

From: Jennifer Sheehan <jensheehan6@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 4:09 PM

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

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

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I have recently moved to Ontario to complete my graduate program in behavioural science. I have moved all this way to come back to Saint John to better the lives of children with neurological disorders. One of the main things that has gotten me through this year is knowing I will be moving back to Saint John in September and will be back in my safe place: Rockwood park. I have spent my entire life going to this park. I have run the trails of this entire park over every season. I have an incredibly difficult job. After every single day rain, shine or snow I am in that park after work. This park has an incredibly rich history. It was designed by the man that designed Central Park.

If this development happens I know I will not raise a family in Saint John, this news is absolutely devastating. The idea of the city selling a piece of this land to developers is repulsive. Have you explored every trail in this park? Have you seen how many volunteers take care of this trail system for free? Have you experienced the sense of community that surrounds this park? Trail runners, bikers, skiers, snow shoeing, bird watchers I could go on and on.

I beg you to listen to the people. Listen to the community. We do not want this.

While I support growing Saint John and reducing the vacancy rate, there are plenty of areas for housing development that would not compromise Saint John's prized urban park. This park is used by citizens of Saint John and beyond during all seasons. The Council must remember that one of its most important responsibilities is to preserve and protect this city's cherished green space. Please do not sell off any part of Rockwood Park for potential short-term gain.

I request **that this motion be rescinded** as soon as possible when the full council is present. Further, I 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, **I 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. I 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.

I 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 - 65% 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 which will decrease water quality for fish, freshwater mussels, amphibians, loons and beavers.
- 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 on the Harrigan Lake Trail, Golf Trax Trail and Tour de Pants Trail.
- 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.

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Sincerely,
Jennifer Sheehan
A born and raised resident of Saint John