



MOTION ON NOTICE

Cherry Tree Groves

MOVER: Commissioner Coupar

SECONDER:

WHEREAS:

1. For more than sixty years, Vancouverites have enjoyed a love affair each spring with the soul-stirring flowering plum and cherry trees that line our streets and grace our parks; this year, The Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival was awarded Canada's Best Garden Festival; and
2. In the 1930s, '40s and '50s, the staff initiated a number of significant cherry tree plantings—provided primarily as gifts to the Park Board: in the early 1930s, the mayors of both Kobe and Yokohama presented the Park Board with 500 Japanese cherry trees for planting at the Japanese cenotaph in Stanley Park, honouring Japanese Canadians who served in WWI; and so, as the impact of cherry tree plantings began to reshape the city's landscape, Vancouverites were soon smitten by their fleeting beauty, their clouds of blossoms, as they heralded spring's arrival each year; and
3. In 1958, three hundred more cherry trees were donated by the Japanese consul, Muneo Tanabe, reported in the newspaper as "an eternal memory of good friendship between our two nations". The ornamental cherries were planted along Cambie Boulevard, between 49th and 33rd Avenues, in Queen Elizabeth Park, and around the Japanese monument in Stanley Park; and
4. By the time the Park Board completed its first comprehensive street tree inventory in 1990, nearly 36 percent of the 89,000 trees on city streets were represented by trees of the Prunus genus—the flowering plum and cherry trees; and
5. The latest inventory shows 143,760 trees in Vancouver's street tree inventory. Presently 21.86% are in the Prunus family.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to identify locations suitable for the planting of new cherry tree groves (*Prunus* genus) within destination parks and gardens, which may include, but not be limited to, VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Queen Elizabeth Park, and Stanley Park, as well as on prominent boulevards and streetscapes across the city where mass flowerings in the spring will help to support the social, cultural, and tourism potential of the City, while also supporting the spirit and intention of Vancouver's world-renowned and award-winning Cherry Blossom Festival, winner of Canada's Best Garden Festival Award; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back with proposed locations and numerical targets that align with Vancouver's Urban Forest Strategy, ensuring the most benefits to the city in terms of beauty, resiliency to disease, and canopy cover.