

**Subject: RE: Bridgman & Lower Lynn Canyon Park**

**Date:** Wed, 5 Mar 2003 15:30:27 -0800

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "John Fair" <jfair@shaw.ca>

**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Dear Mr. Fair;

The crux of this problem is revealed in your first sentence. "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 Bridgman Park". That says it all. The question is why?

All I can tell you is that we now have more Bylaw Officers on staff than ever before. As to how many staff actually enforce the bylaw is more difficult to determine.

I am glad however, that you are speaking up against this disgusting situation which the District has allowed to develop. Incidentally in most cities this matter comes under the Health Regulations Act and carries a far heavier penalty than is the case by which Municipal Bylaws may be enforced.

This is something we might have to investigate further. It should come from staff however, since it is unlikely that a motion on my part to that effect would even be seconded so that as an elected representative I might at least be able to explain its purpose before the Mayor calls for a seconder for debate. You understand that in the Banana Republic called the District of North Vancouver the word democracy has a somewhat lesser meaning than is the case in true democratic jurisdictions. This is just by the bye of course. In any case I will press this point during the upcoming budget discussions. You should do likewise, notwithstanding the Mayor's assurance that he will look into this matter - again.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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

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

Sent: Wednesday, March 05, 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

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