

Application to Remove Two Private Trees – 58 Tallon Road

Date: March 14, 2024

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

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

Wards: Etobicoke Centre - 2

SUMMARY

This report requests that Etobicoke York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove two privately owned trees located at 58 Tallon Road. The applicant cited several concerns as reasons for the tree removal request. These include concerns that the tree roots are causing hardscape damage, potential risk of the trees falling on utility wires, and potential damage to a perimeter fence that may impact the ability to comply with a bylaw related to swimming pool enclosures, as indicated by the applicant.

The two dawn redwood trees (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) measure 71 cm and 61 cm in diameter. The City's Tree By-laws do not support the removal of these trees as they are healthy and maintainable. The permit was denied, and the applicant is appealing the decision. 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 a tree protected under the By-laws.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Etobicoke York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove two privately owned trees located at 58 Tallon 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 two privately owned trees located in the rear yard at 58 Tallon Road. The two dawn redwood trees in question measure 71 cm and 61 cm in diameter. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the trees is due to concerns for the tree's roots damage to hardscape, potential for tree failure on utility wires, and damage to a perimeter fence that may impact the ability to comply with a bylaw related to swimming pool enclosures.

The arborist report that accompanied the application described the trees to be in good condition. This report noted that the trees have limited softscape for root growth, are encroaching onto neighbouring properties, damaging the perimeter fence, heaving interlock patio and hardscape, and one of the trees is in contact with utility wires.

City staff inspected the trees and, at the time of inspection, determined that they are healthy and maintainable.

The trees are situated adjacent to a wooden perimeter fence around the backyard and swimming pool, and their trunks have grown into and caused damage to this fence, resulting in possible risk of non-compliance with bylaws regulating swimming pool enclosures. The fence can typically be repaired or replaced without requiring tree removal.

Hard landscape features such as interlocking unit pavers may be prone to damage by tree roots, if they have not been properly designed, built, or maintained. When built to accommodate future root growth and expansion, and when properly maintained over time, any conflict with trees or their roots can be planned for and managed without tree removal.

Fencing or paving materials that have been affected by tree growth can typically be repaired without requiring tree removal. If an injury to the tree is required in order to complete the repairs, including root pruning, the applicant may apply for a tree injury permit and submit the relevant construction plans and arborist report showing how the tree will be impacted and protected during construction.

The tree can be pruned in accordance with good arboricultural practices to eliminate any branch contact with overhead utility wires or conductors.

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. The applicant is appealing this decision. 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. One comment was received in support of removal and one comment was received in opposition to the application to remove the tree 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 dawn redwood trees at 58 Tallon Road 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 Etobicoke York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove two privately owned trees located at 58 Tallon Road. Should Etobicoke 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) Etobicoke York Community Council approve the request for a permit to remove two privately owned trees located at 58 Tallon Road and require the applicant to provide five replacement trees for every tree removed, totalling ten 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

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the dawn redwood tree measuring 71 cm in diameter at 58 Tallon Road; July 5, 2023

Attachment 2 – Figure 2: Staff photograph of the dawn redwood tree measuring 61 cm in diameter at 58 Tallon Road; July 5, 2023

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the dawn redwood tree measuring 71 cm in diameter at 58 Tallon Road; July 5, 2023



Attachment 2 – Figure 2: Staff photograph of the dawn redwood tree measuring 61 cm in diameter at 58 Tallon Road; July 5, 2023

