16 Valley View – Request to Remove a Private Tree

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>August 10, 2012</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Toronto and East York Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>From:</td>
<td>Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation</td>
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<td>Wards:</td>
<td>Ward 27 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale</td>
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<td>Reference Number:</td>
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**SUMMARY**

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at the rear of 16 Valley View. The owner is requesting removal of the tree as the owner feels the tree creates excessive shade and is damaging to the garden under the tree. The owner also has concerns regarding the suitability of this species of tree in this location.

The subject tree is a 32 cm diameter Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). The tree is healthy and there are no structural concerns. With proper care and maintenance, the tree should continue to provide benefits to the community for years to come. There is an abundance of other invasive tree species in close proximity to this property. Removal of this one tree will not remedy the possibility of seed dispersal from other invasive species in the area. 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 to remove one (1) private Norway maple tree located in the rear yard of 16 Valley View.

**Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.
COMMENTS
In accordance with City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III, a permit application has been made to remove one (1) privately-owned tree from the rear yard of 16 Valley View.

The application for removal was made as the owner feels the shade provided by the tree is excessive and is damaging to the garden planted under it.

The tree in question is a 32 cm diameter Norway maple. At the time of inspection Urban Forestry staff determined the tree to be healthy and growing vigorously with no major structural flaws.

As required under Section 813-17 of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III, a ‘Public Notice’ sign was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14 days posting period. The posting serves to notify the community of the application and to provide an opportunity for objection to the application. No letters of objection or support were received.

Urban Forestry did not support tree removal for the reasons of shade as stated in the application, and the applicant was advised that a permit was refused. The applicant requested that staff review the application again, with a focus on the invasive species concern. Another inspection conducted by Urban Forestry revealed that many other exotic invasive tree species are located in close proximity to the property. Therefore, removal of this one tree would not alleviate dispersal of seed from unwanted invasive species. Any seedlings that do germinate can be easily removed by hand. Urban Forestry does not generally support removal of trees based on their species. The applicant was again advised that a permit for tree removal was refused. The applicant subsequently submitted a letter of appeal.

The owner has not proposed any replacement planting. Should the request for a permit to remove the tree be approved, approval must be conditional upon the applicant providing three replacement trees. One replacement large growing native tree species can be planted on the property of 16 Valley View, and cash-in-lieu for the remaining two replacement trees will be used for tree planting elsewhere.

The subject tree is significant and is a valuable part of the forest community that exists within this area. With proper care and maintenance, the tree should continue to provide benefits to the property and to the community for many years to come. Urban Forestry cannot 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
Attachment No. 1 – Photos of tree
Attachment No. 1

32 cm diameter Norway maple tree