

## **Update on the Strategy for Minimizing the Negative Impacts of Residential Infill Construction - Tree Protection Fencing**

**Date:** May 17, 2018

**To:** City Council

**From:** General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report responds to a request from the Planning and Growth Management Committee to report directly to Council on the requirement for changes to Chapter 813 of the Toronto Municipal Code, known as the Tree By-laws, to ensure tree protection fencing is structurally secure so that it cannot be easily moved.

No changes are required to the Tree By-laws as they do not prescribe details for tree protection barriers, but instead give authority to the General Manager Parks, Forestry and Recreation to establish tree protection guidelines. These guidelines, the City of Toronto's Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees (Attachment 1), were last updated in 2016, and are one of the strictest standards in the industry with respect to hoarding and tree protection. Parks, Forestry and Recreation is not considering any further updates to the standard at this time.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council receive this report for information.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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

## DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting of May 1, 2018, the Planning and Growth Management Committee, through item PG29.1 "Strategy for Minimizing the Negative Impacts of Residential Infill Construction - Update" requested the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation report directly to Council on changes to Chapter 813 of the Toronto Municipal Code to require tree protection fencing to be structurally secure so that it cannot be easily moved.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.PG29.1>

## COMMENTS

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Chapter 813 of the Toronto Municipal Code, known as the Tree By-laws, regulate the injury and destruction of trees on both City and privately-owned land.

The Tree By-laws do not prescribe the details required of tree protection barriers. Rather, they give authority to the General Manager Parks, Forestry and Recreation to establish minimum requirements or guidelines pertaining to the protection and preservation of trees. These guidelines are set out in the City of Toronto's Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees (refer to Attachment 1). As such, no changes are required to Chapter 813 to alter the guidelines for tree protection barriers outlined in that specification.

Section 813-21 of the Tree By-laws currently requires installation of tree protection barriers in accordance with the City of Toronto Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees prior to the commencement of any work on the site and prohibit altering, moving or removing of tree protection barriers until and unless authorized.

Where the standards set out in the specifications cannot be met, a permit to injure the tree is required under the Tree By-laws. All construction related applications must include a Tree Protection Plan that shows details of tree protection including the location of protective barriers, prepared in conjunction with an arborist report or in consultation with an arborist, when protected trees are in proximity to the proposed work.

The Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees was last updated in 2016, and the City's standards are one of strictest in the industry with respect to hoarding and tree protection. Parks, Forestry and Recreation is not considering any further updates to the standard at this time.

## **CONTACT**

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Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Tel: 416-392-1894, Email: [Jason.Doyle@toronto.ca](mailto:Jason.Doyle@toronto.ca)

Daniel Boven, Acting Manager Forest Policy and Planning, Urban Forestry, Tel: 416-392-6478, Email: [Daniel.Boven@toronto.ca](mailto:Daniel.Boven@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Janie Romoff  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 - Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for Construction Near Trees