



SUBJECT: Public Tree Removal Report – 4417 Spruce Ave – Plan of Subdivision File No. 520-06/18

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-04-21

Wards Affected: 4

File Numbers: Plan of Subdivision (520-06/18)

Date to Committee: March 4, 2021

Date to Council: March 23, 2021

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove four (4) City-owned trees in order to proceed with the proposed Plan of Subdivision application File No. 520-06/18 as outlined in roads, parks & forestry department report RPF-04-21; and

Instruct the applicant, Zeeshan Jafri, Modeno Homes, to provide compensation for the City-owned tree removals by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$2,000.00. The funds will provide for new tree plantings elsewhere in the City which includes care and maintenance for the first two (2) 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 corner of Spruce Avenue and Tuck Drive, which will be severed into four (4) separate lots that will front onto Tuck Drive (See Fig. 1).

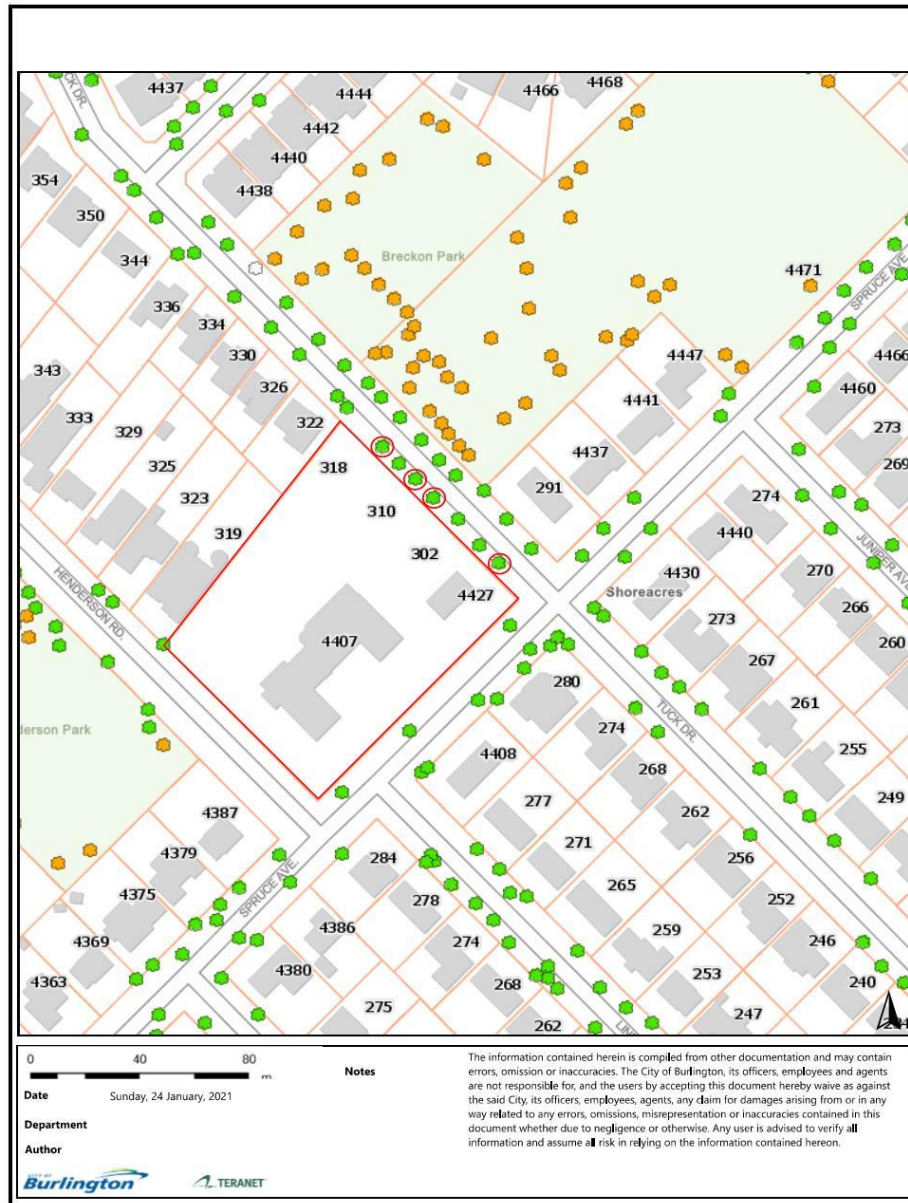


Figure 1: Subject Property, 4417 Spruce Ave

Forestry staff inspected the site on January 21, 2021. An application for Plan of Subdivision (File No. 520-06/18) has been submitted to create four (4) new detached residential dwellings. As part of a condition to satisfy their Plan of Subdivision, a Tree Permit must be obtained in order to facilitate the removal of City-owned trees in order to proceed with approval and construct the new dwellings. In accordance with the City of Burlington's Public Tree By-law 68-2013, Section 1.19 states, "The City Arborist shall not issue a Tree Permit for Trees located on Public Property immediately abutting Private Property for which a development application has been submitted, until such time as the development application has been approved and Council has also approved the removal of these trees".

Strategy/process

Four (4) City-owned trees are proposed to be removed due to conflicts with the proposed Plan of Subdivision. More specifically, two (2) trees will directly conflict with the proposed driveway construction (Tree No. 16 and Tree No. 18) and two (2) trees will directly conflict with the proposed sanitary/servicing line (Tree No. 19, and Tree No. 22) as described within the Scoped Arborist Report and illustrated on the Vegetation Management Plan submitted as Appendix C and D respectively. The subject trees that are proposed for removal are located within the boulevard of Tuck Drive. The trees proposed for removal are as follows:

1. Tree No. 16: Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*): DBH 6cm
2. Tree No. 18: Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*): DBH 7cm
3. Tree No. 19: Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*): DBH 5cm
4. Tree No. 22: Callery Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*): DBH 7cm

All of the trees proposed for removal are small in size and considered to be in good condition, in both health and structure at the time of assessment. Based on the size of the trees to be removed, Forestry is in support of the removal of the above noted subject trees 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 Photographs for additional details, Appendix C – for the Scoped Arborist Report and Appendix D – Vegetation Management Plan.

Options Considered

Forestry staff conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed plans with the applicant, which originally included five (5) City-owned trees to be removed, one of which was a 44 cm Norway Maple (Tree No. 20) shown on the Vegetation Management Plan (Appendix D). Through discussions with the applicant, measures were taken to redesign the site and the proposed driveway in order to save the tree. Additional review

of the remaining trees relative to the proposed sanitary/servicing installation and driveways was completed and given the location of the City-owned trees in relation to the proposed works, the trees cannot be retained.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$2,000.00 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. 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

Not applicable.

Source of Funding

Not applicable.

Other Resource Impacts

Note 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 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. Scoped Arborist Report
- D. Vegetation Management Plan

Notifications:

Name Zeeshan Jafri

zeeshan@modeno.ca

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.