

**Subject: FW: Northlands perimeter trail**

**Date:** Thu, 3 Feb 2005 06:43:41 -0800

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

**To:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Susan Rogers" <Susan\_Rogers@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>

**CC:** <cookeco2@yahoo.com>

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

From: Ernie Crist

Sent: Thursday, February 03, 2005 6:31 AM

To: 'rzanatta@telus.net'

Subject: RE: Northlands perimeter trail

Mr Zanatta:

You may have been missing the point. What Mountain Biking does to the environment but especially to a forested environment has already been amply demonstrated on our own mountain trails. It is the reason why in Europe and parts of the US Mountain Biking is banned in all forested areas. We also know from experience that many Mountain bikers have little regard for the environment or for other people for that matter. You deny that Mountain Bikers are criss crossing the golf course, but the fact is that many of them are doing precisely that regardless of the consequences.

We know this from the complaints we have received including from our own staff. The bottom line is that Mountain Biking is an extreme sport which attracts a certain type of clientele mostly young people with little regard to anything other than their own thrill. I never said that you or your family belong to that category.

There is a place for Mountain Biking I am sure, but it is not in forested areas of the municipality, adjacent to residential areas or around golf courses. This is quite apart that it requires a huge outlay of financial resources since it is an international and fast growing sport. You state that I am harsh but so would you be if you knew just how abusive, contemptuous and threatening many young mountain bikers are and have been.

These are the facts and they are indisputable.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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

From: Robert Zanatta [<mailto:rzanatta@telus.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2005 11:18 PM

To: Ernie Crist; Mayor and Council - DNV

Cc: James Ridge; Susan Rogers; Senior Management Committee

Subject: RE: Northlands perimeter trail

Councillor Crist,

I really don't how to put into words what I would like to say, but I will try.

First, what you call "Mountain Biking" would not occur on a perimeter trail around Northlands. Why would someone take their "mountain bike" to Mt. Seymour and ride a perimeter trail? That would be analogous to taking your skis to Whistler and then skiing on the roadside. Even more incredulous is the belief that there would be a risk to golfers. How could a person on a bike (or roller blades, skateboard, etc), on a trail that goes AROUND a golf course, be a risk to a golfer? Langara has a

very nice trail around it that I've jogged on many occasions. So do other golf courses, such as Whistler and Burnaby's Central Park. There are no issues on those trails, so why would there be an issue with one around Northlands?

Second, I have no desire to ride a mountain bike around a perimeter trail, and I know that people who "mountain bike" do not want to do so either. What I would like is to have a path that I can enjoy with my wife and 9 year old daughter. I would like a path that families can push strollers around, walk their dogs, jog, etc. If you actually understood the situation, you would find that there would be less interaction between joggers/walkers and "mountain biking" as the joggers/walkers would use the perimeter trail more than trails used by "mountain bikers" (such as Horse Loop, Bridal Path, or Old Buck).

Third, there is an existing paved path that goes around the southern portion of Northlands. It is a multi-use path. I've jogged there hundreds of times. People use it to walk, jog, walk the dog, push their child in a cart, jog beside their child who is first learning to ride, etc. The trail is put to good use, without incident, and the users are in harmony. And I've yet to see someone "mountain biking" on it.

For the past 12 years, my home has been on Inlet Crescent, which is right next to a park as well as Dorothy Lynas Elementary school. There are various small paths around this area (three of which are through/around the park and school), which are either pavement, pavers, or gravel. They are used for all types of activities, without incident.

I do not know where you get for facts from, or even if you do have any facts (the latter seems to be more the case). Your response is both shocking, and mind boggling. You also are very harsh and critical of "Mountain Biking", which your statements now and in the past have shown you have very little knowledge about. Have you even participated in the activity? I would suggest you actually take some time to learn more about the activity. The area around Northlands, or even the local mountains, belong to the all the people and should be available for use and enjoyment by all the people. They are NOT personal playgrounds for a few residents who happen to have homes next to them.

In summary, I would like to know when the new section of the Northlands perimeter trail, which has already been started, will be completed. It will make an ideal path for people in the area for joggers, walker, biking toddlers, children on scooters, etc. It was supposed to be built and completed when the golf course was put in, and in the years since nothing has been done except for this past summer when an excavator went in ploughed down trees for what looks to be no good reason.

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

From: Ernie Crist [[mailto:ernie\\_crist@dnv.org](mailto:ernie_crist@dnv.org)]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 02, 2005 2:57 PM  
To: rzanatta@telus.net; Mayor and Council - DNV  
Cc: James Ridge; Susan Rogers; Senior Management Committee  
Subject: RE: Northlands perimeter trail

Dear Mr. Zanatta:

The area now occupied by the Northlands Golf Course was earmarked for a housing development. The battle to change the plan to accommodate a golf course was difficult and lengthy. To construct a multi purpose pathway around the golf course to accommodate Mountain Biking would in my opinion be a very bad idea since many bikers would be and are already criss crossing the green space totally oblivious and/or contemptuous of the fact that it does great damage to the greenery and even risk the safety of golfers should they happen to be on the course at that time. As I have stated before, Mountain Biking is an extreme and specialised sport which requires a special environment. I believe this is possible

but not adjacent to residential areas or in the forested areas of the District.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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

From: Robert Zanatta [<mailto:rzanatta@telus.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2005 10:20 PM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV

Subject: Northlands perimeter trail

There used to be a very nice connector trail from Bridal Path down to the rifle range. I've ridden, hiked, and run it many times over the years.

It's my understanding that Northlands was supposed to put a multi purpose trail around the perimeter of the golf course, and after 8 or 9 years, hadn't done anything. That is unfortunate, because the paths and trails that the golf course consumed were a pleasure to use, and used by many people.

Last summer, some machinery went in and cut a swath through the woods, besides the golf course, and cut out a portion of this trail. The wide path that was cut through the forest was left for a while, then some wood chips were put onto it. The underlying soil is very "mushy" when wet because it does not drain properly.

The southern path that goes by the golf course is paved, and it is very popular. I would hope that the trail that was cut in would at least have some drainage put in, and either topped with gravel or paved. It would make for a very popular trail that I'm sure many people, especially families, would enjoy using.

Will this trail be completed, and if so, when and how?



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