



**SUBJECT: Public Tree Removal Request – 2123 Kevin Crescent**

**TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.**

**FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department**

Report Number: RPF-03-20

Wards Affected: 6

File Numbers: 820-02

Date to Committee: January 13, 2020

Date to Council: January 27, 2020

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**Recommendation:**

Deny the request to remove a public tree at 2123 Kevin Crescent as outlined in Roads, Parks & Forestry Report RPF-03-20.

**PURPOSE:**

Homeowner is requesting the removal of a healthy city tree due to surface roots.

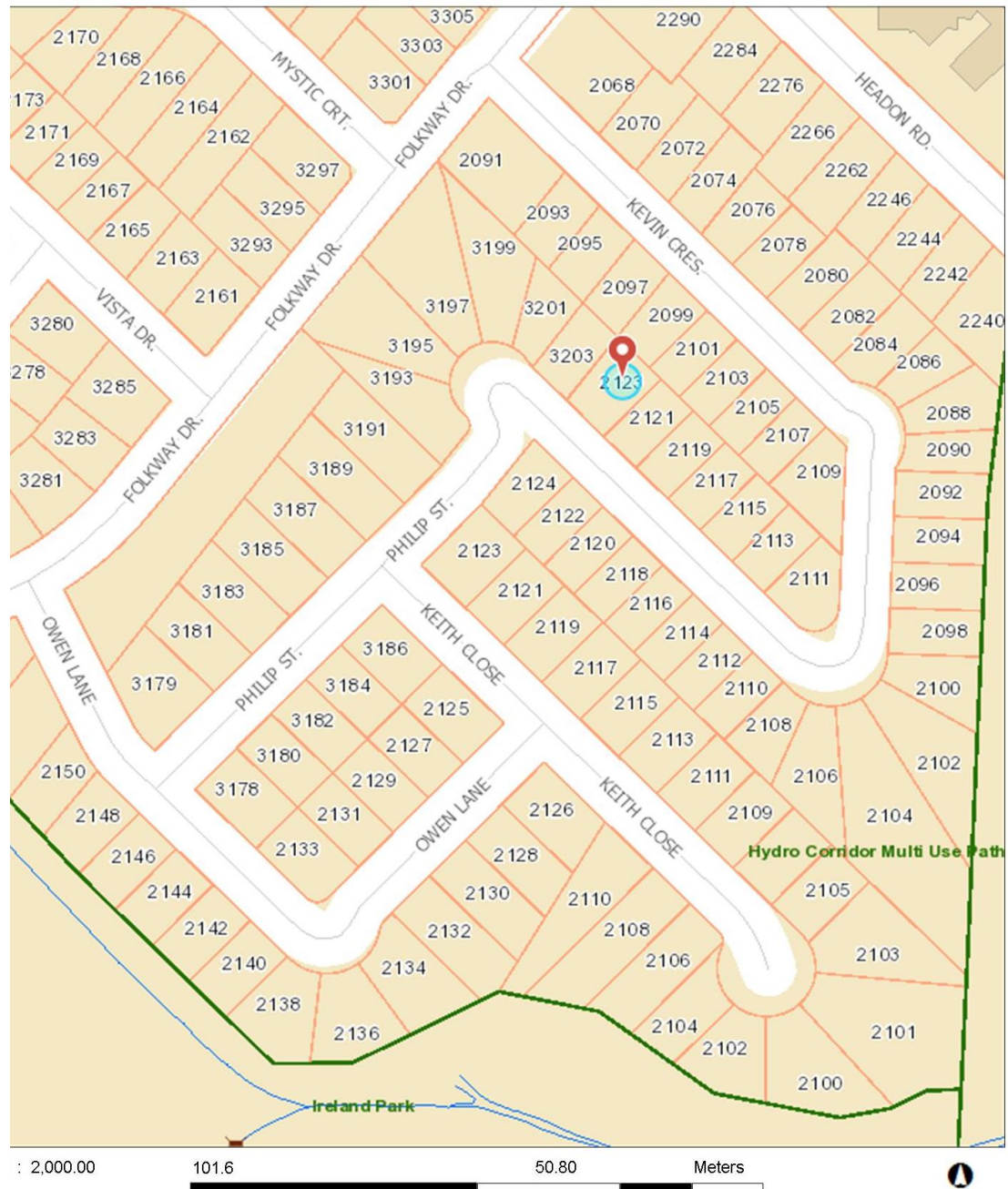
**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment

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**Background and Discussion:**

The subject property is located in the Walkers Line and Upper Middle Road area (See Fig. 1).



**Date** Thursday, December 19, 2019  
**Department** Department Text  
**Comments** Division Text

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Figure 1

Trees on public property are protected under the city Tree By-law 068-2013. Council approval is required for the removal of healthy city trees.

The owner of 2123 Kevin Crescent has requested that the city remove the public tree in front of his home by email to Roads, Parks & Forestry Department dated July 9, 2019.

The resident's concerns include the following;

- The tree is too large
- Root system has damaged the driveway for a second time, cost to replace driveway every few years is not reasonable
- Root system has reached the gas connection for the neighbourhood
- Branches extend over the road and are hit and damaged by trucks
- Branches are getting too close to the house and will cause damage
- Large and/or dead branches drop off in storms or wind
- Tree gets infested by aphids every year
- Leaves and seed pods block the eavestrough

Forestry staff inspected the tree on August 14<sup>th</sup> 2019. The tree which is requested to be removed is a honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), measuring 47cm at Diameter at Breast Height (DBH). The tree is in good health and with good structural condition. There was evidence of a minor honey locust plant bug infestation, this insect does not cause harm to the tree. There is some interior deadwood present in the canopy. The tree has a girdling root on the south side.

Operational staff inspected the tree again on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, noted that the tree is healthy but should be pruned for elevation, house clearance and deadwood removal.

Surface roots are a typical product of poor urban soils (compaction and poor watering) and they still provide mechanical support as well as nutrient and water uptake for the tree. Many of the trees in the city road allowance and in parks have surface roots.

The removal of trees due to surface roots is not recommended and would set a precedent that would affect thousands of city trees and possibly lead to the premature removal of many healthy trees.

### **Options Considered**

Root exploration via supersonic air tool or hydrovac under supervision of a Certified Arborist is an option to consider. This is a non-invasive method that would allow staff to identify major roots and determine whether some or all roots could be removed without compromising the structural integrity of the tree. If this option were to be considered, it would be at the expense of the homeowner and there is no guarantee that any root pruning could/would occur.

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**Financial Matters:**

Not applicable

**Climate Impact:**

Removal of a healthy tree is detrimental to a sustainable tree canopy.

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**Enterprise Risk:**

Not applicable

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**Conclusion:**

The City's Forestry section has reviewed the proposed tree removal and do not support the removal as per the recommendations listed above.

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Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Thornborrow

Supervisor of Forest Health and Planning

(905) 333-6166 ext. 6145

**Appendices:**

A. Photos

**Notifications:**

Alan & Lorraine Hogan

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Council. Final approval is by the City Manager.