



October 19, 2018

SPECIAL NOTICE: Queens Quay Tree Replacement

Next week, Waterfront Toronto will begin replacing trees that have failed to thrive along Queens Quay West from Yo Yo Ma Lane to Bay Street.

In total, 154 trees have been identified for replacement. As recommended by the City of Toronto Urban Forestry division, Waterfront Toronto will be planting different species, which, along with the thriving trees that will be retained, will form a more diverse, resilient and healthy tree canopy.

Along the south side of Queens Quay, 135 trees have been identified to be replaced with a combination of Princeton Elm, Valley Forge Elm, Skyline Honey Locust, Marmo Maple, Autumn Fantasy Maple, and Jeffersred Maple. On the north side of Queens Quay, 19 trees have been identified to be replaced with similar species.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING CONSTRUCTION

From October 22 to November 16, Aldershot Landscape will replace the trees using a phased approach with work beginning on the south side of Queens Quay at Bay Street moving west towards Yo Yo Ma Lane. Once the plantings are complete on the south side of Queens Quay, crews will commence work on the north side of the street. All existing tree and road infrastructure will be protected.

During construction, portions of the Martin Goodman Trail will be fenced off and cyclists will be required to divert onto the pedestrian promenade. We ask that all cyclists stay alert and use caution when entering the pedestrian promenade.

UNDERSTANDING TREE FAILURE ON QUEENS QUAY

Waterfront Toronto has been closely monitoring the performance of the trees along Queens Quay since the street reopened in 2015. While it is normal for a percentage of newly planted trees to fail, the rate of failure on Queens Quay was higher than anticipated. A number of factors contributed to the tree failure including the waterfront's unique climate and harsh winter/spring seasons from 2016-18.

Cold and damp weather has encouraged the growth of a fungal disease that causes the sycamore trees on the south side of Queens Quay to lose their first set of leaves and twig sprouts in the Spring. This results in significant dieback of major tree limbs and minimal leaf growth until late in the growing season. Excessive levels of road salt in the tree planting soil have also provided a challenge to the trees.

Although we will be replacing a large percentage of the trees on Queens Quay, we have done a thorough review to ensure that healthy trees be retained. Replanting with different species will help form a more diverse, resilient and healthy tree canopy on the street moving forward.

Waterfront Toronto is also working with the Waterfront BIA to introduce more sustainable methods of de-icing for Queens Quay.

The majority of trees being replaced are under warranty and will incur no cost. Waterfront Toronto will bear the cost of replacing those that are no longer under warranty.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Queens Quay revitalization, visit our website:
www.waterfrontoronto.ca.

Send your questions to info@waterfrontoronto.ca.