

Alex Hardy  
1330 Cloudburst Dr, Whistler, BC, V8E1N7

Dear Mayor and Council,

I hope this letter finds you -the Mayor, the council members, and the parking bylaw- well. I am writing to express my concerns and the concerns of many residents in the Cheakamus neighborhood regarding the severe lack of street parking and visitor parking within our community.

Over the years, our neighbourhood has seen substantial growth in its population, which has put immense strain on the existing parking infrastructure. The current shortage of street parking spaces has become a source of stress and inconvenience for both residents and their visitors. The situation has reached a point where it is negatively impacting the quality of life in our neighbourhood.

I'd like to emphasize that Bailey Park, while available for parking, is not a practical solution for many residents and their guests. It is located far from many homes, making it an impractical option for families with young children, individuals with injuries or disabilities, and those concerned about safety, especially during the winter months.

Last year, one particularly alarming incident I experienced; being followed home one night after a late finish at a local restaurant by an adult male with a face covering. This underscores the importance of addressing this issue promptly. Presumably this individual was staying either at the HiHostel, camper van or some other form of against bylaw nightly rental in the area- he was clearly not local. This situation is incredibly disturbing, especially for single individuals like myself. We should not have to fear for our safety while walking home in our own neighbourhood.

It is evident that the current parking situation is far from ideal and calls for a comprehensive solution that ensures the safety and convenience of all residents. Bailey Park's primary purpose is for the sports field, and using it as an overflow parking solution is not a sustainable option.

Additionally, it is disheartening to see that the local bylaws have been disproportionately enforced in our neighborhood, with expensive parking tickets often targeting individuals residing in Whistler Housing Authority (WHA) properties, which are designed to provide affordable housing for employees of the town. This punitive approach toward lower-income residents, who are vital to keeping our town running, is deeply concerning. It not only exacerbates the financial strain on those who can least afford it but also creates an unfair burden on a specific demographic of our community.

Furthermore, I must express my strong disagreement with the conversation that occurred about the lot at the top of Cloudburst being turned into paid parking for loggers lake and trail access- across from the new WHA builds that were completed this passed spring. This decision not only affects those residents who depend on tenants or roommates to make ends meet but also creates an undue burden on their tenants who may now have to deal with the extra added expense and inconvenience of parking in addition to whistler drastically inflated housing/rental costs. It is crucial that we consider the economic well-being of all residents, especially those in need, as we make decisions that affect our community.

In addition, I firmly believe that making any of these parking lots or potential future street parking paid is not a good solution. It would place an unfair financial burden on the residents and visitors who are already struggling with the ongoing recession and cost of living in general. Such a move would be detrimental to the sense of community and fairness that we hold dear.

I kindly request that the Mayor and Council consider, suggest, discuss, alternative solutions to alleviate the parking problems in our neighborhood while also reviewing the enforcement of parking regulations to ensure fairness and equity. This issue affects the well-being of our community, and it is essential that we work together to find a suitable and safer resolution.

Please consider as well the accessibility to transit in the area. Trying to live without a vehicle in this community is not impossible however is highly inconvenient especially since the least expensive grocery store, pharmacy and other essential services are a lengthy transit ride with limited service in off peak season. This makes a commute from Rainbow neighbourhood, for less expensive groceries, to Cheakamus, by bus, very often upwards of a two hour journey by transit- one way.

This is costing families and individuals more, time, money, and stress and builds even more of a reliance on vehicles requiring extra parking.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to participating and listening to discussion and potential solutions with the Council. Thank you for your dedication to making Cheakamus a better place to live.

Sincerely,  
Alex Hardy