

December 25, 2020

The City of Burnaby Parks Recreation and Culture Commission

RE: Condition of Central Park Inside Walking Trails Near Park Ponds

I have been resident of Burnaby 26 years, living in a high rise next to Central Park on the east side. Myself and my wife love walking in the park, but lately we have more annoyed on conditions of walking trails inside the park. This is not current situation but poor walking trails, particularly around park ponds have existed for years. There has been occasional patch up work by park crews on the worst spots but benefits from those repairs have vanished in less than a year. After rainy days we have to hop around small puddles of water or avoid wet silty soil on the path ways. Water oozing on the surface is quite noticeable as was the case today. I had to step off the path and walk beside on the grass on worst spots. I saw couple other people doing the same.

This seeping water and silt mixture on the surface also becomes very noticeable on frosty afternoons after sun melts the surface.

Consequently, I avoid walking near park ponds after rainy days or frosty sunny days in winter months.

I appreciate new Mondo path ways around park and I **love the side walk on Patterson**, as so many others based on foot traffic volumes. However, I have occasionally walked on Mondo along Boundary Road and rarely see anybody else using that side walk, although usage may increase somewhat after south side Mondo construction has been completed. People may to avoid noise and diesel fumes by heavy truck traffic along Boundary. Inside walking trails by park ponds get much more foot traffic.

In comparison to Mondo construction, it would cost just a fraction to get worst sections of inside walking trails resurfaced by coarse gravel. Walking trails elsewhere inside the park are bearable but of course not comparable to Mondo sidewalks.

Asphalt paving of major inside paths with heaviest use would be a good idea and surely loved by park users. However, raising center of walking trails by ample gravel to would be less costly making trails walkable in all weather conditions.

I hate to sound this negative but hope that inputs like mine from regular park users would be of assistance as how to make good use public funds.

Thank you

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Burnaby, BC

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Note:

Staff have contacted the writer and advised that ditching and surfacing maintenance is underway to facilitate safe access throughout the Park.