



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

61 Fenwood Heights – Application to a Remove Private Tree

Date:	May 20, 2016
To:	Scarborough Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Ward:	Ward 36 – Scarborough Southwest
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\SC15-061416-AFS#22939

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 61 Fenwood Heights. The arborist report submitted with the application indicates the reasons for tree removal are its over-maturity, declining health, and dropping of branches and cones onto an existing house and deck.

The subject tree is a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) measuring 52 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the 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) privately-owned tree located at 61 Fenwood Heights.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at the rear of the property at 61 Fenwood Heights. The subject tree is a Norway spruce tree measuring 52 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address

concerns over the tree's over-maturity, declining health and the dropping of branches and cones onto an existing house and deck. The arborist report that accompanied the application assessed the tree to be in fair condition.

Urban Forestry staff has inspected the tree and determined that the tree is healthy and in good condition. No evidence of poor health, recently broken limbs or other indicators of decline were observed.

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 in response to the posting.

A permit to remove this tree 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 approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the property owner has proposed to plant one (1) large-growing shade tree in the backyard. However, in this instance it would be appropriate for the applicant to provide five (5) replacement trees which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. They help to 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 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. The loss of trees in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013,

compounded with additional tree loss due to the presence of the Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The Norway spruce tree at 61 Fenwood Heights 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

Attachment 1 - Photograph of the Norway spruce tree located at 61 Fenwood Heights
Attachment 2 - Photograph of the Norway spruce tree located at 61 Fenwood Heights



