

# Urgent bid to ease logjam at Hillsborough roadworks site

## Traffic chaos forces Lynfield College to delay NCEA exam

by Mathew Dearraley

Commuters have been promised extra emergency traffic management measures this morning to lessen the extent of chaos caused by reconstruction work on one of Auckland's busiest routes.

Traffic banked up for several kilometres from the roadworks yesterday morning on Hillsborough Rd, throwing bus schedules into disarray from there to Dominion Rd, choking retail custom along the way, and forcing Lynfield College to delay the start of the level-one NCEA English exam.

Deputy principal Murray Black said bottlenecks around the school were far worse than he expected when he arrived by a circuitous route at 7.30am, prompting an urgent application to the Qualifications Authority to start the exam at 8.45am, 15 minutes later than scheduled.

No student appeared to have missed the start, but Mr Black feared students suffered high anxiety on their way to school, and several teachers reported taking a hour longer than usual to arrive.

Yesterday morning's peak was the first to be affected by a full closure of the eastbound lane of Hillsborough Rd for about 1km from White Swan Rd to Kings Eleven Close, past the Lynfield shopping centre.

White Swan Rd and neighbouring streets were full, with detour traffic until 9.30am to 10am, in what appeared to be even worse congestion than caused by a \$1.3 million reconstruction project early this year at the eastern



**CHAOS:** The jam in Hillsborough Rd also affected traffic in many roads leading to it, such as Stoddard Rd (above) in Mt Roskill. PICTURE / GLENN JEFFREY

end of Hillsborough Rd. Bus operator Stagecoach was assured of a better traffic management effort this time by Auckland City Council, but spokesman Steve Wade said it had proven inadequate and there were many delays to services.

One bus from the Blockhouse Bay terminus in Gillfillan St took 35 minutes to reach May Rd, less than 4km away -- a trip which may have been almost twice as long had it not been able to slip past gridlocked traffic along a bus-lane and shoulders.

Auckland Regional Transport Authority has arranged extra buses along Dominion Rd this morning, to spare central suburbs passengers from delay to services starting in Blockhouse Bay.

Auckland City transport programme manager Tony Kay said he expected traffic to

ease in coming days as drivers change their travel patterns to adjust to the roadworks, another \$1.3 million project which could take nine weeks, with a break over Christmas.

He said a variable message sign would be placed at the Blockhouse Bay roundabout this morning to give an earlier warning to motorists, and traffic-light signals would be retimed to improve flows where possible.

Blockhouse Bay florist Raewyn Singleton said shops in her area relied on Christmas trade to make up for being "a bit off the beaten track" and she expected a major impact on business.

Hillsborough Wine and Spirits owner Chandresh Modi said he lost up to 35 per cent of his regular business during eight weeks of roadworks early this year and was suffering a 20 per cent cut from the latest disruption.

# DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

## Regional Parks Management Plan

### Review of the visitor management framework for the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park



November 2006

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## 1. Introduction

The Auckland Regional Council (ARC) intends to review its approach to the management of visitors to the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park and is seeking public comment on what the review should cover.

Management of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland is currently guided by the Regional Parks Management Plan (RPMP), which is an omnibus plan covering the Waitakere Ranges and 17 other regional parks. The RPMP contains generic policies that apply to all regional parks and a section of specific actions that apply to the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park.<sup>1</sup>

The Waitakere Ranges Regional Park, which covers nearly 17,000 hectares of the Waitakere Ranges (refer Map 1) is managed by the ARC. The Waitakere Ranges are an icon of Auckland. They are within 30 minutes drive from downtown Auckland and are valued by the people of the region for their natural, cultural and scenic qualities and for the recreational opportunities they offer. The area is facing increasing pressure from the country's largest and fastest growing urban area, with the attendant increases in the number of visitors wishing to enjoy the recreation opportunities and increasing tourism and commercial activity in the area.

In 2001 the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Morgan Williams, at the invitation of concerned local environmental groups, completed a study of the Ranges, including the Regional Park, which expressed concern about the future of the area in face of the ever-increasing pressures on the Ranges from the neighbouring metropolitan area. He famously painted a picture of the future for the Ranges of a 'death by a thousand cuts', by which he meant the adverse affects of many, small activities that over time combine to degrade the natural and landscape values of the Ranges.

A number of studies and planning exercises undertaken over the last five years or so, such as those that led to the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill currently before Parliament, have highlighted increasing concern over the potential adverse impacts on the values of the Waitakere Ranges of development and activity in the Waitakere Ranges generally and on the Regional Park.

## 2. Why review the Regional Parks Management Plan?

The purpose of the proposed review of the RPMP, as it relates to the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park, is to ensure that the visitor management framework on the regional parkland is robust and able to respond appropriately to the pressures that the parkland is coming under.

Note that this is a partial review of the RPMP. The focus of the proposed review to the RPMP is to refine the visitor management strategies as they relate to the Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland. A comprehensive review of the entire RPMP will take place in 2008/2009.

The reason for undertaking the review at this stage is that the ARC wants to ensure it is able to respond effectively to the emerging pressures and to initiatives that could come out of other strategies such as

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<sup>1</sup> Copies of the current Regional Parks Management Plan are available for viewing at the Arataki Visitor Centre on Scenic Drive or the ARC offices at 21 Pitt Street, Central City. It can also be viewed on the ARC website at [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz) and then go to parks/planning documents

the proposed joint ARC/Waitakere City Council West Coast Visitor Strategy and the requirements of the proposed Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Bill (Heritage Bill). These other proposals cover the entire Waitakere Ranges and includes private land and other public areas such as the roads and beaches which are under the control of Waitakere City Council. This review of the RPMP relates only to the regional parkland under the control and management of the ARC.

### **3. What do people value about the Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland?**

The Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland covers approximately 17,000 hectares of the Waitakere Ranges and is highly valued for its natural resources, landscape, cultural and historic importance and fulfils an important social and recreational role for the region.

The Waitakere Ranges are the core of Kawarau a Maki's rohe, although their influence extends well outside this area, and other tribes (notably Ngāi Whātua) hold important rights here as well. Today, tangata whenua are essentially landless in this area, but relationships with the parkland and the exercise of manawhenua remain strong.

The Ranges contain a variety of ecosystems including temperate rainforest, dune lands, wetlands, beaches and rocky coastline, streams, waterfalls and open farmlands. The parkland is within the Waitakere Ecological District, which means that it has its own ecological character that is distinctive at the national level. It is the second largest contiguous indigenous forest area in the Auckland Region with extensive mature podocarp and kauri forests, generally in complex associations. It is a botanically rich area containing 20% of all New Zealand's flowering plant species, 60% of all New Zealand fern species and a number of rare or endangered species.

The Regional Park forms the bush-clad western skyline for Auckland and therefore has a landscape value to the wider region. ARC surveys have highlighted the fact that even people who do not physically use the Waitakere Regional Park nevertheless value it as part of the region's heritage and that it is there for others to make use of and enjoy, and especially, that it is there for future generations.

About 6,000ha of the Park is water catchment land, supplying more than one third of the metropolitan demand for potable water. WaterCare Services Limited (WSL) lease the water catchment area from the ARC and have exclusive rights to the dam lakes, associated structures and pipelines and a 50 meter buffer around the lakes. The ARC manages the remainder of the water catchment land under an agreement with WSL, and while there are some limitations on the use of the area, the water catchment areas are open for public use.

The Waitakere Ranges are home to over 20,000 people who live in the foothills adjoining the Regional Park and in a number of coastal villages, such as Huia, Cornwallis, Karekare and Piha, dotted along the west coast. As well as being neighbours, many of these people have a strong sense of "guardianship" towards the Regional Park and contribute to volunteer programmes on the Park. There are a number of groups that are actively involved in supporting conservation, restoration and maintenance programmes on the parkland. These include friends groups such as Friends of Arataki and Friends of Whatipu, and restoration groups such as Ark in the Park and Waitakere River Care, as well as key interest groups such as The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society.

The Regional Park is also highly valued as a recreational playground for Aucklanders and tourists alike. It is estimated that the Waitakere Ranges receive about 2.5 million visits each year, many of whom enjoy a range of activities of the Regional Park. In the last 12 months Arataki Visitor Centre received 147,000 visits, Cascades/Kauri received 78,000, Cornwallis (Pine Ave) received 88,000 and Whatipu received 73,000 visits per year.<sup>2</sup> On average, about 10% of visits are tourists (people living outside the region) with Arataki receiving the bulk of these (about 23% of visits to Arataki). The visitor patterns have shown a slow but steady increase in the number of visits since the late 1990s (about the same growth rate as that of the regional population i.e. 2% to 3% per year) but there is some evidence to suggest that, as recreation preferences change, some localities are becoming more popular, including some of the more remote locations.

People enjoy the Park in a variety of informal and formal ways. These are listed in Table 1. below.

Permitted activities	Controlled activities	Discretionary activities and events
Walking Tramping Picnicking (incl.BBQs) Orienteering Jogging/running Sightseeing Swimming (water holes) Dog walking (limited locations) Visitor centre activities On track tramping in water catchments.	Camping Abseiling on designated sites Overnight stays (cottages and lodges) Weddings/Civil Unions Group activity (up to 50 people) Horse riding on designated tracks Picnicking on reserved sites.	Cross-country events Community events Multi-sport events Adventure racing events Off-road running events Music and dance events Art trails Guided walks Sightseeing tours Canyoning Team building Adventure-based learning Archery Survival skills Corporate functions (incl. picnics) Filming Helicopter sightseeing Rogaining

Activities facilitated by ARC	Activities provided under licence on parkland	Known illegal or unapproved activities
Planting days Weed control Education programmes School Holiday programmes Guided walks Workshops Volunteer programmes	Waitakere Golf Rainforest express (WSL) Camping (Whatipu lodge) Overnight stays (Whatipu Lodge)	Mountain Biking Informal canyoning Off-track tramping Trail bikes Filming/photography

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<sup>2</sup> Based on 2005/2006 vehicle counts at these locations.

<b>Activity on beaches adjoining parkland (ARC default managers)</b>
Surfing Swimming Fishing Kayaking Bio-karting Kayaking Canoeing

**Table 1. Activities Undertaken on Waitakere Ranges Regional Park**

Some of these activities require formal approval from the Council. In the period mid 2002 to mid 2006, the ARC received some 200 application for discretionary activities (about 3% were declined). Note that the ARC does not have jurisdiction over activities undertaken on the beaches of the West Coast. There has been an increase in application for activities in the last two years. The increase has been mainly in filming and photography, and to a lesser degree weddings and sports events. However, this apparent increase may in part be a result of improved management and recording processes implemented by the ARC in 2005. Discretionary activities approved by the ARC for the period 2002 to 2006 are summarised in the Table 2 below.

Activity	No. of applications	Main Locations
Filming and photography	64	Arataki (7 ), Cascades(13 ), Karekare (10 ), Piha(9 )
Sport Events	52	Cascades(7 ), Huia (12 ), Piha(9 ), Whatipu ( 6)
Weddings	30	Karekare (13 ), Piha(8 )
Education/Research	12	
Other	42	

**Table 2 Discretionary Applications – Waitakere Ranges Regional Park – 2002 to 2006**

In addition to the above discretionary events, there are 36 commercial concessionaires registered with the ARC to operate on the regional park. These offer a range of adventure recreation ( 9 operators), education ventures (7 operators) and tour operators (20 operators) with some offering a mixture of these activities.

The Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland Visitor Study undertaken by the ARC in 2004 identified values people ascribed to the Waitakere Ranges Regional Parkland. The values are similar to those identified in other work, such as the West Coast Plan (2001) and that are currently reflected in the Heritage Bill. The values, and the threats to those values, were a key outcome of the focus groups and interviews undertaken as part of the 2004 study . The Waitakere Ranges were valued as:

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- A taonga (a treasure for all to share)
- A gift (a treasure generously provided and cared for)
- Containing wilderness that is a precious resource
- A quiet and wild escape for people
- A rare biodiversity catchment
- A provider of clean water
- An exciting and active destination
- A social experience
- A contributor to the regional economy
- A contributor to a regional and national network of open space

The 2004 study showed that while there is a common "fellowship" towards the Waitakere Ranges, there were also differences between the local and regional community's perspectives. The local communities held a strong sense of "guardianship" but, while accepting that visitors were welcome, saw the wider regional community as "exploiting" the qualities of the Ranges.

***Do you agree with the values reached as part of the 2004 Visitor Study ?***

***Has anything changed?***

***What other values would you like to be taken into consideration?***

#### **4. What are the pressures on and threats to the parkland?**

The primary pressure is the result of the proximity of the Waitakere Ranges to the country's largest and fastest growing urban area. The Auckland Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), predicts doubling of the regional population over the next fifty years to over 2 million people. The RGS promotes intensification of the metropolitan area. In essence, this means that most (70%) of the population growth is expected to be absorbed by the existing metropolitan area, with the inevitable consequence that this will place pressure on existing open space and open space within easy compass of the metropolitan area.

Furthermore, the demographic, social and economic environment of the region has been changing and will undergo further significant changes in the future. As a result, recreation needs and preferences of people are changing. Increasingly people are seeking individual or informal group pursuits and challenges. There is also evidence that people want more packaged endeavours within easy reach of where they live and work. The wider social changes and new employment patterns are changing the amount, duration and ability of people to use disposable time. In short, people have less time, in shorter time periods and at fixed times of the day or week to enjoy recreational pursuits. Increasing ethnic diversity of the population is resulting in a falling proportion of people speaking English as their first language and new ethnic group preferences could create new demands for different types of recreation. Finally, the increasing costs of transport will add to the costs of recreation for many.

All these pressures represent potential threats to the parkland. Previous studies have identified a range of threats. These can be summarised as;

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- Natural hazards such as fire and flooding
- Damage to native vegetation
- Disturbance of wildlife
- Track deterioration
- Crowding
- Conflicts between users
- Lack of a sense of guardianship
- Commercialisation
- Water pollution
- Noise
- Dog nuisance
- Vandalism, littering and graffiti
- Personal safety and security
- Illegal activities
- Inappropriate management approaches
- Inappropriate intervention and redundant structures
- Lack of or delayed appropriate intervention
- Lack of coordination and management priorities between agencies
- Insufficient monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment
- Development on adjoining land

***Are there other pressures and threats that you think should be taken into consideration?***

***Which do you think are the more critical issues requiring attention?***

#### **4. The Current Visitor Management Framework**

The Waitakere Ranges Regional Park is held and managed under two pieces of legislation<sup>3</sup>; the Local Government Act 2002 (LG Act) and the Reserves Act 1977. Land that is held under the Reserves Act, about 13% of the land area of the Park, is variously classified as recreation, scenic or scientific reserves. Section 41 of Reserves Act requires that a management plan is prepared for land held under this Act and sets out the processes for the preparation of the plan. The ARC has declared the regional parks to be a 'significant activity' in terms of Section 90 of the LG Act and is therefore subject to policies developed in terms of the 'special consultative procedure' set out in Sections 88 and 83 of the LG Act. That is, it must consult on the management proposals relating to the regional parks.

Section 138 of the LG Act places restrictions on the disposal of parkland and Section 139 makes provision for the Council to have parkland 'protected in perpetuity' by way of an Order in Council. The ARC has lodged the application with Central Government to have all land owned and managed by the Council in the Waitakere Ranges protected in perpetuity under this process. This excludes some land not formally owned by the Council, such as Lake Wainamu (QE II Trust), the accretion land at Whatipu

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<sup>3</sup> Note the Local Government Act 2002 repealed the Auckland Centennial Memorial Park Act 1941

(DOC) and small pieces of land owned by other parties, such as Waitakere City Council, but for which the management is vested in the Council. This amounts to about 6% of the parkland.

The RPMP currently manages visitors through a framework that identifies different classes of parkland, park zones and policies that define the nature of the visitor experience, the management focus, the general range of recreational activities and the expected levels of development, service and use for each class of parkland and zone.

The RPMP divides the Waitakere Ranges into three types or classes of parkland. These include ;

- i) Class I. Includes parts of the park where the predominant experience is that of remoteness and pristine wilderness and where the level of visitor facilities is very limited. This includes most of the interior of the Waitakere Ranges.
- ii) Class II. Includes those areas where the quality of the natural settings is dominant but the area is accessible and there is a need to provide a moderate level of visitor facilities to manage the impacts on the locality. This currently includes the Cascade-Kauri area, North Piha, Glen Esk Road, Karekare, Little Huia (Kakamatura) and the Tīfirangi parklands.
- iii) Class III. Includes areas which are designed to cope with a high level of use within the natural setting. This currently includes Arataki visitor centre and Cornwallis.

The RPMP defines the key components of the visitor infrastructure on the parkland within each zone. This framework defines, in general terms, the type and level of service the park visitor could expect in each area of the parkland. (Refer to Section 22, Visitor Management Framework of the RPMP).

The RPMP (Section 32) also sets policies for park infrastructure, such as buildings, structures and facilities, including tracks, paths and tramping routes, roads and parking areas and campgrounds on the parkland. These policies set minimum standards for the various types of infrastructure and Section 33 defines the minimum level of visitor service that visitors can expect on the parks. Part V, *Use and Occupation*, and the tables contained in Part VI, *Park-specific Management*, of the RPMP defines the type of activities permitted on the Park and how these are to be managed.

Under this management framework people have free access to the regional park to carry out a range of informal recreation activities such walking, tramping and picnicking (Section 37). The RPMP also defines a range of activities for which a permit is required, such as camping and some recreational pursuits requiring a specific location, such as abseiling. These activities are called 'conditional activities' and generally include activities for which people want use of a facility or defined locality (Section 38). A small fee is charged for these. All other activities, called 'discretionary activities', such as events or licenses to occupy part of a park over an extended period, require specific approval from the Council and may be declined or approved subject to conditions. The criteria under which these applications are assessed is set out in Part V of the Regional Parks Management Plan. The applicant generally has to carry the costs of processing such applications (Sections 35 to 40). All charges are set annually by the Council.

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The current management approach is based on zoning the parkland to reflect different sets of values at different locations and risks to these values. Some responses to the ARC Visitor Study (2004)

suggested that more emphasis be placed on finer grain zonation of the parkland to ensure that its intrinsic values can be better reflected in the management framework. Others raised the need to give more recognition to the relationship with neighbouring communities and people who have established a special relationship with the parkland such as the volunteers, local care groups and the like. There were suggestions that thresholds to the level of activity could be established to protect local amenity values, and protocols or codes of behaviour could be set for visitors who may not share the same levels of concern.

***Do you agree with the current approach or would you like to see a variation on the current approach or another approach adopted?***

***In what ways do you think the management of the parkland could be improved?***

## **5. How do I have my say?**

The review process is based on the requirements of the Reserves Act 1977 (Section 41) and in terms of the Local Government Act 2002 (Section 83). This involves two main phases:

1. The ARC issues a public notice stating it's intention to review the RPMP and calls for public submissions on the issues they want covered in the review (1 month). Traditionally, the ARC has prepared a discussion document to accompany this stage, outlining the scope and issues to be covered in the review.
2. Based on this feedback, the ARC then prepares a draft amendment to the RPMP and calls for formal submissions on it (2 months). The ARC then holds hearings for those submitters who wish to make a verbal presentation on their submission.

The timetable for the review is as follows;

- |          |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stage 1  | November 2006               | Notify intention to review                                                                                                                                                              |
|          |                             | Public submission period closes December 2006                                                                                                                                           |
| Stage 2. | December 2006- January 2007 | Review submissions, prepare draft variation                                                                                                                                             |
| Stage 3. | February- March 2007        | Publicly notify draft - start of February 2006                                                                                                                                          |
|          |                             | Public submission period (2 months)                                                                                                                                                     |
| Stage 4. | April –May 2007             | Summarise submissions and prepare staff recommendations                                                                                                                                 |
| Stage 5. | June – July 2007            | Hold hearings                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Stage 6. | August – September 2007     | Hearings Sub- Committee deliberates and makes recommendations, staff prepare final Variation for approval by the Council and forwards it to the Department of Conservation for approval |

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Stage 7. November 2007

Publish amended Waitakere Ranges Regional Park Management Plan

### **How can I get more information ?**

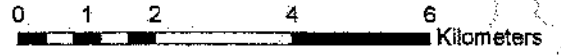
Copies of the current Regional Parks Management Plan are available for viewing at the Arataki Visitor Centre on Scenic Drive or the ARC Offices at 21 Pitt Street, Central City. It can also be viewed on the ARC website at [www.arc.govt.nz](http://www.arc.govt.nz) and then go to parks/planning documents.

If you have any questions or want additional copies of this Discussion Document then contact either Neil Olsen on 366 2000 ext 8564 or email [management.planreview@arc.govt.nz](mailto:management.planreview@arc.govt.nz)

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# Waitakere Ranges Regional Park



Bethells Beach

Te Henga - Bethells Beach

Anawhata

Anawhata Road

Waiatarua

Corvite Drive

Arataki

South  
Tirirangi

Piha

Piha Road

Pārau

Laingholm

Karekare

Huia

Cornwallis

Little Huia

Manukau Harbour



Whatipu

Waiatapu Road

Aiā

Awhitu

## Legend

-  Regional Park
-  Waitakere Bulk Water Supply Area



Auckland  
Regional Council  
TE RAUHĪTANGA TAIAO

8 November 2006

Pim van der Voort  
Chairman  
New Lynn Community Board  
54 Huia Road  
Titirangi  
Waitakere City

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Dear Pim van der Voort

### **Proposed Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007 – 2012: Call for Submissions**

The Auckland Regional Council notified its *'Proposed Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007 - 2012'* (Proposed RPMS) on 8 November 2006. You are invited to make a submission on the Proposed RPMS. The closing date is **5pm Friday 9 February 2007**.

To assist you in making a submission, please find enclosed the following information:

- A full copy of the Proposed RPMS
- A summary document to assist you in navigating the Proposed RPMS
- Information on how to make a submission
- A copy of the submission form

The Biosecurity Act 1993 requires the Auckland Regional Council to review its Regional Pest Management Strategy every five years. The current Strategy is due to expire in October 2007. The Proposed RPMS incorporates public feedback received on the RPMS discussion document published on 1 December 2005.

The Proposed RPMS lists and describes all current and proposed plant and animal pests in the Auckland region. It details their pest classification, management objectives and any rules that may apply to them. A number of changes are suggested for current pests and, in addition, new species have been nominated.

It is very important that the Auckland Regional Council receives feedback and suggestions from the public on these proposed changes. All submissions will be considered by Council through a formal hearings and deliberation process, which will be held in late March/early April 2007.

If you would like further information, or wish to receive an additional copy of the Proposed RPMS, please contact the ARC by phone on (09) 366 2000, or by e-mail at [biosecurity@arc.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@arc.govt.nz). You can also view the Proposed RPMS and supporting documentation at [www.arc.govt.nz/rpms](http://www.arc.govt.nz/rpms). Photographs of the species included in the

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Proposed RPMS are also available at [www.arc.govt.nz/rpms](http://www.arc.govt.nz/rpms) or can be requested by telephone or email.

We look forward to receiving your submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Coney', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Sandra Coney  
Chair, Parks and Heritage Committee

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