

Application to Remove a Private Tree – 206 Dunforest Avenue

Date: March 9, 2023

To: North York Community Council

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

Wards: Willowdale - 18

SUMMARY

This report requests that North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 206 Dunforest Avenue. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is due to safety concerns.

The white oak tree, *Quercus alba*, in question measures 48 cm in diameter. The City's Tree By-laws do not support the removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable. Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to decide whether a permit may be issued when an applicant wishes to appeal the City's decision to deny a tree permit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director of Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 206 Dunforest Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

There is no decision history related to this tree removal permit application.

COMMENTS

Parks, Forestry and Recreation received an application for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located in the front yard at 206 Dunforest Avenue. The white oak tree in question measures 48 cm in diameter. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is due to safety concerns.

The arborist report that accompanied the application described the tree to be in poor condition. This report described the tree to be a potential hazard to the driveway and property due to crown dieback, and the presence of dead limbs and loosened bark along the upper sections of the trunk. The report also noted there were numerous dead branches with loosened bark along the upper stem of the tree.

City staff inspected the tree and at the time of inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable. Staff determined that the presence, size and number of dead branches in the crown was not unreasonable or unmanageable, and does not warrant the tree's removal. The dieback within the canopy was not advanced, with the only signs being some small dead branches in the upper crown, and some epicormic growth (regrowth of "water sprouts") along the main stem. These are signs of declining health, however at this time they do not warrant a poor condition rating, and the tree may continue to be maintained.

Removal of deadwood can be addressed through pruning in accordance with good arboricultural practices and routine tree maintenance which will prevent and reduce the risk from falling deadwood respectively.

The City's Tree By-laws do not support the removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable. Through the inspection and review of the arborist report, a permit to remove the tree was denied. Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make final decisions as to whether a permit may be issued when an applicant wishes to appeal the City's decision to deny a tree permit.

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 support nor in opposition of the application to remove the tree in question.

Protecting the urban forest is critical in building climate resilience as urban centres continue to face increasing development, impacts due to climate change in the form of extreme weather events, and other natural threats such as invasive pests. The City has reaffirmed its canopy target of 40 per cent by 2050. One approach to support achieving this target is to protect healthy trees from injury and removal whenever possible. A sustainable and expanding urban forest also supports the City of Toronto's goals to improve quality of life and well-being of its residents.

Toronto's urban forest provides \$55 million in ecosystem services and benefits annually. Services such as air pollution removal, reduction of storm water runoff, and carbon

sequestration all contribute to climate resilience. Protecting and expanding tree cover helps to mitigate exposure to extreme heat events through shade and transpiration. A higher density of trees in a neighbourhood has been shown to significantly improve physical and mental well-being by reducing blood pressure, decreasing stress levels and by promoting physical activity. Economic benefits include enhancements to property values, increased tourism and consumer spending.

In keeping with the City's Strategic Forest Management Plan, Toronto's Official Plan, Toronto's Biodiversity Strategy, and the Tree Protection By-laws, the white oak tree at 206 Dunforest Avenue is a valuable part of the urban forest, providing numerous aesthetic, social and economic benefits to the property owner and the local community and therefore should not be removed.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 206 Dunforest Avenue. Should North York Community Council grant this request for tree removal, the following recommendation may be adopted, in accordance with the City's Tree By-law permit requirements:

- 1) North York Community Council approve the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 206 Dunforest Avenue, and require the applicant to provide five replacement trees which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

CONTACT

David Bostock, Supervisor Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry
Tel: 416-395-6134, Email: David.Bostock@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Kim Statham
Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the white oak at 206 Dunforest Avenue; May 31, 2022.

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the white oak at 206 Dunforest Avenue; May 31, 2022.

