



SUBJECT: Public tree removal - 1294 Coric Ave

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department

Report Number: RPF-25-22

Wards Affected: 2

File Numbers: ZC-501/21

Date to Committee: September 15, 2022

Date to Council: September 20, 2022

Recommendation:

Approve the request by the applicant to remove five (5) public trees in order to proceed with the proposed two-storey single family detached dwelling (ZC-501/21) as outlined in roads, parks & forestry department report RPF-25-22; and

Instruct the applicant, Konstantin Alekseev on behalf Constant Shape Design Studio, to provide compensation for the public tree removals by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$8,500.00; and

Direct that a tree permit be obtained for the public tree removals and pay the associated tree permit fees as outlined in the city's Rates and Fees By-law; and

Direct that all associated costs with respect to the removal of the public trees (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
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Background and Discussion:

The subject property is along Coric Ave just south of Glendor Ave which will be developed into a new two-storey single family detached dwelling (See Fig. 1).



Figure 1: Subject Property, 1294 Coric Ave

A consolidated pre-building permit application been submitted to redevelop the subject property. Additional private trees are expected to be impacted by the proposed build and those elements will be reviewed under the Private Tree By-law as part of the consolidated pre-building application review process.

Council approval to proceed with issuance of a tree permit must be obtained in order to facilitate the removal of public trees. 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

Five (5) public trees are proposed to be removed due to conflicts with the proposed re-development plan. The subject trees that are proposed for removal are located within the municipal right-of-way of Coric Avenue and are as follows:

1. Tree No. 6: Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*): DBH 24cm
2. Tree No. 7: Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*): DBH 16cm
3. Tree No. 8: Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*): DBH 14cm
4. Tree No. 9: Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*): DBH 22cm
5. Tree No. 10: Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*): DBH 28cm

The five (5) trees will directly conflict with the proposed development due to the limitations of the construction site, and expansion of the paved driveway in width from the current gravel driveway's size and location. Relocation of the driveway would result in the removal of a larger tree and therefore was not a consideration. Given the design, construction requirements and limitations of the construction site, it is not feasible to retain these public trees. As such, 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.

Staff also note that another tree within the municipal right-of-way is planned for removal (a Dwarf Alberta Spruce – Tree No. 1). Due to species and size, the City does not consider this to be a tree, and therefore it has not been included within this report's assessment.

Refer to Appendix A – Tree Inventory and Compensation Form completed by City staff, Appendix B – Supporting Documents for additional details.

Options Considered

Forestry staff conducted a comprehensive review of the proposed plans with the applicant.

Financial Matters:

A total of \$8,500.00 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for the public 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 tree permit fee will be required as prescribed in the City's Rates and Fees By-law (as amended). 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

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 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. Supporting Documents

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.