

Nikki Cooper

From: Kathleen Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2020 9:07 AM
To: corporate
Cc: Kathy Smith
Subject: Lost Lake Park Open To Public Yearound

Mayor and Council,

I have sent the following email to the Pique and hope the contents will be discussed by council as soon as possible as this issue affects the well being of all age groups living in Whistler who are trying to cope and stay healthy while distancing due to COVID. Using Meadowpark facility is still a safety concern so our parks are more vital to our health than ever before.

Email as follows:

I am asking Council and Mayor to keep Lost Lake Park open 12 months of the year. Closing this jewel in Whistler's recreation crown each winter to Whistler taxpayers and visitors so that a few Nordic skiers can enjoy the use of the park, Nic North golf cart path and the Chateau golf cart path is selfish, elitist and out of date.

Since the 2010 Olympics when the Nordic skiers got their multi million dollar facility 11 km away at the Callaghan as a legacy (which the taxpayers also pay for) we have asked repeatedly that Lost Lake Park be open 12 months of the year for general and multi-use purposes. It is now vital in this year of COVID that we are allowed to recreate safely outside 12 months of the year and that means to walk, hike, bike, take our dogs and kids to Lost Lake Park this winter and have the Muni operate it for these activities.

The Nordic skiing at Lost Lake Park has always operated at a loss as the revenue never paid for the operating costs; many of the passes are free to volunteers who are increasing hard to find, all to police this empty vast terrain; and often there is just not enough snow to ski on which doesn't stop the staff from hauling it in at taxpayers expense- all so that a relative handful of people can ski in the centre of town while the majority of locals and visitors are shut out of this vital town park for the entire winter.

It is time for Council and Mayor to give the people of Whistler Lost Lake Park back for the winter of 2020. Let us walk, hike and bike those trails and cart paths we love. Keep it ploughed so we can do it safely. Allow the Callaghan Nordic facility to earn whatever increased revenues it can to unburden the taxpayers.

If you, the people of Whistler, want to keep using Lost Lake Park this winter you must make your voices heard quickly. The staff are already planning for the winter season and soon we will be shut out of Lost Lake Park - in a matter of months. Call, write and use your voice to have Lost Lake Park open to the public this winter for multi-use purposes and so we all can enjoy it 12 months of the year.

Thank you for your time,

Kathleen Smith
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Whistler BC
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