

## **Application to Remove a Private Tree – 501 Kingston Road**

**Date:** May 15, 2017

**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council

**From:** Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

**Wards:** Ward 32 – Beaches-East York

### **SUMMARY**

---

This report requests that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 501 Kingston Road. The application indicates the reasons for removal are that the tree is damaging the asphalt parking surface, and requires pruning and cabling to mitigate included bark within the main trunk union.

The subject tree is a white elm (*Ulmus americana*), measuring 78 cm in diameter. The Tree By-law does not support the removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

---

The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 501 Kingston Road.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

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

### **DECISION HISTORY**

---

There is no decision history regarding this tree removal permit application.

## COMMENTS

---

Urban Forestry received an application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located in the rear yard of 501 Kingston Road. The subject tree is a white elm measuring 78 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address concerns that the tree is damaging the asphalt parking surface, and requires pruning and cabling to mitigate included bark within the main trunk union.

The arborist report that accompanied the application indicated that the tree is in fair condition.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and at the time of the inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable both botanically and structurally.

Tree roots are not physically capable of exerting the force required to lift or crack properly constructed and maintained asphalt. Roots are capable of growing into any available space that offers water and air. If proper drainage has not been provided, heaving may occur as a result of freezing and thawing, which creates space that tree roots may grow into. Tree roots may exacerbate a situation if a problem has already occurred or if the hard surface is too thin. In such instances repairs can typically be made without requiring tree removal.

The issues presented regarding the branch attachment with included bark can be addressed through pruning to remove weight on one or both of the limbs included in the union. The removal of deadwood through pruning in accordance with good arboricultural practices and the performance of routine tree maintenance will also reduce the likelihood of future limb failure. Routine tree maintenance is considered part of performing routine property maintenance and is a responsibility of all property owners within the city of Toronto.

When reviewing applications for tree removal, Urban Forestry staff are guided by City policies and bylaws including *the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Article III*, more commonly referred to as the Private Tree By-law. The Private Tree By-law does not have a mechanism that would allow the removal of the subject tree based on the concerns stated in the tree removal permit application.

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 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 issuance must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is proposing to plant one (1) replacement tree. 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 per cent. 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 white elm tree at 501 Kingston 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. In accordance with the City Council-approved Strategic Forest Management Plan, Toronto's Official Plan and the Private Tree By-law, this tree should not be removed.

## **CONTACT**

---

Yaroslav Medwidsky, Supervisor, Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry  
Tel: 416-392-7390, Email: [Yaroslav.Medwidsky@toronto.ca](mailto:Yaroslav.Medwidsky@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

---

---

Jason Doyle  
Director, Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Photograph of the white elm tree, measuring 78 cm in diameter, dated July 21, 2016.

Attachment 2 – Figure 2: Photograph showing the trunk union of the white elm tree measuring 78 cm in diameter, dated July 21, 2016.

Attachment 3 – Figure 3: Photograph showing the asphalt around the white elm tree, dated July 21, 2016.

## Attachment 1

Figure 1: Photograph of the white elm tree, measuring 78 cm in diameter, dated July 21, 2016





## Attachment 2

Figure 2: Photograph showing the trunk union of the white elm tree measuring 78 cm in diameter, dated July 21, 2016





### Attachment 3

Figure 3: Photograph showing the asphalt around the white elm tree measuring 78 cm in diameter, taken July 21, 2016

