

## **Application to Remove a Private Tree – 27 Wynn Road**

**Date:** August 27, 2025

**To:** North York Community Council

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

**Wards:** Willowdale - 18

### **SUMMARY**

---

This report requests that North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 27 Wynn Road. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting the removal of the tree is because the subject tree is in close proximity to another tree that has been approved for removal, and this approved removal will make the subject tree unstable.

The subject tree is a Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) measuring 53 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**

---

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 27 Wynn 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

---

The City of Toronto received an application for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located in the rear yard at 27 Wynn Road. The Norway spruce tree (*Picea abies*) in question measures 53 cm in diameter. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting the removal of the tree is because the subject tree is in close proximity to another tree that has been approved for removal, and this approved removal will make the subject tree unstable.

The arborist's report that accompanied the application described the subject spruce tree to be in fair botanical and structural condition, with several flaws and signs of decline. The tree is described as leaning away from the adjacent walnut tree in search of sunlight, resulting in a one-sided form that is both structurally and visually undesirable. The application argues that only removing the walnut tree would leave the subject spruce tree overly exposed and unstable.

City staff inspected the subject spruce tree and, at the time of inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable. A walnut tree adjacent to the spruce has been permitted for removal by the City (see Attachment 1). The lower part of the spruce tree's trunk is generally upright, although the distribution of branches favours the open sunny side, away from the adjacent walnut. While acknowledging an uneven appearance, staff do not believe the likelihood of failure of the spruce to be unreasonably high.

Staff acknowledge that the spruce is not perfectly symmetrical or balanced. There is a slight lean, due to light competition from the walnut tree next to it. However the lean observed is not significantly impacting the spruce's structural integrity. There is no evidence of heaving or other root damage that would be indicative of potential tree failure.

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 nor 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 Norway spruce tree at 27 Wynn 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.

Environment, Climate and Forestry recommends North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one privately owned tree located at 27 Wynn 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 27 Wynn 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 Executive Director, Environment, Climate and Forestry.

## **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, Environment, Climate and Forestry Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Arborist photograph of the Norway spruce tree at 27 Wynn Road; April 17, 2025

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Arborist photograph of the Norway spruce tree at 27 Wynn Road; April 17, 2025.

