



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

314 Glen Road – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	December 1, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 27 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\TE13-011916-AFS#21869

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 314 Glen Road. The application indicates the reason for the requested removal is the tree's condition.

The subject tree is a silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) measuring 108 cm in diameter. The subject tree is in good condition, both structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of the subject 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 314 Glen Road.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from an agent for the property owner of 314 Glen Road for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned silver maple tree measuring 108 cm in diameter, situated in the rear yard of the property. The application states the reason for the requested removal is the tree's condition.

The arborist report which accompanied the application describes the condition of the tree to be fair. The report claims large pockets of decay are present on the limbs of the tree. The report also indicates that damage took place to the tree during a storm which destroyed a substantial portion of the crown.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it is in good condition. Despite some broken limbs, which can be addressed through pruning, the crown is full, healthy and balanced. A cavity was observed on the trunk of the tree, however it is healing over in a healthy manner. Urban Forestry staff did not observe the large pockets of decay mentioned in the arborist report. The claim that the tree should be removed because of its condition 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 an opportunity for comment by the community. Four (4) comments supporting the tree removal were received.

The request for a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The applicant is appealing this 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 applicant is proposing to plant one (1) tree in the rear yard and payment of cash-in-lieu for two (2) additional trees. However, in this instance it would be appropriate to require the property 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 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 trees 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 healthy trees more necessary now, than ever.

The silver maple located at 314 Glen Road 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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the 108 cm diameter silver maple tree
Attachment 2 – Photograph of the 108 cm diameter silver maple tree



