



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

22 Edenbrook Hill – Application to Remove a City Tree

Date:	February 1, 2016
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 4 – Etobicoke Centre
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\EY12-022316-AFS#22383

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) City-owned tree located at the front of 22 Edenbrook Hill. The applicant is requesting removal to address concerns that the tree is creating a sightline obstruction and is interfering with hydro wires.

The subject tree is a Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) measuring 21 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) City-owned tree located at 22 Edenbrook Hill.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application to remove one (1) City-owned tree fronting 22 Edenbrook Hill. The subject tree is a Colorado blue spruce measuring 21 cm in diameter. The request to remove the tree has been made to address concerns that the tree creates a

sightline obstruction making it difficult to exit the driveway safely. Interference with hydro wires has also been raised as a concern. The arborist report that accompanied the application describes the tree to be in good condition but recommends removal due to the above-mentioned issues.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that the tree is maintainable, healthy and in good condition both structurally and botanically. Some pruning of lower branch whorls would be acceptable to improve visibility for vehicles exiting the driveway. Urban Forestry did not observe any large limbs in contact with hydro wires. The tree could be pruned in accordance with good arboricultural practices to eliminate any branch contact with overhead utility conductors.

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

Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, in accordance with *Section 813-10.B of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article II*, permit approval must be conditional upon the owners providing payment of the appraised value of the tree and providing satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, it would be appropriate for the owner to provide two (2) replacement trees which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting. The owner will also be required to provide a tree planting security deposit to cover the cost of removal, replacement and maintenance of trees to be planted on City property.

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 cooling effects of wind in winter. 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. Impacts on the tree canopy in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December

2013, the Asian longhorned beetle, and the emerald ash borer, make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The Colorado blue spruce tree 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
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the City-owned Colorado blue spruce at the front of 22 Edenbrook Hill
Attachment 2 – Photograph showing the sight line exiting the driveway
Attachment 3 – Arborist Report included with permit application



Staff report for action on 22 Edenbrook Hill –
Application to Remove a City Tree





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August 27, 2015

City of Toronto
Etobicoke and York District
Tree Protection and Plan Review
Etobicoke Civic Centre
399 The West Mall
Main Floor, North Block
Toronto, ON
M9C 2Y2

Application for a Removal Permit

Address: 22 Edenbrook Hill

Arborist's Report

Subject Tree: Colorado Spruce 21 cm d.b.h. located on the city road allowance

Condition: Good

Reasons for removal:

Privately planted on city property, this spruce is the wrong tree in the wrong place -- blocking sight lines when exiting the driveway and in the near term it will be interfering with primary and secondary hydro.

Removal is recommended.

Your consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Colin R. Naftel
ISA Certified Arborist
ON-0212A

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