



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

8 Silver Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	April 22, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 14 - Parkdale-High Park
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\TE06-051215-AFS#21205

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at 8 Silver Avenue. The application indicates the reason for removal is the tree's location.

The subject tree is a tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) measuring 47 cm in diameter. The subject tree is in good condition, both structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of the tree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) private tree located at 8 Silver Avenue.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from an agent acting on behalf of the property owner of 8 Silver Avenue for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree of heaven measuring 47 cm in diameter, situated in the rear yard of the property. The tree is growing along the boundary between 6 and 8 Silver Avenue. The application states the reason for removal is that the tree is not suitable for the location. The arborist report which accompanied the

application describes the vitality of the subject tree as good. The report states the tree has structural issues including the presence of included bark branch unions.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that the tree is in good condition. The crown of the tree is healthy with no evidence of included bark branch unions. The tree is growing in an opening in a wooden fence between 6 and 8 Silver Avenue. As the tree grows, the opening in the fence can be enlarged to accommodate the tree. The tree is not causing or likely to cause structural damage to any load bearing or roof structures, nor will its current location prevent any required maintenance. The arborist's analysis that the tree is unsuitably located has not been substantiated.

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 required 14 day period, in order to provide the community an opportunity to make comment. No comments to support or oppose the tree removal were received.

A permit to destroy the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The property owner is appealing the decision.

Should City Council approve this request for 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 property owner is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree on the property. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the 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 attributable 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 break 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 existing tree canopy to 40 percent by 2050. The loss of trees 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 healthy trees more necessary now, than ever.

The tree of heaven at 8 Silver Avenue 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 of Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1 – Photograph of the 47 cm diameter tree of heaven
Attachments 2 – Photograph of the stem of the 47 cm diameter tree of heaven



