



**STAFF REPORT  
ACTION REQUIRED**

**58 Woodycrest Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree**

<b>Date:</b>	May 24, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Toronto East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 29 – Toronto-Danforth
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\TE17-061416-AFS#22944

**SUMMARY**

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This report requests that Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located on the boundary of the properties 58 Woodycrest Avenue and 60 Woodycrest Avenue. The applicant, the property owner of 58 Woodycrest Avenue, has requested the removal of a tree to accommodate the installation of a pool.

The subject tree is a silver maple tree (*Acer saccharinum*) measuring 42 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the removal of this tree as the tree is healthy and in good condition.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**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 silver maple tree, located at 58 Woodycrest Avenue.

**Financial Impact**

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

**COMMENTS**

Urban Forestry received an application from the property owner of 58 Woodycrest Avenue to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at the rear of the property on the boundary of 58 Woodycrest Avenue and 60 Woodycrest Avenue. The co-owner of the tree is aware of the application.

The subject tree is a silver maple measuring 42 cm in diameter. The reason provided for the requested removal is the tree's conflict with a proposed pool which is proposed to be constructed directly beside the base of the tree. The arborist report submitted with the application describes the tree to have good trunk integrity, good crown structure and fair to good crown vigor.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined the tree is healthy and in good condition.

As currently proposed, it is not possible to maintain the existing tree and install a swimming pool as the pool is proposed to be constructed directly beside the base of the tree. Installing the pool as proposed would result in significant root loss, compromising the tree's structural integrity and overall health, creating a potentially hazardous situation.

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) comment in opposition to remove the tree was received. One (1) comment in support of tree removal was received by the co-owner of the tree who resides at 60 Woodycrest Avenue.

A permit to destroy the tree was denied. 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. The property owner did not propose to replace the existing tree. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the owner to provide five (5) large growing native shade trees of 50 mm caliper or greater 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 subject silver maple tree at 58 Woodycrest 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**

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Jason Doyle  
Director of Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - Photograph of the silver maple tree located at the rear of 58 Woodycrest Avenue  
Attachment 2 - Photograph of the silver maple tree located at the rear of 58 Woodycrest Avenue



