

Subject: Fwd: FW: Mountain Bike / Hiker Concerns
From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>
Date: 08/01/2015 2:17 PM
To: Corrie Kost <corrie@kost.ca>

No post. FONVCA review.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:FW: Mountain Bike / Hiker Concerns
Date:Thu, 8 Jan 2015 13:21:15 -0800
From:Elise Roberts <eliseroberts@shaw.ca>
To:fonvca@fonvca.org

From: Elise Roberts [<mailto:eliseroberts@shaw.ca>]
Sent: January 8, 2015 12:32 PM
To: 'council@dnv.org'; 'rogerss@dnv.org'
Subject: Mountain Bike / Hiker Concerns
Importance: High

Dear Mayor and Council,
Please find attached my open letter regarding the recent trail incident on our mountains, clearly a result of safety concerns of multi-use trails.

Elise Roberts

— Attachments: —

Mountain Bike-Open Letter to Mayor and Council.docx

171 KB

Open Letter to Mayor and Council and District of North Vancouver Parks Manager Susan Rogers:

I am horrified about the media's treatment of the woman who is alleged to have placed logs and rocks on a multi-use trail to slow mountain bikers down. While I do not condone this action - how many times do you think the bikers encounter logs and forest debris on the trails on a regular basis and bunny hop over them? The very nature of their sport is dangerous.

I understand this particular area of concern was on a *Double Black Diamond* or a very steep trail, that intersects with multiuse and hiking trails below the Baden Powell Trail, exiting onto a residential street where this hiker has been walking her dog for years. I also understand that Lower Skull Trail will be extended beyond the Mill Street connector and will result into exiting onto Dempsey Rd. next to residences. I ask is this a smart decision given the recent instances of hiker biker conflicts and given the fact that families and their kids frequent these areas and lower trails?

The mountain bikers have no problem setting up punji stick traps, though and NSMBA mentions it too, in one of their trail articles. They seem to approve it if they do it, but not if someone puts logs in the middle of the trail: This punji stick tank trap was placed on Cypress Mtn's "5th Horseman Trail" -- where all MTB trails are still considered unsanctioned, today.

<http://bb.nsmb.com/showthread.php?t=117049>



"in the picture above note i stuck a bunch of punji sticks in the tank-trap pile which we built in the middle of the braid, facing outwards towards the trail. you can guess whether or not anything was smeared on the sticks. Ride at your own risk.

The punji sticks are a convenient place to put up nooses or signs ."

DNV Parks Manager Susan Rogers told me clearly that there are No Single Use Trails in North Vancouver because it would be difficult to enforce, but hikers and bikers use different types of trails anyway. This policy invites confrontations between hikers and mountain bikers and increases the risk of injury and liability for the District. When there is little enforcement of environmental protection and park use bylaws in our mountains, when enforcement is left up to citizens, the result is people taking the issue into their own hands.

When citizens express their concerns, they are left unheard and without a voice while mountain bikers are given free reign of our mountains. I said this years ago: lack of enforcement will naturally lead to confrontations between citizens who are passionate about protecting the green spaces they love so dearly and that define our quality of life and who feel the only option is to enforce these areas themselves. Foolish, but given the lack of enforcement in our community, people are driven to it.

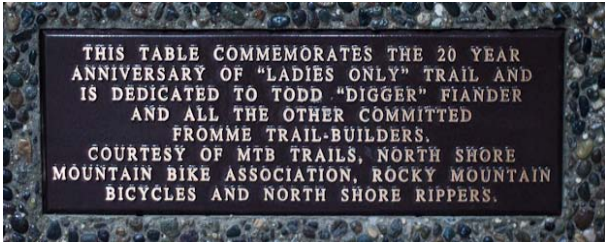
Why has DNV Parks allowed mountain bikers to police themselves when they continue to build illegal trails and are applauded for doing so? Mountain bikers are getting to rule our woods with literally no consequences for building illegal trails - many that have left behind dangerous holes, like booby traps, for hikers .

Here is a photo of just one:



Who said cameras were allowed in our forest to spy on citizens? I would like

clarification from Parks why these cameras were not taken down when they would have been clearly visible from the trail. This woman has been demonized for allegedly taking the law into her own hands to protect her safety on a multi-use trail. Yet, Todd Fiander who built up to 40 illegal trails and 70 *one hit wonders* to produce his **North Shore Extreme Series** films in our forest has been made a cult hero and has a plaque in his honour - District approved.



And they are still building these illegal trails. I understand there is a list of illegal trails on Trail Forks.com. But DNV turns a blind eye to this. Only in North Vancouver would mountain bikers get a brand new parking lot with amenities, paid for by citizen taxpayers for close to half a million dollars when it took 3 years to get 2 picnic tables in the local playground!

The only bylaws that are ever enforced are related to cars and traffic. DNV Parks has failed to protect the safety of hikers in the woods. This woman's concerns were completely justified. Who wouldn't be concerned about a 200 pound human on heavy metal ripping down the mountain at 30 clicks?

SOLUTION PROPOSED

- 1. Contain mountain biking areas to protect hiker safety and the environment.**
- 2. Please inquire with DNV Parks how many instances of mountain biker collisions with hikers have been reported and what were the level of injuries.**
- 3. Separate hiking and biking trails and only build biking trails away from residential areas.**
- 4. Then put the money into enforcement. Parks is saving a fortune with the corporate sponsored trail building through the NSMBA.**

Elise Roberts

C.C.
North Shore News
Vancouver Sun
CBC News
Global TV