

ITEM	5
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	42
COUNCIL MEETING	94/07/11

TO : CITY MANAGER
FROM : DIRECTOR RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
RE : CENTRAL PARK TRAILS
PURPOSE : To inform Council of the condition of the trails and trail problems in Central Park.

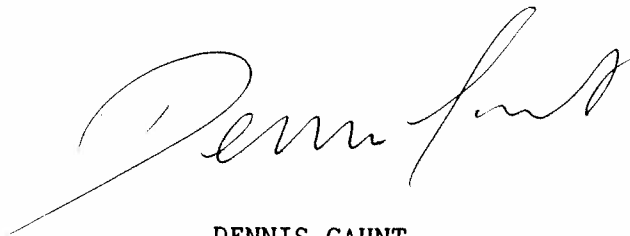
DATE: 1994 JULY 07

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1994 July 06, the Parks and Recreation Commission received the attached staff report on the above subject and adopted the recommendation contained therein.



DENNIS GAUNT
DIRECTOR RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

tc
Attachment
A/2832

SUBJECT: CENTRAL PARK TRAILS

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Council.

REPORT

At the meeting of 1994 June 13, Council, while reviewing a request for a Capital expenditure bylaw, adopted the following motion:

"THAT the Parks and Recreation Commission prepare a report with regard to the condition of the trails and trail problems in Central Park."

With the growth in popularity in mountain biking, Central Park has become an ideal location; it is easily accessible along B.C. Parkway Trail and offers plenty of unauthorized opportunity for off-trail riding. The result has been localized damages to small dirt trails and deterioration in forest health.

For the past three years physical barriers have been installed to block trail entries. In an effort to make these barriers as unobtrusive as possible, they were constructed of brush and logs with some supplemental tree planting for screening.

To date, the barriers have been of moderate success; the majority of trails remain blocked, but in a number of cases cyclist either ride around the barriers or dismantle the barriers. As a result, there remains some popular dirt trails that continue to receive high use.

1994 PROGRAM

This year, a small number of barriers are planned as well as to upgrade one dirt path to a limestone trail which can be achieved without disturbance to the forest core.

The emphasis of this year's program will shift to public education in order to raise awareness of the problem and gain public support. Three approaches will be used to achieve this.

1. **Information Signs**

Two information signs will be placed at key entries this year and if effective, two more are planned for 1995. The signage will identify where cyclists can and cannot ride and will provide details of the Central Park forest management plan.

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2. Newspaper Article

A feature article will be placed in the local newspapers, expanding on the signage information and encouraging the public to respect the trail closures.

3. Contact with B.C. Cycle Association

A letter and copy of the newspaper article will be sent to the association with a request that they distribute the information in a newsletter to their membership.

If these measures are not effective at gaining positive results, future consideration will include summer bike patrols and possible total closure of the park to cycling.

Recognizing that trail riding is a popular activity, the department is also examining the possibility of promoting the development of a mountain bike facility on Burnaby Mountain near the velodrome and the Stride Avenue dump site. Such a facility would possibly be operated in association with the Mountain Bike division of Cycle B.C..

This endeavour, coupled with community awareness should yield a significant improvement in the problem.

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