

City of Toronto, Removal of Crabapple Street Trees



Policy

Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

Urban Forestry

TITLE: REMOVAL OF CRAB APPLE TREES THAT ARE SITUATED ON CITY ROAD ALLOWANCES

Policy Statement

City of Toronto Urban Forestry may remove healthy apple or crab apple trees where such trees are located on City boulevards and result in the fruit falling onto City sidewalks, private walkways and driveways, thereby creating a potential safety hazard. Approval is subject to the requirement that the adjacent property owner submit payment in the amount of \$350.00 that will be used to administer the process and subsidize the mandatory planting of a large growing replacement tree species on the site by Urban Forestry.

Application

This policy shall apply throughout the City of Toronto.

Purpose of This Policy

To establish a uniform protocol for responding to requests for removal of apple or crab apple trees located on City streets where a potential safety hazard is created as a result of fruit falling onto City sidewalks, private walkways and driveways.

City Council at its meeting held on December 4, 5, and 6, 2001, reaffirmed its policy to protect all healthy, City-owned street trees. City Council acknowledged however, that apple and crab apple trees can be a significant nuisance to some people (eg. the fruits attract wasps) and under some circumstances they are potentially hazardous and may cause injury.

Implementation (Process and Procedure)

1. Upon receipt of a written request from an immediately adjacent property owner for removal of a healthy apple or crab apple tree that is located within the City-owned road allowance such that the fruit falls onto City sidewalks, private walkways or driveways, thereby creating a potential safety hazard), the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation may authorize the removal of the tree subject to the following conditions being met:
 - a) the adjacent property owner submitting payment in the amount of \$350.00; and
 - b) there being a mandatory planting of a large growing replacement tree by Urban Forestry staff on the subject site, the species of which is to be determined in consultation with the adjacent property owner, provided that, in the opinion of Urban Forestry staff, space is available to accommodate a large growing tree; and
 - c) where a large growing replacement tree cannot be accommodated on site, Urban Forestry staff planting an appropriate alternative tree, the species of which is to be determined in consultation with the adjacent property owner.

2. Where more than one healthy tree (i.e., multiple trees) is requested for removal at the same address, Urban Forestry staff will ensure that the City's cost for administering the process and replanting at the site is subsidized. The standard fee of \$350.00 will be applicable for the first tree and a \$275.00 fee will be charged for each additional apple or crab apple tree.
3. Standard bare root stock will be planted by Urban Forestry staff as replacement trees. If the adjacent property owner wishes to have a larger balled and burlapped tree planted instead of the standard bare root tree, the property owner will be required to pay for the cost of the upgraded tree (currently \$424.00) in addition to the \$350.00 fee.
4. Where a request is received from an immediately adjacent property owner for removal of a healthy apple or crab apple tree that is located within the City-owned road allowance but where the fruit does not fall onto City sidewalks, private walkways or driveways, Urban Forestry staff will assess the merits of each request on an individual basis, consistent with the City's current tree removal policy and the City's commitment to protect all healthy street trees.

Recovery of City's Costs

The \$350.00 fee that is charged for this service is intended to subsidize the City's costs while providing residents with an accessible option for having a healthy, nuisance tree removed and replaced with a new and more appropriate tree for the site.

Note: If an adjacent property owner, at their own expense, wishes to have a private tree service company (contractor) perform the removal of the apple or crab apple tree adjacent to their property, Urban Forestry requires that they submit a completed "Agreement for Contractors to Perform Arboricultural Services on City Owned Street Trees".

The "Agreement for Contractors to Perform Arboricultural Services on City Owned Street Trees" enables a property owner to contract standard tree maintenance work to a City approved tree service company (at their own expense). This option is made available in the event that the property owner wishes to expedite the removal of the apple or crab apple tree and avoid waiting for City Forestry crews to conduct the removal.