



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

20 Munford Crescent – Application to Remove a Private Tree

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Date: | August 2, 2013 |
| To: | Toronto and East York Community Council |
| From: | Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation |
| Ward: | Ward 31 – Beaches-East York |
| Reference Number: | P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\TE26-091013-AFS#17906 |

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree situated in the front yard of 20 Munford Crescent. The application indicates the property owner is requesting tree removal as he states that the tree is messy and sap from the tree is damaging cars parked beneath.

The subject tree is a Colorado blue spruce tree (*Picea pungens var. glauca*) measuring 48 cm in diameter, and is in fair to good 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 Colorado blue spruce tree at the front of 20 Munford Crescent.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received for a permit to remove a 48 cm diameter privately owned Colorado blue spruce tree situated in the front yard of 20 Munford Crescent. The application states that the reason for tree removal is that the tree creates a mess, is invasive, and that sap from the tree is damaging cars parked beneath.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and found that it is in fair to good condition structurally and botanically. The tree exhibits a slight lean to the south. There are no signs of decay present on the trunk or in the canopy. The tree is located approximately 2 metres from the driveway and entrance. It appears that the driveway was previously widened to provide additional parking under the tree. The lower canopy has been raised to 4 metres above ground.

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. No letters of objection were received.

On May 17, 2013, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

The property owner is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree on the property, a Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*). 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 owner providing satisfactory replacement planting. In this instance, it would be appropriate to require the applicant to provide four (4) replacement trees, in a combination of planting and cash in lieu.

The Colorado blue spruce tree at 20 Munford Crescent 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

Mark Ventresca, Supervisor Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry Branch,
Tel: 416 392-7390, Fax: 416 392-7277, Email: mventre@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENT

Attachment 1 – Photo of the 48 cm diameter Colorado blue spruce tree in the front yard of 20 Munford Crescent.

