

**From:** Beverly Gingras <beverly.gingras@conservationcouncil.ca>

**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2024 9:45 AM

**To:** Common Clerk <commonclerk@saintjohn.ca>; City of Saint John Mayor's Office <mayor@saintjohn.ca>; MacKenzie, John <john.mackenzie@saintjohn.ca>; Harris, Brent <brent.harris@saintjohn.ca>; Sullivan, Gary <gary.sullivan@saintjohn.ca>; Killen, Joanna <joanna.killen@saintjohn.ca>; Norton, Greg <greg.norton@saintjohn.ca>; Ogden, Barry <barry.ogden@saintjohn.ca>; Hickey, David <david.hickey@saintjohn.ca>; Lowe, Gerry <gerry.lowe@saintjohn.ca>; Radwan, Paula <paula.radwan@saintjohn.ca>; Stewart, Greg <greg.stewart@saintjohn.ca>

**Cc:** Corey Robichaud <corey.robichaud@conservationcouncil.ca>; Friends of Rockwood Park <saverockwoodpark@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Please recind motion to designate 1671 Sandy Point Road property as surplus

You don't often get email from [beverly.gingras@conservationcouncil.ca](mailto:beverly.gingras@conservationcouncil.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)

**[ External Email Alert ]** \*\*Please note that this message is from an external sender. If it appears to be sent from a Saint John employee, please forward the email to [spamsample@saintjohn.ca](mailto:spamsample@saintjohn.ca) or contact the IT Service Desk. \*\*

Dear Council Members:

On February 20, 2024, without any public consultation on the matter, the Saint John Common Council passed a motion to declare #1671 Sandy Point Road, part of Rockwood Park, surplus land. On behalf of the Conservation Council of New Brunswick (CCNB), I am writing to request **that this motion be rescinded** as soon as possible when the full council is present.

CCNB has heard from several members of your community regarding the motion. They are concerned about the possible implications this motion could have on Rockwood Park and the people who enjoy all the ecological services the park provides. Urban parks provide tremendous value to communities, including encouraging an active lifestyle and reducing health costs, strengthening local economies and creating job opportunities, helping manage stormwater and mitigate flooding, reducing high temperatures, and providing clean air (see [www.cityparksalliance.com](http://www.cityparksalliance.com), [www.parkpeople.ca](http://www.parkpeople.ca), and the attached document for more information). Infrastructure encroachment and reduction in area can negatively impact the ability of the green spaces to provide these valuable ecological services.

Therefore, while CCNB supports efforts to provide affordable and equitable housing, we do not support developments that compromise green spaces such as Rockwood Park, Saint John's prized urban park. This park is used by citizens of Saint John and beyond during all seasons. We ask City Council to re-invest in the health and well-being of its citizens by committing to the preservation and protection of Rockwood Park and other

valuable green spaces in Saint John. Further, we encourage the Mayor to **restore public trust** by immediately committing to eliciting public opinion through a consultation period for every decision that will have lasting impacts on how the land within the boundaries of Saint John city parks will be used (including but not limited to Rockwood Park). This includes consultation on selling, rezoning, surplus or any other use that has the potential to impact environmental or aesthetic values.

Rather than selling lot 1671 Sandy Point Road for development, **we would like to see the areas of Rockwood Park along Sandy Point Road protected by a conservation agreement** (conservation easement or covenant) to ensure the long-term enjoyment of this cherished green space. We also **encourage the city to develop a plan for 1671 Sandy Point Road**. This may include taking advantage of sunk costs by building park facilities or reforesting cleared land.

We worry that rezoning, selling and developing 1671 Sandy Point Rd will:

- set an unintended, short-sighted precedent – which may help to "clear the way" for other areas of Rockwood Park that are not protected by a conservation agreement to be developed.
- have impacts on the environment - 70% of the property is forested and therefore provides habitat to wildlife and helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- increase the input of salt and effluent from vehicles into the lake.
- increase traffic issues in this area, which will pose a risk to human and wildlife health,
- affect the enjoyment of park users hiking on trails near Harrigan Lake,
- diminish the economic and intrinsic value of the park

Rockwood Park is a gem, just the way it is. Please rescind the motion to surplus this property as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Bev Gingras

--

Beverly (Bev) Gingras  
Executive Director  
Conservation Council of New Brunswick  
180 St. John Street  
Fredericton, NB E3B 4A9  
[beverly.gingras@conservationcouncil.ca](mailto:beverly.gingras@conservationcouncil.ca)

[www.conservationcouncil.ca](http://www.conservationcouncil.ca)  
506 458 8747