

Application to Remove a City Tree – 23 Roseland Drive

Date: September 3, 2024

To: Etobicoke York Community Council

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

Wards: Etobicoke-Lakeshore - 3

SUMMARY

This report requests that Etobicoke York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 23 Roseland Drive. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is due to a conflict with a proposed driveway associated with a new dwelling.

The red oak tree (*Quercus rubra*) measures 4 cm in diameter. The City's Tree By-laws do not support the removal of this tree as it is 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 Acting Director of Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 23 Roseland 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 one City-owned tree located on the City-owned right-of-way fronting 23 Roseland Drive. The red oak tree (*Quercus rubra*) in question measures 4 cm in diameter. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is due to a conflict with a proposed driveway associated with a new dwelling.

The arborist report that accompanied the application described the tree to be healthy and in good condition.

City staff inspected the tree and at the time of inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable.

The applicant applied for a variance to build two dwellings and two driveways on one lot. The applicant was advised that any application to injure and/or remove a City-owned tree may be denied by Parks, Forestry and Recreation regardless of Committee of Adjustment (COA) approval. The COA approved the minor variance on the condition that the applicant submit an application for a permit to injure or remove the City-owned tree(s), as per *City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees Article II Trees on City Streets*.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff reviewed the minor variance application submitted to the COA. Staff recommended denial of four variances related to reducing the lot size; reducing the frontage; increasing the percentage of the lot that would be covered by the new dwelling; and the ratio of the gross floor area to the size of the lot. The approval of these changes would impact a bylaw-protected tree on City land as well as the permanent loss of viable planting space.

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 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.

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 red oak tree at 23 Roseland Drive 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 Etobicoke York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 23 Roseland Drive. 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 one City-owned tree located at 23 Roseland Drive, conditional upon the applicant:

- providing payment of the appraised value of the tree (\$1,166.00) to be removed;
- agreeing to have the tree removed at their expense;
- providing 5 to 1 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, and;
- providing a tree planting security deposit to cover the cost of planting and warranty for a period of two years for all trees to be planted on City property.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Raymond Vendrig
Acting Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the red oak tree at 23 Roseland Drive;
July 5, 2024

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