



# Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

## Flowering Cherry Tree Grove Plantings

December 14, 2015

Visit the Park Board website at: [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)



## Recommendation

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to proceed with the installation of flowering cherry tree groves in Balaclava Park, Beaconsfield Park, Callister Park, Earles Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, and Slocan Park, with final tree locations and quantities subject to the park planning process and public consultation, and in adherence to the Urban Forest Strategy.



## Background - Board Motion April 27, 2015

- 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... 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.

## Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival - 10<sup>th</sup> year





# Discussion - Thirteen groves over six parks

The Park Board recommended planting sites are shown below

## Cherry Tree planting (Proposed Parks)



# Discussion - Queen Elizabeth Park

Staff recommend five planting sites within QE Park



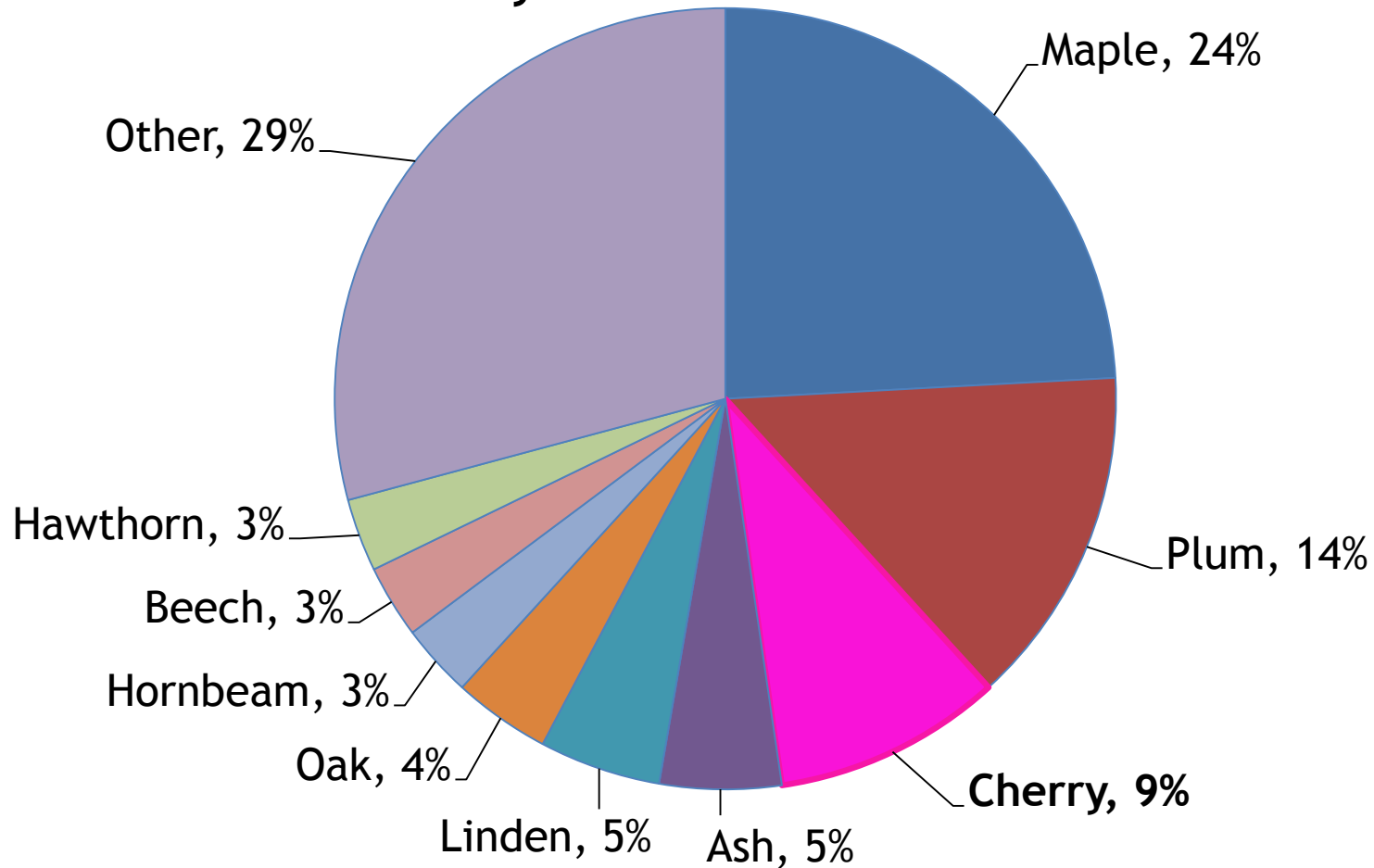


A variety of cherry trees with different colours & flowering times will be used



## Species representation - street trees

The chart below shows the breakdown of street tree species across the City





Unfortunately, flowering cherry trees can be susceptible to a variety of pathogens



Tortrix moth



Bacterial canker



Graft union malfunction



# Discussion - Cherry trees within the context of the Urban Forest Strategy

A wise precaution against known and unknown diseases is to avoid the overabundance of closely related trees

## Flowering cherry trees by numbers

Taxonomic grouping	Maximum limit %	Present numbers	Present % (of all street trees)
Rose Family	30 %	43, 490	30.2 %
Prunus Genus	20 %	31, 267	21.7 %
<b>Flowering cherry species</b>	<b>10 %</b>	<b>13, 518</b>	<b>9.4 %</b>
Most common cultivated variety ( Kwanzan )	5 %	10, 686	7.4 %
All types of flowering ornamental trees		51,156	35.5 %
All types of street trees ( current date )		143, 567	

The Park Board has planted 4,500 flowering cherry trees since 1990



For generations, ornamental flowering cherry trees have provided joy and beauty





## Next Steps

- Groves could be in the ground for the 2016 spring blossom season
- Actual number of trees planted to be confirmed pending park planning process and public consultation





## Recommendation

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to proceed with the installation of flowering cherry tree groves in Balaclava Park, Beaconsfield Park, Callister Park, Earles Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, and Slocan Park, with final tree locations and quantities subject to the park planning process and public consultation, and in adherence to the Urban Forest Strategy.



VANCOUVER

BOARD OF PARKS  
AND RECREATION