

220 Rose Park Drive – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	July 17, 2014
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Ward:	Ward 27 – Toronto Centre - Rosedale
Reference Number:	P:\2014\Cluster A\PFR\TE34-081214-AFS#20000

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at the rear of 220 Rose Park Drive. The owner is requesting removal due to its location, indicating that the tree is poorly located resulting in damage to a rear staircase and addition.

The subject tree is a white oak (*Quercus alba*) with a diameter of 89 cm measured at 1.4 metres above ground. The tree is in good condition, both 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 a privately owned white oak tree, located at the rear of 220 Rose Park Drive.

Financial Impact

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

Comments

An application was received from the property owner of 220 Rose Park Drive for a permit to remove an 89 cm diameter privately owned white oak tree located at the rear of the property. The application states the reason for tree removal is the tree's location.

The Arborist Report which accompanied the application explains the staircase at the rear of the existing house was originally built around the trunk of the tree. However, the tree has continued to grow and is now damaging the staircase. It is claimed that the tree is also causing damage to a rear addition. The consulting arborist indicates that the tree is in good condition with a full crown and less than 5% deadwood in the canopy. The Arborist Report suggests exploring alternatives to tree removal, such as the relocation and/or reconfiguration of the rear staircase.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that the tree is healthy and in good condition. It was confirmed that the trunk of the tree has grown into the staircase, with no resulting damage to the tree. The tree is located approximately 75 cm from an addition that was built onto the house. There is no visible sign of damage having been caused by the tree.

No evidence has been provided to substantiate the claim that the tree is causing damage to a load bearing structure.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, Notice of an application to destroy was posted on the subject property for the minimum required 14 day period, in order to provide the community with an opportunity to make comment. No comments were received.

Urban Forestry denied a permit to destroy the tree. The property owner is appealing that decision.

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. As a condition of permit issuance, the property owner is proposing to plant five (5) 60 mm caliper large growing native shade trees. Two (2) trees are proposed to be planted on site and cash-in-lieu of planting for three remaining (3) trees. In this instance it is appropriate to require the applicant to provide ten (10) replacement trees, in a combination of planting and cash-in-lieu.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. They are aesthetically pleasing and soften the hard lines of built form and surfaces in an urban setting. Trees contribute to the overall character and quality of neighbourhoods. Studies suggest that social benefits such as crime reduction and neighbourhood cohesion can be directly attributable to the presence of trees.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rainwater runoff thereby reducing soil erosion and lowering storm water management costs. They also contribute to moderation of temperature extremes and reduction of the urban heat island effect by providing shade during the summer.

Trees provide many economic benefits, including the enhancement of property values. Homes with mature trees have higher value when compared to similar types of homes in similar locations without trees. Mature trees are associated with reduced home energy consumption. Air conditioning costs are lower in a home shaded by trees and heating costs are reduced when trees break the winter cooling effects of wind. Trees are a community resource, which can make the city more attractive to investors, tourists and prospective residents, thus contributing to growth and prosperity.

It is the goal of the City of Toronto to increase the city's existing tree canopy to 40 percent by 2050. Considering the combined loss of tree canopy in the city due to the December 2013 ice storm, Asian Long-Horned Beetle, and Emerald Ash Borer, it is essential that priority be given to the preservation of significant trees.

The white oak tree at 220 Rose Park Drive is a highly valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance this tree has the potential to provide the property owner and the surrounding community with benefits for many more years. Urban Forestry therefore, cannot support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1, 2 & 3 – Photos of the 89 cm diameter white oak tree located at the rear of 220 Rose Park Drive.

89 cm diameter white oak tree at the rear of 220 Rose Park Drive



Crown of the 89 cm diameter white oak tree at 220 Rose Park Drive



Staircase adjacent to the 89 cm diameter white oak at the rear of 220 Rose Park Drive

