

Tracking Status

- This item was considered by Etobicoke York Community Council on July 4, 2018 and was adopted with amendments.

Etobicoke York Community Council consideration on July 4, 2018

EY32.65	ACTION	Amended		Ward:6
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Update on Request to Strengthen Tree Protection and Enforcement in Long Branch

Community Council Decision

Etobicoke York Community Council:

1. Requested the Director, Zoning and Committee of Adjustment, to alert the Etobicoke York Panel of the Committee of Adjustment and the Toronto Local Appeal Body of sections 3.1.2 (1d) and 3.4 of the Official Plan as they relate to preserving existing mature trees; providing suitable growing environments for trees; preserving plantable space for large canopy trees; and the City's 40% tree canopy target.
2. Requested Urban Forestry to undertake the following as part of their 2018 urban forest study:
 - a. Provide information on the correlation between loss of trees and approved severance and variance applications in Long Branch since 2012.
 - b. Investigate the feasibility of implementing a requirement for applicants to post a security deposit or bond considering the size and species of tree as part of applications to injure a private trees, similar to the requirement for City-owned trees, to ensure the tree survives the injury and construction.
 - c. In instances where there are no street trees, investigate the feasibility of requiring an applicant to bear the cost of planting a new tree on the City-owned portion of the lot rather than paying a fee to have it planted elsewhere.
 - d. Consult with the local Councillor and members of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association.

Origin

(May 9, 2018) Report from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

The purpose of this report is to outline the impacts on by-law protected trees in Ward 6 resulting from the tree protection and enforcement initiatives implemented by Urban Forestry including the creation of a dedicated Compliance and Enforcement unit and the process Urban Forestry undertakes to review and comment on Committee of Adjustment applications. The hiring of additional staff has greatly increased Urban Forestry's ability to respond effectively to alleged contraventions. In Ward 6, the average response time is 4.9 days.

Committee of Adjustment applications in Ward 6 involved a higher proportion of severances than that received in the Etobicoke York District. Urban Forestry requested denial of Committee of Adjustment applications more frequently in Ward 6 than the rest of the district. City-wide data shows that where Urban Forestry requested the application be denied the Committee of Adjustment panel in Etobicoke York district had the lowest rate of denial as compared with other districts.

Ward 6 has an existing tree canopy cover of 13 to 21 per cent. According to "Every Tree Counts - A Portrait of Toronto's Urban Forest" (2007), the Long Branch Neighbourhood has an average tree canopy cover of 26.5 per cent, close to the city's average tree canopy cover of between 26.6 to 28 per cent, and higher than other neighbourhoods in the ward. In 2018, Urban Forestry will undertake a study to determine the current state of the urban forest including a comparative analysis of the changes in the tree canopy cover since the last urban forest study.

Background Information

(May 9, 2018) Report from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation - Update on Request to Strengthen Tree Protection and Enforcement in Long Branch

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/ey/bgrd/backgroundfile-116261.pdf>)

Speakers

(June 6, 2018) Christine Mercado, Chair, Long Branch Neighbourhood Association

(June 6, 2018) Judy Gibson, Chair, Long Branch Neighbourhood Association Tree Canopy Preservation and Enhancement Committee, and Vice-Chair, Long Branch Neighbourhood Association

Motions

*1 - Motion to Adopt Item as Amended moved
by Councillor Mark Grimes (Carried)*

That Etobicoke York Community Council:

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 - d. Consult with the local Councillor and members of the Long Branch Neighbourhood Association.

Source: Toronto City Clerk at www.toronto.ca/council