



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Request for a Natural Garden Exemption, 234
Donlands Avenue**

Date:	January 29, 2007
To:	Toronto East York Community Council
From:	Elizabeth Glibbery, Manager, Municipal Licensing & Standards Division Toronto East York District
Wards:	29 – Toronto-Danforth
Reference Number:	IBMS 171416

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider a request to review a Natural Garden Exemption at 234 Donlands Avenue, in accordance with the provisions of the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 489 – Grass and Weeds, on the basis that the growth is exempt as a Natural Garden.

A review of Natural Garden Exemption was received, and upon examination of the rear garden at 234 Donlands Avenue, the rear garden was deemed to not meet the requirements of a natural garden.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that a natural garden exemption not be granted.
2. It is recommended that the Notice of Violation be confirmed and the direction be given to issue a second Notice of Violation under this Section.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 489, Grass and Weeds require that an owner or occupant of private land cut the grass and weeds on their land whenever such growth

exceeds 20 centimetres. The Chapter, however, also provides for an exemption of such a requirement where the garden in question forms part of a natural garden that has been deliberately implemented to produce ground cover. A property owner may apply for a review to determine whether his or her garden meets the criteria for a natural garden. The review is conducted by Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff.

A Notice of Violation was issued for the subject property for grass and weeds which exceeds 20 centimetres (Attachment 1). In response to the Notice of Violation, a request for a Natural Garden Exemption (Attachment 2) was received for the property at 234 Donlands Avenue.

The request for review was sent to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division who examined the rear garden. Upon conclusion of their review, staff determined the subject property does not meet the criteria of a natural garden because it is not consistent with a “managed and natural landscape” (Attachment 3).

COMMENTS

In appealing the Notice of Violation, the owner is requesting an exemption to support the natural garden in the rear yard.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division staff has determined that the rear garden is not consistent with a managed and natural landscape and does not meet the criteria of a natural garden.

On January 22, 2007 the owner was advised, in writing, that his garden does not qualify as a natural garden (Attachment 4)

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Glibbery
Manager, Toronto East York District

ATTACHMENTS

1. Photographs
2. Letter Requesting an Exemption
3. Report, Parks Forestry and Recreation Division
4. Letter to Applicant