



SUBJECT: Public Tree Removal Report – 338 Johnston Drive

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-02-21

Wards Affected: 4

File Numbers: File No. B-014/18

Date to Committee: February 4, 2021

Date to Council: February 16, 2021

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove six (6) City trees in order to proceed with the proposed grading activities as part of a requirement of Conservation Halton to satisfy conditions identified in the applicants land severance application through Committee of Adjustment File No. B-014/18; and

Instruct the applicant, Tony Millington & Associates on behalf of Gurmit Kahlon, to provide compensation for tree removals by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$2,600.00. The funds will provide for new tree plantings elsewhere in the City which includes care and maintenance for the first two years; and

Direct that a tree permit be obtained for the removals and the associated development related permit fee of \$680.00 plus HST; and

Direct that all associated costs with respect to the removal of the trees (including stump removal) will be the responsibility of the applicant. 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 at the end of Johnston Drive, abutting General Brock Park to the north and the creek block associated with Roseland Creek to the west (See Fig. 1).

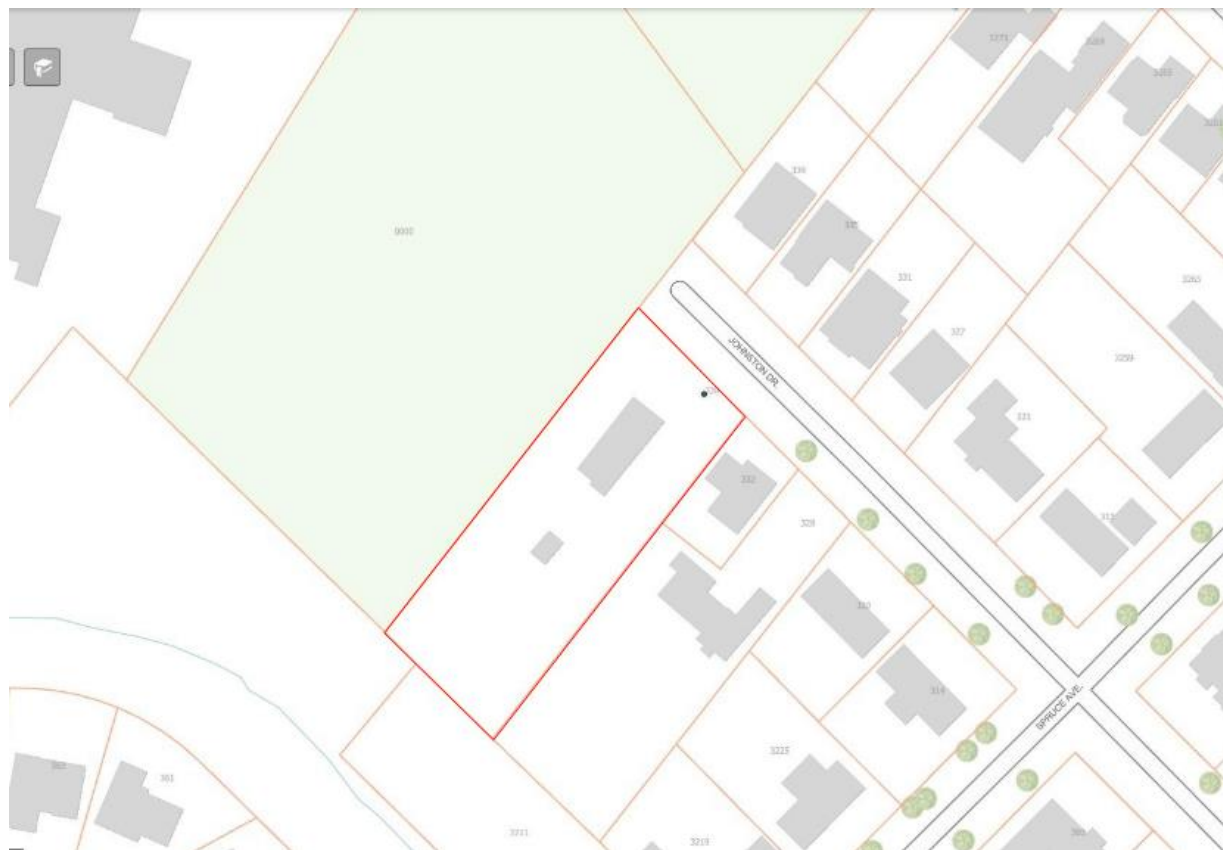


Figure 1: Subject Property, 338 Johnston Drive

Forestry staff inspected the site on November 4, 2020. The application to the Committee of Adjustment for land severance (File No. B-014/18) has been submitted to sever the existing lot at 338 Johnston Drive into three (3) parts; two parts (Part 1 and 2) are for future detached dwellings and Part 3 is for a proposed creek block to be dedicated to the City. Two (2) conditions must be satisfied in order to proceed with final consent which includes Conservation Halton approval, and a demolition permit to be issued and finalized for the removal of existing building.

In order for Conservation Halton to provide final consent for the land severance application, the applicant is required to fill and re-grade the existing lot as Conservation

Halton policies and regulations do not permit lot creation in hazard lands. In order to proceed with the grading and fill work requirements, six (6) City trees require removal.

Strategy/process

Six (6) trees are proposed to be removed due to conflicts with the proposed grading and fill related activities in order to satisfy Conservation Halton requirements for lot creation/severance. The subject trees that are proposed for removal are located along the fence line that separates the subject lot (338 Johnston Drive) and General Brock Park. The trees proposed for removal are as follows:

1. White Mulberry (*Morus alba*): DBH 15cm
2. White Mulberry (*Morus alba*): DBH 41cm
3. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*): DBH 25cm
4. Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*): DBH 13cm
5. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*): DBH 12cm
6. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*): DBH 14cm

One (1) of the proposed removals (a Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)) is an endangered species (species-at-risk), as identified and protected under the *Ontario Endangered Species Act*. Documentation associated with this tree was submitted by the applicant to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), classifying it as a Category 1 tree. Category 1 trees are considered 'non-retainable' trees that are in advanced stages of disease as a result of the Butternut canker. The MECP confirmed receipt of the report, and noted that the tree could be removed in 30 days following the December 4, 2020 report submission date.

All other trees are considered to be in fair to poor condition at the time of assessment. Based on the size and condition of the trees to be removed, and with the identification of a Category 1 Butternut and acceptance by MECP, Forestry is in support of the removal of the above noted subject trees provided compensation as noted is supplied to the City.

Refer to Appendix A – Tree Inventory and Compensation Form completed by City staff, Appendix B – Site Photographs for additional details, and Appendix C – for the Arborist Report and Tree Preservation Plan.

Options Considered

Forestry staff conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed grading and fill requirements in conjunction with the land severance application File No. B-014/18.

Given the location of the City-owned trees in relation to the proposed works, the trees cannot be retained.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$2,600.00 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for the tree removals. These funds will be utilized to replace the loss in canopy within the City. Note, no compensation for the above noted White Ash or Butternut trees is required due to the terminal condition of the trees. In addition to the cash-in-lieu fees, a permit fee of \$680.00 plus HST will be required. The total cost of tree and stump removals will be borne entirely by the applicant.

Total Financial Impact

Note applicable.

Source of Funding

Not applicable.

Other Resource Impacts

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:

Not applicable.

Conclusion:

The City's Forestry section has reviewed the proposed tree removals, and supports the removals as per the recommendations listed above.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Torchia

Supervisor, Forest Protection

(905) 333-6166 ext. 6121

Appendices:

- A. Tree Inventory and Compensation Form
- B. Site Photographs
- C. Arborist Report and Tree Preservation Plan

Notifications:

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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.