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**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 7:03 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:** saverockwoodpark@gmail.com

**Subject:** Please don't sell of Rockwood Park

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Dear Common Council,

I was shocked to hear that on February 20, 2024, you passed a motion to declare #1671 Sandy Point Road, a part of Rockwood Park, as surplus land, no doubt as a first step to sell the property.

I understand that Saint John needs housing. But it couldn't be at a worst spot. The area is not served by public transit. There are no schools, convenience stores, restaurants, pharmacies, coffee shops nearby. If the development would start at all, the new owners will have to drive for every little errand. They will also have to drive to work, adding to the parking problem, and the traffic jams that are getting more frequent.

And it's not like there would be no other land available. Looking at Realtor.ca, there are currently a dozen lots advertised in the area (<https://www.realtor.ca/map#ZoomLevel=14&Center=45.306998%2C-66.071691&LatitudeMax=45.33002&LongitudeMax=-66.01324&LatitudeMin=45.28396&LongitudeMin=-66.13014&Sort=6-D&PropertyTypeGroupID=1&TransactionTypeId=2&PropertySearchTypeId=0&Currency=CAD&HiddenListingIds=&IncludeHiddenListings=false>). This indicates that it's not a lack of land, but a lack of developers that is holding back the creation of new housing. There are other, more suitable parcels for sale, or sitting empty on the North End, and even Uptown. There are also uptown buildings that are vacant and boarded up, waiting for the market to pick up. Instead of spreading the city out, and generating problems for the future, please concentrate on the city core, and solve the housing problem in a sustainable way.

Strong Towns (<https://www.strongtowns.org/>) has some great resources about the dangers of suburban development, and the virtues of a medium density, mixed use, walkable city center.

I hope you consider other options before resorting to selling parts of Rockwood Park, the lungs of the city.

Best regards,  
Balazs Lajtha