

Application to Remove a City Tree – 186 Nairn Avenue

Date: August 27, 2025

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: Davenport - 9

SUMMARY

This report requests that Toronto and East York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 186 Nairn Avenue. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is because the tree's fruit is attracting bees and wasps and the applicant claims that the homeowner has a severe anaphylactic allergy to bee and wasp stings.

The Bradford pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*) measures 14 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. Toronto and East York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 186 Nairn Avenue.

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 City-owned tree located on the City-owned right-of-way fronting 186 Nairn Avenue. The Bradford pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*) in question measures 14 cm in diameter. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting removal of the tree is because the tree's fruit is attracting bees and wasps and the applicant claims that the homeowner has a severe anaphylactic allergy to bee and wasp stings.

The requirement for an arborist report was waived for this application as the health of the tree was not a reason for requesting the removal. City staff inspected the tree and at the time of inspection determined that it is healthy and maintainable.

Medical information is not collected as part of the application for a permit to remove or injure a tree. Environment, Climate and Forestry staff do not have the expertise to assess medical information.

The City's Tree By-laws do not allow for the removal of trees based on the medical risk of an individual resident, nor do they support the removal of a tree that 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.

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, and the Tree Protection By-laws, the Bradford pear tree at 186 Nairn Avenue 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 Toronto and East York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 186 Nairn Avenue. Should Toronto and East 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) Toronto and East York Community Council approve the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 186 Nairn Avenue, conditional upon the applicant:

- providing payment of the appraised value of the tree (\$583.00) to be removed;
- agreeing to have the tree removed at their expense;
- providing 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, 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

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Staff photograph of the Bradford pear tree at 186 Nairn Avenue; June 9, 2025

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