



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

36 Ivan Road – Application to Remove Three Private Trees

Date:	April 18, 2016
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Ward:	Ward 44 – Scarborough East
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\SC14-051016-AFS#22793

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove three (3) privately-owned trees located at 36 Ivan Road. The application indicates the main reason for tree removal is due to the location of a proposed new house and subsequent purported damage to or significant loss of roots involved in the excavation for the foundation. The presence of cytospora cankers on the trees, leading to slow decline, is also stated as a reason.

The subject trees are all Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) trees measuring 38 cm, 40 cm and 47 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the removal of these trees as they are 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 three (3) privately-owned trees located at 36 Ivan Road.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application for a permit to remove three (3) privately-owned trees situated at the front of the property at 36 Ivan Road. The subject trees are Norway spruce trees measuring 38 cm, 40 cm and 47 cm in diameter. The request to remove these trees has been made due to the location of a proposed new house outside the tree protection zone (TPZ) and subsequent purported significant loss of or damage to roots involved in excavation for the foundation. The presence of cytospora cankers on some of the trees, which can lead to decline of the trees' health, was also stated as a reason for removal.

An initial arborist report which accompanied the application describes the trees to be in good condition; however a revised version of the arborist report was later provided and stated that the trees were in fair condition. Two of the three trees (38 cm and 47 cm in diameter) are identified as having cankers and one tree (40 cm in diameter) is identified as having possible cankers. The arborist notes that some of the cankers are large branch-girdling cankers; however does not specify if these are on the trees for which removal is requested. The arborist report also states that the construction of the (new) house may interfere with the trees, even if outside the tree protection zone (TPZ) area and that the roots could possibly be damaged from compaction or cutting.

Urban Forestry staff have inspected the trees and reviewed the construction plans for the site. Few signs of cytospora canker on the trees were found. Review of the plans indicates that there is no conflict between the trees and the proposed new house. No excavation is shown to occur inside any of the trees' minimum tree protection zone (TPZ) as required by the City's Tree Protection Policy and Specifications for construction Near Trees. The trees can be fully protected during construction of the proposed new house.

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. One (1) letter of objection regarding the trees' removal was received.

A permit to remove these trees was denied by Urban Forestry. The 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*, permit issuance must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the property owner has proposed to plant fifteen (15) large growing shade trees in the backyard. This proposal is considered to be an adequate condition and supported by Urban Forestry.

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 existing tree canopy to 40 percent. The loss of the tree canopy in the city due to the ice storm experienced in December 2013, as well as the presence of the Asian long-horned beetle and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever. Urban Forestry, therefore, does not support removal of these three (3) trees.

CONTACT

Mark Ventresca, Supervisor Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry
Tel: 416-396-5131, Fax: 416-396-4170, Email: mventre@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Jason Doyle
Director of Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Photograph of the three (3) Norway spruce trees.

Attachment 2 - Photograph of the three (3) Norway spruce trees.

Attachment 3– Photograph of the three (3) Norway spruce trees.





