



November 10, 2015

Dear Park Board Commissioners,

The HUB Cycling Vancouver/UBC Committee is contacting you again regarding the significant problems and potential **danger** created by the **Park Board temporary blockage of a path in Kitsilano Beach Park**.

We are feeling frustrated by the **lack of action and communication** on this issue; the following is an **account of communications** so far:

- Sept 2 email to Park Board Commissioners
- Sept 8 follow up email to Park Board Chair
- Sept 8 email from Chair that states that he has asked staff to prepare a memo on the issue
- September 25 email to Park Board General Manager asking when we could expect to hear back on the issue. (no response)
- Oct 21st email to Chair requesting that we move forward on this issue (no response)

Not only are we frustrated by the length of time required for this communication, but we are also very concerned about safety and other issues arising from the closure of the path in Kits Park. The following is a point form account of some of these **concerns and other relevant information**:

- the blocked "desire line" path "cuts off" the corner for people walking and biking on the Seaside Greenway route at the corner of Cornwall and Balsam. The transition from and to the park from Balsam St has no cycling infrastructure and consequently is, in our opinion, **unsafe for people using the Seaside Greenway by bike**. We understand that people are using the path to negotiate this corner largely because they feel unsafe in that intersection as they journey on the Seaside Greenway.
- The perception of unsafe conditions at the intersection has led to people **biking along the sidewalks at that intersection now that they can't use the path**. We have noted that behaviour on numerous occasions since the path closure and had not seen it before. As we know, people biking on sidewalks is not ideal for anyone using the sidewalks and has been shown to be a clear indication that people feel unsafe to bike on the corresponding road
- the path was blocked with large swaths of orange plastic fencing. **This fencing is now on the ground at a couple of entrance points to the path and, especially at night, poses a hazard to people walking and biking** in the area.
- The signs accompanying the path closure state: "No Cycling on the lawn (with a bike with a red line through it), Cyclists please use designated bike routes". HUB believes that **this signage unfairly singles out people on bikes as the "culprits" for "green degradation" in the park, potentially leading to acrimony between different park users**. There are **many desire line paths created by all types of users in**



**Kits Park area alone**, notably one just a half block from the one in question- one that leads from the Cornwall and Vine intersection to a paved walking path by the Kits Showboat. As an area resident, I recall Park Board efforts to get rid of a desire line path in the Hadden Park area years ago. There were certainly no signs singling out specific park users for the creation of the path, one that I use to run on since it's a soft surface. On a side note, that desire line path returned almost the day the barriers around it were removed after weeks of regrowing grass there. May be useful to consider the [value in desire line](#) paths.

**We hope to hear very shortly regarding what action will be taken to alter this unsafe situation in Kitsilano Beach Park.** As we stated before, we believe that this issue is symptomatic of the **larger issue of the unimproved Seaside Greenway in the Kits Beach area.** We have contacted the Active Transportation Branch on this issue as well, since we believe that a resolution to the current problematic movement of people using different modes on this part of the Seaside Greenway requires the joint effort of the Park Board and City Engineering.

Regards,

Lisa Slakov and Jeff Leigh  
Co-Chairs, HUB Vancouver UBC Committee

Cc:  
Mayor and Council  
Malcolm Bromley, GM Park Board  
Dale Bracewell, Active Transportation Branch  
ATPC