



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

31 Hill Crest Park – 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 28 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\TE26-091013-AFS#18105

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree situated in the rear yard of 31 Hill Crest Park, near the rear property line between 31 and 33 Hill Crest Park, and adjacent to a laneway. The application was submitted by the property owner of 33 Hill Crest Park. The applicant is requesting tree removal as she feels the tree is growing too close to her shed and will cause damage. The applicant also advised staff that the tree provides too much shade to her garden.

The property owner of 31 Hill Crest Park provided written consent for the applicant to submit the permit application for tree removal.

The subject tree is a Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) measuring 47 cm in diameter, and is in good to fair 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 Siberian elm tree at 31 Hill Crest Park.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 33 Hill Crest Park for a permit to remove a 47 cm diameter privately owned Siberian elm tree situated in the rear yard of 31 Hill Crest Park. The tree is located close to the rear property line between 31 and 33 Hill Crest Park, and adjacent to a laneway. The application indicates the reason for removal is that the tree is growing too close to the shed at No. 33 and will cause damage in the near future. During a telephone conversation, the applicant advised staff that the tree also provides too much shade to the garden at No. 33.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and found that it is healthy and in good to fair condition structurally and botanically. The tree is located close to the existing shed, the side of the shed being approximately 15 cm from the stem of the tree however this does not justify its removal. There is no evidence of damage to the shed resulting from the location of the tree. The shed can be altered to accommodate the tree without resorting to the tree's removal.

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 June 25, 2013, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

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. The applicant previously paid for a commemorative tree to be planted in Wellesley Park, under the City's Commemorative Tree and Bench Program. The applicant proposes that this tree be accepted as sufficient replacement planting. The tree is an ornamental pear. This species does not meet Urban Forestry's requirements, as it is not a large growing species and will not significantly contribute to increasing the City of Toronto's tree canopy goals. 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 Siberian elm tree at 31 Hill Crest Park 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

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1 and 2 – Photos of the 47 cm diameter Siberian elm tree situated in the rear yard of 31 Hill Crest Park.

Crown of 47 cm diameter Siberian elm situated at the rear of 31 Hill Crest Park





47 cm diameter Siberian elm at 31 Hill Crest Park



Shed at 33 Hill Crest Park

