

ITEM 8
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 60
COUNCIL MEETING 91/10/21

TO : MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1991 OCTOBER 17
FROM : DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
RE : LETTER FROM R.L. BRANDNER; DAMAGE TO CENTRAL PARK FROM MOUNTAIN BIKES


PURPOSE : To advise Council of the Parks and Recreation Commission's response to the concerns of unwanted trails in Central Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of the attached report be forwarded to R.L. Brandner.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1991 October 16, the Parks & Recreation Commission received the attached report on the above subject and adopted the two recommendations contained therein.



DENNIS GAUNT
DIRECTOR RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

tc
Attach.

cc: Director Planning & Building Inspection

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RE: LETTER FROM R.L. BRANDNER; DAMAGE TO CENTRAL PARK FROM MOUNTAIN BIKES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Municipal Council
2. THAT Municipal Council foreword a copy of this report to R.L. Brandner

REPORT

Attached is a letter from R.L. Brandner expressing concern about scheduling the construction of the barriers on the unwanted trails in Central Park. The following report provides a response to the concerns. No one could be reached at the Brandner residence by phone to discuss the response.

1. Timing of Construction.

On 6 March 1991, the Commission approved a program for the construction of barriers across certain dirt trails within Central Park to prevent further damage to the forest caused by off-trail bike riding. The barriers are to be constructed using various approaches to determine the most effective manner, including earth berms, tree/shrub planting and log/tree/branch/brambles barriers.

Work has been scheduled to begin this month and to be completed by spring next year. The reasons for scheduling in the fall include:

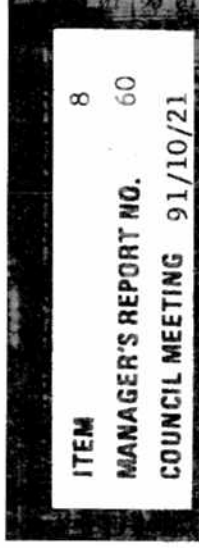
- 1) better survival of planted material in the fall due to wetter, cooler weather. Since there are no accessible water lines in the Park, trees and shrubs planted in the summer would die without watering
- 2) less disturbance of park users in the fall because of lower park use. This is an important consideration given the narrow working spaces for the equipment used on the site.
- 3) the work has to fit amongst other scheduling priorities for the construction personnel including large projects as the relocation of Confederation sportsfield or construction of Squint Lake Park which have to be completed during good weather while the Central Park project can be undertaken in wet fall and winter weather.

2. Removal of trees.

Over the summer five dead, diseased or dangerous trees were removed from Central Park. R.L. Brandner was correct in observing that two small trees were removed from the park and used as firewood. The three larger trees were used in our system as trail barriers.

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3. Conflict between nature Trails and the Urban Trail System.

Guidelines for development of urban trail routes dictate that they be separated from park nature trails.

Where the two types of trails are in close proximity, the urban trails can be designed to be sensitive to the need to protect the nature experience of adjacent park trails.

Environmental design standards for the Urban Trails will also ensure that important natural areas and features will be protected from negative impacts. For example, in major parks such as Deer lake, Burnaby lake, Central Park, the urban trail alignment is located on the perimeter or edge of the park, or along major circulation corridors within the park.

JWK:KR/IW
Attach.(1)
cc: Director Planning & Building

