TORONTO

REPORT FOR ACTION

Application to Remove Two Private Trees – 30 Dunlace Drive

Date: September 26, 2023
To: North York Community Council
From: Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards: Don Valley West - 15

SUMMARY

This report requests that North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove two privately owned trees located at 30 Dunlace Drive. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the trees is due to both trees having stems poorly attached to the main trunk creating a concern that they may fail in the future.

The Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*) trees in question measure 42 cm in diameter and 41 cm in diameter. The City's Tree By-laws do not support the removal of these trees as they are 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 denial of a permit of two trees protected under the By-laws.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove two privately owned trees located at 30 Dunlace Drive.

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 two privately owned trees located in the side yard at 30 Dunlace Drive. The Austrian pine trees in question measure 42 cm and 41 cm in diameter. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the trees is due to both trees having stems poorly attached to the main trunk creating a concern that they may fail in the future.

The arborist report that accompanied the application described the 42 cm Austrian pine's health as fair with the structure being rated as poor. The health of the Austrian pine measuring 41 cm was rated as poor with the structure rated as fair. The report noted that both trees are in ailing health due to being shaded out by neighbouring trees.

City staff inspected the trees and at the time of inspection determined that they are both healthy and maintainable. Staff observed the union of the stems on both trees and determined that they are both sound and not a structural concern at this time. The competition for light from neighbouring Austrian pines has resulted in some deadwood in the lower crown of both trees, which can be addressed through pruning in accordance with good arboricultural practices and the performance of routine tree maintenance.

The City's Tree By-laws do not support the removal of these trees as they are healthy and maintainable. Through the inspection and review of the arborist report, a permit to remove the trees was denied by Parks, Forestry and Recreation. 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 to the application to remove the trees in question.

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.

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. 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 sustainable and expanding urban forest also supports the City of Toronto's goals to improve quality of life and well-being of its residents. 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 Austrian pine trees at 30 Dunlace Drive are 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 two privately owned trees located at 30 Dunlace Drive. 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 two privately owned trees located at 30 Dunlace Drive, and require the applicant to provide ten 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, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Figure 1 – Staff photograph of the Austrian pine tree, measuring 42 cm diameter at 30 Dunlace Drive; June 9, 2023

Attachment 2: Figure 2 – Staff photograph of the Austrian pine tree, measuring 41 cm diameter at 30 Dunlace Drive; June 9, 2023

Attachment 1: Figure 1 – Staff photograph of the Austrian pine tree, measuring 42 cm diameter at 30 Dunlace Drive; June 9, 2023

Attachment 2: Figure 2 – Staff photograph of the Austrian pine tree, measuring 41 cm diameter at 30 Dunlace Drive; June 9, 2023