikers. The fight for our park is far from over! Come out to the Open House at Magnussen Rec Centre between Jan. 24 and Feb.1 and see for yourself how propaganda in favour of mountain biking is spread. We were only given two options to choose from and both included mountain biking in the park. The third

option of no cycling in the park at all was ignored.

Monica Craver

PS. Go to the bulletin board section of www.nsmba.com (which is a commercial site allied with but not operated by the NSMBA - though the NSMBA president is a "super moderator" on their bulletin board) and do a search on 'Mountain View Park'. I think you will learn a great deal about what we have been through at the hands of the NSMBA and their friends. I think you will learn a great deal about the word disingenuous! MC.

Ernie Crist wrote:

>Dear Crawford:

>

>Your lament is being repeated in all places where Mountain bikers have been allowed to use District trails and parks. District Council not only allowed the bikers and continues to allow it, but Council is actually encouraging it. This is done by spending large sums of money to accommodate the bikers even though this has resulted in serious confrontations with existing neighborhoods. The damage to trails and parks is reaching calamitous proportions.

>

>It does not exactly take a rocket scientist to figure out that this kind of sport cannot be accommodated within regular District boundaries, at least not near residential areas, without serious consequences. To insist on doing so is to insist on putting a square peg into a round hole. The sport is growing by leaps and bounds and the District is being advertised throughout the world as a Mountain Bikers paradise.

>

>When this item came before Council I suggested that we work with the GVRD and the Provincial Government to find a more appropriate place for this sport, but to no avail. I was outvoted six to one and the results are here for everyone to see and this is just the start.

>

>Now I understand that staff is working on a strategic plan to find an alternative site. However, I would take this with a grain of salt. It is my opinion, based on experience and the makeup of this Council, which includes "environmentalists", that this is an empty promise. The only solution, as I see it is for people including community associations to organize and fight back, to win back not only their neighborhood parks and trails, but also their neighborhood peace.

>

>Cheers,

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>Ernie Crist

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>-----Original Message-----

>From: Crawford Kilian [_____](#)]

>Sent: January 24, 2004 10:27 AM

>To: Don Bell2

>Cc: Richard Boulton; Graham Knell; Richard Boase; Ernie Crist; Janice

>Harris; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Lisa Muri; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton

>Subject: Wickenden Park Vandalism

>

>Dear friends,

>

>Last night a neighbour phoned me to say she'd encountered three young men in Wickenden Park who were busily constructing a mountain-biking course in one of the main walking trails in the park.

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>This morning I visited the trail she mentioned, and found the damage somewhat worse than she had described. A large vine maple had been ripped out of the ground to provide head clearance, a bank of soil had been shovelled out to provide a steeper slope, and some log-supported steps now have soil piled beneath them to make an easier downhill run from another newly excavated course.

>

>This isn't the first such case. Last year a similar group (perhaps even the
>same people) built and abandoned a course on a less-traveled trail in
>Wickenden. And in the park's northeast corner, someone has built what looks
>like a paintball site.

>
>When I talked to Graham Knell about the first biking course last year, he
>said he'd speak to the RCMP liaison with mountain bikers, and a welcome side
>effect was the volunteer repair team under Graham's leadership who improved
>the boardwalks on the park's main east-west trail. But the abandoned course
>is still there, the paintball site was still there the last time I was in
>the area, and now we have yet another effort to turn a public park into a
>private playground.

>
>If bikers can't be bothered to use the existing trails up on the mountains,
>they already have a course in Myrtle Park. So I don't see why Wickenden,
>treasured by local residents as a lovely place for a quiet ramble, should be
>vandalized.

>
>Facilities tend to be abused when they already look neglected. The
>vandalized trails in Wickenden, and the paintball site, send out a signal:
>no one cares about this place. From biking trails it's a short step to
>tossed litter, damaged trees and bushes, and avoidance by people who just
>>want a pleasant walk in a beautiful place. Then the bikers, party animals,
>and vandals take over.

>
>Please act now to dismantle the existing bike courses and paintball site,
>and to carry out whatever trail maintenance Wickenden needs to make it look
>like a place people care about and look out for. If you would like a tour of
>the park, several of my neighbours and I would be glad to accompany you.

>
>Sincerely,

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>Crawford Kilian

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