

## **Application to Remove a City Tree – 117 Glen Park Avenue**

**Date:** May 5, 2026

**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 the North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 117 Glen Park Avenue. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting the removal of the tree is due to concerns over the fallen fruits which have a foul odour, create a slip hazard, and are physically taxing to clean up.

The ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) measures 33 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. The Community Council has delegated authority from the 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 recommend that:

1. North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 117 Glen Park Avenue.

### **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 City-owned tree located on the City-owned right-of-way fronting 117 Glen Park Avenue. The ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo biloba*) in question measures 33 cm in diameter. The applicant indicates the reason for requesting the removal of the tree is due to fallen fruits which have a foul odour, create a slip hazard, and are physically taxing to clean up.

An arborist report was not submitted with this application and was waived by Urban Forestry staff because the reason for the application is not related to the tree's condition.

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

Large growing trees require regular maintenance such as removal of fallen leaves, flowers, fruit, twigs and small branches. Removal of debris such as fallen fruit is considered part of regular property maintenance and is the responsibility of all property owners within the City of Toronto. The City's Tree By-laws do not support the removal of a healthy maintainable tree to address the perceived nuisance resulting from a tree's natural functions.

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, Toronto's Biodiversity Strategy, and the Tree Protection By-laws, the ginkgo tree at 117

Glen Park 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 North York Community Council deny the request for a permit to remove one City-owned tree located at 117 Glen Park Avenue. 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 City-owned tree located at 117 Glen Park Avenue, conditional upon the applicant:
  - providing payment of the appraised value of the tree to be removed (\$2,922.00)
  - agreeing to have the tree removed at their expense
  - providing 5 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
  - 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**

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

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1 – Figure 1: Homeowner photograph of the ginkgo tree at 117 Glen Park Avenue; January 2026.

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