

Dear Mayor Barrow and Members of Council,

I am reaching out because Oak Ridges Residents need help to manage Lake Wilcox Park's popularity. Lake Wilcox Park was recently renovated, and now it's more attractive than ever. Unfortunately, for Oak Ridges residents, the new park has brought with it excessive crowds, speeding traffic on residential streets and parked cars all over the neighbourhood. People risk their lives running across Bayview Avenue, bolting out from between parked cars with small children in tow. Buses, often carrying wedding parties, block parking lot entrances, park on the shoulder of Bayview Avenue and in No Parking Zones surrounding the park. This could be dangerous should emergency vehicles ever need to access the park. Since the park opened, there has been an increase in neighbourhood litter including pop and beer cans thrown onto greenspaces, empty food containers tossed onto lawns, dirty diapers left on park benches and even condoms left on the grass. Some days, the Lake Wilcox shore is covered with people fishing, which is permitted, but some anglers bring shovels to dig-up parkland in search of bait. This is not acceptable in such an environmentally sensitive area.

All visitors to Lake Wilcox Park are welcome, but the Town of Richmond Hill must provide better oversight of this park. There needs to be a Park Ranger or some other person of authority present at the park during busy times to help keep it safe and clean. More no-parking zones must be created and enforced. The North parking lot entrance must be moved onto Bayview Avenue to discourage drivers from speeding through smaller residential streets when heading to or from the park.

To help pay for these improvements, Richmond Hill needs to charge for park parking. Permits to take wedding pictures would also bring in revenue. There are fees associated with taking pictures at other Richmond Hill locations but not for Lake Wilcox Park.

Lake Wilcox Park is meant to be enjoyed by all. The Town of Richmond Hill must do more to protect local residents and do more to protect this environmentally sensitive area so it can remain beautiful for years to come.

I look forward to an opportunity to address you all personally.

Sincerely,

Carol Davidson
Oak Ridges Resident