



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

76 Kimbark Boulevard – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	August 13, 2015
To:	North York Community Council
From:	Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 16 – Eglinton-Lawrence
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\NY08-090815-AFS#21631

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at 76 Kimbark Boulevard. The owner is requesting removal of this tree to facilitate the construction of a proposed in-ground swimming pool.

The subject tree is a honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) measuring 33.5 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as it is healthy, maintainable and growing in an appropriate location.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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 76 Kimbark Boulevard.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from the property owner of 76 Kimbark Boulevard for a permit to remove two (2) privately owned trees located in the rear yard of 76 Kimbark Boulevard. The subject trees are a silver maple tree, (*Acer saccharinum*) measuring 86 cm in diameter, and a honey locust tree, measuring 33.5 cm in diameter. The reason for tree removal identified on the application submitted by the owner is to facilitate the construction of a proposed in-ground swimming pool.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the silver maple tree and determined that it was in poor condition. Therefore, in accordance with *Section 813-16. A., of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, on May 21, 2015, a permit was issued authorizing removal of this tree.

Urban Forestry staff also inspected the honey locust tree and found it to be healthy and structurally sound. The tree is located in the middle of the rear yard. Urban Forestry staff requested the owners to modify their plans by relocating or reducing the size of the proposed swimming pool in order to retain the subject tree. The property owners have indicated that insufficient space is available in the rear yard to accommodate a pool while retaining the tree.

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. No comments were received.

The request for a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The property owner is appealing this decision.

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. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is proposing to plant three (3) replacement trees. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate to require the property owner to provide five (5) replacement trees, which can be achieved in a combination of planting on site 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 directly 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 winter 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 by 2050. Impacts on the tree canopy in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, the Asian Long-Horned Beetle, and the Emerald Ash Borer, make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The honey locust tree at 76 Kimbark Boulevard 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

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the 33.5 cm diameter honey locust tree in the rear yard of 76 Kimbark Boulevard