

Application to Remove a Private Tree – 16 Clematis Road

Date: March 9, 2023

To: North York Community Council

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

Wards: Don Valley North - 17

SUMMARY

This report requests that North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 16 Clematis Road. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is due to safety concerns.

The silver maple tree, *Acer saccharinum*, in question measures 61 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 make a final decision as to 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 16 Clematis Road.

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 rear yard at 16 Clematis Road. The silver maple tree in question measures 61 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 as being in poor condition. The listed defects and observations from the arborist and owner include the shedding of live branches over 15 cm diameter, poor root hold around the base of the tree, seams and occlusions in the wood and bark, cavities on the trunk, and a report that the owner has found a shelf fungus on the ground under the tree.

City staff inspected the tree and at the time of inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable. Based on the results of the assessment, the likelihood of failure and breakage does not support a poor condition tree rating.

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.

Through the inspection and review of the arborist report, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Parks, Forestry and Recreation. 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 make a final decision 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 silver maple tree at 16 Clematis Road 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 16 Clematis Road. 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 16 Clematis Road, 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 silver maple at 16 Clematis Road; August 2022.

Attachment 2 – Figure 2: Staff photograph of the silver maple at 16 Clematis Road; August 2022.

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the silver maple at 16 Clematis Road; August 2022.



Attachment 2 – Figure 2: Staff photograph of the silver maple at 16 Clematis Road; August 2022.

