



SUBJECT: RPF-36-20 Public Tree Removal Report – 2447 Orchard Rd

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-36-20

Wards Affected: 5

File Numbers:

Date to Committee: Select date

Date to Council: November 23, 2020

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove one (1) city tree in order to proceed with the submitted development application 20-469806.

Instruct the applicant, Stephen Albanese, IBI Group, to provide compensation for tree removal by providing cash in lieu of replacement totaling \$1,200.00. The funds will provide for new tree plantings elsewhere in the City and includes care and maintenance for the first two years.

Direct that a development related permit fee of \$680.00 plus HST is to be obtained as a condition of a tree permit.

Direct that all associated costs with respect to the removal of the tree (including stump removal) will be the responsibility of the applicant, and the contractor hired to remove the trees will require approval by the Manager of Urban Forestry or designate.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Background and Discussion:

The subject property is located south of Dundas St, North of Pathfinder Drive, west of Sutton Drive. (See Fig. 1).

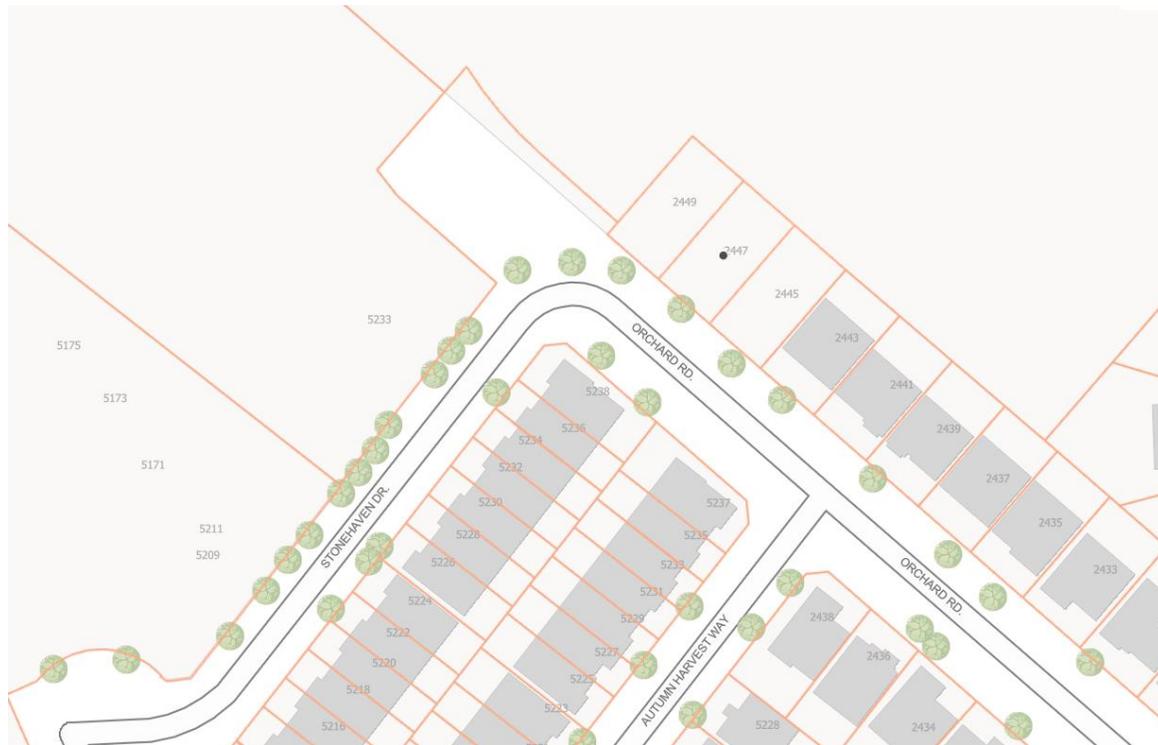


Figure 1: Subject Property, 2447 Orchard Rd

Forestry staff inspected the site on November 13th, 2020. The development application 20-469806 has been submitted as a proposed residence on a vacant site. The applicant originally requested the relocation of the tree, but given its size, likely underground utility conflicts preventing the ability to use a large tree spade, as well as considering transplant cost, the Forestry section does not support the proposal for relocation but endorses the removal of the subject tree with compensation as noted.

Strategy/process

One (1) tree is proposed to be removed due to conflicts with the proposed construction related activities, specifically the orientation of the proposed driveway as illustrated on the site plan submitted as Appendix 'C'. The subject tree that is proposed for removal is a 13 cm diameter hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) and at the time of assessment it was

found to be of good structure and physiological condition. Based on the size of the species, Forestry supports the request to remove the subject tree, under the provision that cash in lieu fees are provided to the City as compensation for canopy loss.

Refer to Appendix A – Tree Inventory and Compensation Form, completed by City staff, Appendix B – Site Photos for additional details, and Appendix 'C' for the proposed Site Plan.

Options Considered

Forestry staff conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed development application (20-469806). Given the location of the City-owned trees in relation to the proposed works, the tree cannot be retained.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$1,200 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for tree removal. These funds will be utilized to replace the loss in canopy within the City. In addition, a permit fee of \$680 plus HST will be required as a condition of the permit. The total costs of tree and stump removal will be borne entirely by the applicant.

Total Financial Impact

Indicate total financial impact, the timing of the impact, the risk. If none type “not applicable”.

Source of Funding

Identify funding source(s) e.g. operating budget, reserve funds. If none type “not applicable”.

Other Resource Impacts

Identify any indirect costs e.g. staffing requirements. If none type “not applicable”.

Climate Implications

The removal of trees is always a concern as they provide the most cost-effective measure of carbon sequestration, in addition to providing a host of other ecological benefits associated with climate change. It is critical that in cases where trees must be removed, that they are sufficiently compensated for in the interest of replacing the canopy loss long-term.

Engagement Matters:

Conclusion:

The City's Forestry section has reviewed the proposed tree removal, and support the removal as per the recommendations listed above

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Robinson

Manager, Urban Forestry

(905) 333-6166 ext. 6167

Appendices:

- A. Tree Inventory and Compensation Form
- B. Site Photos for additional details Site Photos (City Staff)
- C. Proposed Site Plan
- D.

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.