



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

312C Wellesley Street East – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	May 24, 2016
To:	Toronto East York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 28 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\TE17-061416-AFS#22941

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 312C Wellesley Street East. The application indicates the reason for removal is because the tree species is undesirable.

The subject tree is a little leaf linden tree (*Tilia cordata*) measuring 40 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the removal of this tree as the tree is healthy and in good condition.

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 little leaf linden tree, located at 312C Wellesley Street East.

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 in the front of the property at 312C Wellesley Street East. The subject tree is little leaf linden tree measuring 40 cm in diameter. The application indicates the reason for the requested removal is the tree's undesirable species.

The arborist report submitted with the application describes the tree to be in fair condition with a solid main stem and healthy foliage. It also explains the subject tree does not provide the "desired shade", the tree has a "heavy" lean, and the crown of the tree is sparse with sucker growth on the main stem as a result of stress. The report goes on to say the tree is infested with aphids, which creates a "major annoyance".

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and confirmed the tree is healthy and in good condition. The tree has grown on an angle as a result of its surrounding environment and is stable. No evidence of significant decay or other structural issues were observed. Two (2) fist-sized wounds exist on the trunk of the tree, but are healing. The crown of the tree is full with very little deadwood.

The property owner has noted that the presence of aphids on the tree can attract large numbers of bees and wasps. This issue is easily treated. Urban Forestry has recommended to the property owner a regimented treatment of insecticidal soap which can be applied with a garden hose and should control the problem without harming the tree.

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. Two (2) emails in support of the tree's removal were received.

A permit to remove the 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 applicant is proposing to plant one (1) 50 mm caliper silver maple tree as replacement for the existing tree. However, in this instance it would be appropriate for the applicant provide five (5) 50 mm caliper large growing native shade trees, 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 little leaf linden tree at 312C Wellesley Street East 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 little leaf linden tree, measuring 40 cm in diameter, located at the front of 312C Wellesley Street East
Attachment 2 – Photograph of the little leaf linden tree, measuring 40 cm in diameter, located at the front of 312C Wellesley Street East



