



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**191 and 193 Neville Park Boulevard - Application to Remove a Tree**

<b>Date:</b>	May 20, 2014
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 32 – Beaches – East York
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2014\Cluster A\PFR\TE33-061714-AFS#19694

**SUMMARY**

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This report requests that City Council deny a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree straddling the rear property line between 191 and 193 Neville Park Boulevard. Both property owners are requesting removal, indicating that the tree is in a poor location and is at high risk for causing property damage or personal injury.

The subject tree is a red oak (*Quercus rubra*) tree measuring 83 cm in diameter, and is protected under City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 658, Ravine and Natural Feature Protection. The tree is in fair to good condition. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council deny a permit to remove the red oak tree straddling the rear property line between 191 and 193 Neville Park Boulevard.

**Financial Impact**

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

## COMMENTS

An application was received from the owners of 191 and 193 Neville Park Boulevard for the removal of an 83 cm diameter red oak tree straddling the rear property line between 191 and 193 Neville Park Boulevard. Reasons provided for tree removal include degradation of roofing material, damage to the roof caused by wildlife, structural damage to the buildings and potential for injury and loss of life when tree failure occurs.

An arborist report submitted with the application described the tree as having good trunk integrity, fair canopy structure and good canopy vigour. The tree has no visible defects on the trunk or at the root buttress. The arborist report indicates that the tree is in a poor location between two existing buildings.

To compensate for the loss of this tree, the applicants are proposing to plant two 50mm caliper red oak or bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) trees, one at each property.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and confirmed that the tree is in good condition and well maintained. Previous pruning elevated the canopy above the both roofs. The tree has no significant defects within the canopy and the foliar health is good. No sign of structural damage to the adjacent houses was observed by staff, and no evidence has been provided to indicate that this tree poses a risk. To ensure private trees are healthy and well maintained, Urban Forestry urges property owners to have a qualified professional monitor their trees and manage potential hazards through proper tree maintenance, such as pruning to remove dead and broken branches.

A permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owners are appealing the decision to deny the permit.

Trees provides numerous benefits to the city and its residents by improving air quality and reducing air temperature, removing pollutants in the air and reducing energy consumption. The urban forest also provides social benefits by improving the health and well being of residents. Properties near and within ravine areas have significantly higher values.

Red oak is a prominent native species typical for The Beaches neighbourhood. The on-going urbanization and development pressures in the area resulted in the loss of many red oak trees and introduction of invasive tree species such as Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). Consequently, the loss of native seed sources has compromised the regeneration of native species throughout the natural areas. From an ecological perspective, it is important to maintain as many native trees as possible to maintain the native species seed source and ensure the natural regeneration of the remaining natural areas in The Beaches neighbourhood.

It is particularly important to preserve large trees of native species within the city. Only 14% of the entire tree population of the city has a diameter greater than 30 cm. Less than

1% of the city's tree population has a diameter greater than 76 cm. Only 64% of the city's tree population are native species.

Trees with a diameter greater than 75 cm provide greater benefit to the community. They contribute up to one hundred times more leaf area than small trees with a diameter of 15 cm. Large trees intercept up to ten times more pollution and store up to 95% more carbon than small trees.

Should City Council approve the request to remove this tree in accordance with Municipal Code Chapter 658, Ravine and Natural Feature Protection, the approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. Given that the tree is in good health, it is appropriate to require the planting of three large growing, native trees on each property.

The red oak tree at 191 and 193 Neville Park Boulevard is a significant and valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and monitoring, this tree can continue to contribute to the city's urban forest for a number of years. Urban Forestry therefore, 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 1 - Photo of the 83 cm diameter red oak tree straddling the rear property line between 191 and 193 Neville Park Boulevard

83 cm diameter red oak tree located at the rear of 191 and 193 Neville Park Boulevard

