



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

15 and 17 Woodfield Road – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	September 23, 2013
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Ward:	Ward 32 – Beaches – East York
Reference Number:	P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\TE27-101713-AFS#18257

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree situated on the rear property line between 15 and 17 Woodfield Road. The application indicates the reasons for removal as due to rot and carpenter ant activity within the tree, the tree is damaging an existing deck, and broken branches have caused property damage over the last three years.

The subject tree is a weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) measuring 117 cm in diameter. The tree is healthy and in fair condition structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove the privately owned weeping willow tree situated on the rear property line between 15 and 17 Woodfield Road.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 15 Woodfield Road for a permit to remove a 117 cm diameter privately owned weeping willow tree situated on the rear property line between 15 and 17 Woodfield Road. The application indicates the reason for removal as: "there is rot and carpenter ant activity within the tree, the tree is damaging the deck and has caused property damage from broken limbs over the last three years."

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and found that it is healthy and in fair condition, structurally and botanically. There is little deadwood within the canopy and no obvious signs of decay, cavities, or structural weaknesses. The tree is located in a small grassy area next to a raised wooden deck. There is no obvious evidence of damage to the tree due to its location, nor is there visible damage to the deck resulting from the tree. Concerns regarding damage to property from falling limbs, can be managed through routine maintenance.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a Notice of application sign was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14 day period in order to provide an opportunity for objection by the community. Two (2) letters of objection were received.

On July 29, 2013, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, in accordance with *Section 813-20 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. The applicant has stated that due to lack of space on site, the owner prefers to provide cash-in-lieu of planting for one tree. In this instance, it would be appropriate to require the applicant to provide ten (10) replacement trees, in a combination of planting and cash-in-lieu.

The weeping willow tree at 15 and 17 Woodfield Road is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance it has the potential to provide the community with benefits for years to come. Urban Forestry, therefore, cannot support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jason Doyle
Director of Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1 and 2 – Photos of the 117 cm diameter weeping willow tree situated at the rear of 15 and 17 Woodfield Road.

117 cm diameter weeping willow at the rear of 15 and 17 Woodfield Road





Base of 117 cm diameter weeping willow tree at the rear of 15 and 17 Woodfield Road.