



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

169 Wineva Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	May 25, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 32 – Beaches-East York
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster A\PFR\TE07-061615-AFS#21333

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree located at 169 Wineva Avenue. The application indicates the reason for the requested removal is the tree's location.

The subject tree is a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) measuring 43 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) privately owned tree located at 169 Wineva Avenue.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from an agent of the property owner of 169 Wineva Avenue for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned Norway spruce tree measuring 43 cm in diameter, situated in the front yard of the property. The application states the reason for the requested removal is the location of the tree.

The arborist report which accompanied the application describes the condition of the tree to be fair. The report indicates future tree growth will be obstructed by concrete blocks located on the east side of the tree. The report also indicates the tree is located 1.5 metres away from the foundation of an existing single family dwelling.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that the tree is in good condition. The crown of the tree is healthy and the trunk is solid. The tree is growing against an interlock brick walkway, however the remaining area surrounding the tree is soft surface. 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 claim that the tree should be removed because of its location 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. Three (3) comments opposing 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. The property owner is proposing to plant one (1) ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) as replacement 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 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 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 Norway spruce at 169 Wineva 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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the 43 cm diameter Norway spruce tree
Attachment 2 – Photograph of the 43 cm diameter Norway spruce tree

Attachment 1



Attachment 2

