

## **45 Addison Crescent – Application to Remove a Private Tree**

**Date:** January 8, 2019

**To:** North York Community Council

**From:** Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** Ward 16 - Don Valley East

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 45 Addison Crescent. The owner is requesting removal to address concerns regarding the potential for an allergic reaction to the tree's nuts.

The subject tree is a black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) measuring 71 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 45 Addison Crescent.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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There is no previous decision history regarding the subject tree.

At its meeting of February 27, 2017, the Parks and Environment Committee adopted a report from the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation that explained the effects of exempting black walnut trees from protection under the City's tree by-laws for reasons including fear of being struck and injured by falling walnuts, having an allergic reaction to walnuts and not being able to grow other plants in close proximity to black walnut trees.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.PE17.2>

## COMMENTS

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Urban Forestry received an application to remove one (1) privately-owned black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) tree measuring 71 cm in diameter, situated in the rear yard of the property located at 45 Addison Crescent. The application for tree removal has been made to address the property owner's concerns with respect to the potential for an allergic reaction to walnuts.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and at the time of inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable. The tree has co-dominant main trunks with included bark in the union. The trunk should be observed for changes, but is presently considered in good structural condition.

A permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing this decision. At its meeting of February 27, 2017, the Parks and Environment Committee adopted a report from the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation that explained the effects of exempting black walnut trees from protection under the City's tree by-laws for reasons including fear of being struck and injured by falling walnuts, having an allergic reaction to walnuts and not being able to grow other plants in close proximity to black walnut trees.

If the City accepts that the nuisance and risk factors of these trees outweighs their environmental and health values, this could lead to the potential removal of hundreds of street trees and thousands of park and private walnut trees in Toronto. Additionally, there are thousands of other nut-bearing trees across the city which could also be the subject of similar concerns.

When reviewing applications for tree removal, Urban Forestry staff are guided by City policies and by-laws including the *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, more commonly referred to as the Private Tree By-law. The Private Tree By-law does not have a mechanism that would allow the removal of the subject tree based on the concerns stated in the tree removal permit application.

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 comment by the community. During the posting period, Urban Forestry received zero (0) comments from the community.

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*, permit approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the owner to provide five (5) replacement trees which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting.

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 attributed 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 mitigate the 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 tree canopy to 40 percent. The loss of trees in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, compounded with additional tree loss due to the presence of the Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The black walnut tree located at 45 Addison Crescent is a 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, does not support removal of this tree.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Doyle  
Director, Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 – Photograph of the subject tree from the rear yard of 45 Addison Cres.  
Attachment 2 – Photograph of the subject tree's canopy from the rear yard of 45 Addison Cres.

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Attachment 2 – Photograph of the subject tree's canopy from the rear yard of 45 Addison Cres.

