

## **Application to Remove a Private Tree – 258 Glengrove Avenue West**

**Date:** August 27, 2025

**To:** North York Community Council

**From:** Director, Urban Forestry, Environment, Climate and Forestry

**Wards:** Eglinton-Lawrence - 8

### **SUMMARY**

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This report requests that North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 258 Glengrove Avenue West. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting the removal of the tree is due to concerns over the structure of the tree and the potential damage it could cause.

The Colorado blue spruce tree (*Picea pungens*) measures 46 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 appeals the City's decision to deny a tree permit.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Director of Urban Forestry, Environment, Climate and Forestry recommends that:

1. North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 258 Glengrove Avenue West.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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

## COMMENTS

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The City of Toronto received an application for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located in the front yard at 258 Glengrove Avenue West. The Colorado blue spruce tree (*Picea pungens*) in question measures 46 cm in diameter. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is due to concerns over the structure of the tree and the potential damage it could cause.

The arborist report that accompanied the application described the tree to be in fair condition. The report specifically noted that there were signs of Cytospora canker; that the tree's shallow root system was affecting the homeowner's driveway; and the tree's proximity to dwelling and overhead electrical wires.

City staff inspected the tree and, at the time of inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable. This tree is situated approximately 2.5 metres from the house. No evidence of the tree impacting the house or driveway was observed at the time of inspection. The tree is located such that routine maintenance of the tree and house can be performed.

Staff confirmed presence of the fungal disease Cytospora canker. This is a very common disease commonly found on spruce trees. The disease primarily affects lower branches, causing needles to turn brown and fall off. Whitish-blueish sap dripping under the tree is a commonly observed sign of the disease. The tree can be pruned in accordance with good arboricultural practices to remove the worst-affected branches and manage the progression of the disease. Trees with Cytospora canker can survive for many years. If the disease progresses to the point that the City agrees the tree is in poor condition, staff would be authorized to permit its removal.

Staff have assessed the likelihood of failure carefully, and do not believe the risk of failure or breakage to be unreasonably high. Staff's assessment included inspecting the tree and its surroundings for indicators that failure or breakage is likely and found none. Failure is unlikely, under normal and expected conditions and over a reasonable period of time.

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 Environment, Climate and Forestry. 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 appeals 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 to provide an opportunity for comment by the community. No comments were received in support of the application. One comment in opposition to the application to remove the tree in question was received.

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 Colorado blue spruce tree at 258 Glengrove Avenue West 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.

Environment, Climate and Forestry recommends North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 258 Glengrove Avenue West. 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 258 Glengrove Avenue West and require the applicant to provide five trees which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting to the satisfaction of the Executive Director, Environment, Climate and Forestry.

## **CONTACT**

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

## **SIGNATURE**

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Kim Statham  
Director, Urban Forestry, Environment, Climate and Forestry Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Arborist photograph of the Colorado blue spruce tree at 258  
Glengrove Avenue West; February 4, 2025

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