

July 21, 2020

Special Notice: York Street Park (*Love Park*) Tree Maintenance

Background

York Street Park (*Love Park*) is a 2-acre park located at the southern foot of York Street and Queens Quay West, designed to provide flexible public space in the southern Financial District and Harbourfront neighbourhood.

Construction of York Street Park (*Love Park*) is currently expected to commence in late 2020 and slated for completion in 2022.

[York Street Park's \(*Love Park*\) design](#) was presented to the public during the week of January 13, 2020 at 1 York Street, 88 Queens Quay West, and 20 Bay Street.

What to Expect on Site

In the coming weeks, arborists will be undertaking maintenance of trees on site in preparation for construction. This work is planned for those trees that will be retained as part of the park's final design. This work helps to ensure the health and longevity of these trees before, during and after construction.

The work will begin in the last week of July and take two days for completion and includes:

- Fertilization
- Dead wooding of old branches
- Installation of *cobra cabling*
- Air spading; and
- Root pruning

Dead Wooding

Crews will be removing/cutting away dead branches in the tree canopies. Dead wooding is a common and important part of maintaining tree health that helps prevent the spread of rot throughout the tree. Removing dead branches also reduces the potential for unanticipated branch fall-out in the public realm below.

Branch Bracing

Cobra cables will be affixed to some trees to help create a stronger branch structure by absorbing shock and stretch of branches over time. The cables will remain in place permanently. They are non-abrasive and extend the life of mature trees. When in the place, the cables will appear as black rope.

Air Spading & Root Pruning

Arborists will also be undertaking air spading and root pruning of the trees. Air spading removes soil from around tree roots using compressed air. The air compression tool used looks like a long rod attached to a small hose. Air spading is a safer, less invasive way for arborists to maintain root health than manual digging and avoids damaging the root system.

Once the soil is strategically removed, crews will be pruning the trees roots. Pruning is done in advance of construction on the site to minimize the risk of doing damage to important root systems during construction. Root pruning helps to encourage growth of new feeder roots.

Work Area

An area of 5-12 meters squared away from the impacted trees will be taped off while this work is taking place. The site will reopen immediately following completion of the work.

Site Access

Crews will be accessing the site through Queens Quay West at York Street. Service trucks will be on site, but there are no traffic impact anticipated as a result of this work.

Questions

For more information about York Street Park (*Love Park*), visit our website:

www.waterfrontoronto.ca.

Send your questions to info@waterfrontoronto.ca. We appreciate and thank you for your patience.