

Date: November 24, 2008



**TO: Board Members – Vancouver Park Board**  
**FROM: General Manager – Parks and Recreation**  
**SUBJECT: Stanley Park Forest Management Plan Progress Report**

---

## RECOMMENDATION

*THAT the Board receive this progress report for information and direct staff to seek community input on the Forest Management Plan.*

## BACKGROUND

The Stanley Park Restoration Project Recommended Plan of April 2007, under the “supporting legacies” section recommended that an update to the Stanley Park Forest Management Plan be created. On May 26 2008, the Board retained the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Forestry as a consultant to the management plan team.

## DISCUSSION

During the past summer UBC Forestry students undertook major data collection on site to provide the information base for the plan. Sample plots for measuring the present composition of all forest mapping layers were set for every hectare of forest. The plan does not deal with the policies of park use but is aimed at the current and future forest management. It has a time horizon of approximately 20 years. Given the changing maturity of the replanted forest areas, it should be reviewed and updated after 10 years.

The plan is being authored by Park Board arborist Bill Stephen, with data collection and analysis, professional advice and peer review provided by the UBC Faculty of Forestry. The plan is a two part document. The first part sets out the philosophy of the forest management process, including outlines of the major subject modules which form the structure of the plan. The second part is extensive and detailed appendices which are a season by season, year by year guide to the forestry staff outlining the type of work programs required and an assessment of the workforce, and hence cost, to carry out these work programs. These appendices will be a valuable tool in annual and capital budget plan development over the life of the forestry management plan.

This new plan differs in emphasis from the plan of the late 1980’s in that it focuses on the Stanley Park forest as an ecosystem as opposed to a dominant concentration on the trees

themselves. This is a reflection of current societal and environmental values and the strong partnership between the restoration team and the Stanley Park Ecology Society who have directly contributed to the content of the management plan.

The management plan draws heavily upon the Stanley Park Restoration Plan in terms of vision, goals and guiding principles. The plan format with its subject modules reflects the guiding principles of the restoration plan and describes them in terms of ongoing maintenance work as opposed to restorative projects. The appendices look at the three funding sources, operating budgets, capital budgets and the restoration fund of \$645,000, and set out proposals to maximize their benefits.

## **CONCLUSION**

The new management plan presents an extension of the beliefs and concepts that underpinned the success of the Restoration Plan. It sets out our assumptions about our role in the care and management of natural processes and the values we wish to project.

It also provides a detailed working document for the foresters who will carry out the work involved in managing the park forest. The next steps are to review the documents with the environmental organizations which have been involved in the restoration project, including Parks Canada. This will include community feedback mechanisms similar to the Restoration Plan such as website feedback, focus group workshops and an open house. Staff will come back to the Board with a finished document in the spring. Attached are condensed examples of the 8 subject modules and some examples of the detailed work programs for the forest managers.

Prepared by:

Jim Lowden  
Stanley District  
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
Vancouver, BC

JL:yf