



Assessment and Mitigation of Forest Fire Risk in Stanley Park

Excerpted from Minutes July 10, 2023

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MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

Amendments MOVED by Commissioner Howard

Final motion as amended:

1. The [Stanley Park Forest Management Plan \(2009\)](#) was implemented subsequent to the 2006 windstorm which blew down over 10,000 trees in Stanley Park. The management plan accurately predicted that the Hemlock Looper moth was an expected threat to forest canopy. This risk materialized in 2020-2023, killing most of the Western Hemlock and leaving an estimated 20% of the mature forest as standing dead trees.
2. The Stanley Park Forest Management Plan (2009) also predicts that wildfire poses a substantial risk to the forested areas of Stanley Park. The management plan has not been updated since March 23, 2009.
3. The [Urban Forest Strategy \(2018 Update\)](#) report acknowledged that climate change was raising threats to forest health, including the risk of forest fire, and proposed Action 33

Action 33: Work with Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services to update procedures for preventing, minimizing, and controlling wildfire in urban forests.
4. Unlike previous eras, climate change, erratic weather, and extended drought periods are now routinely experienced in Vancouver.
5. The Stanley Park Forest Management Plan (2009) did not directly incorporate indigenous perspectives on wildfire risk in Stanley Park.
6. Residents often observe Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service activity in Stanley Park regarding fires in stumps, roots and duff.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to develop an updated risk mitigation plan, including measures to address and/or remove dead trees and other materials that might constitute a wildfire fuel risk, working closely with Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, including estimated costs and implementation timelines of any recommended actions.

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to engage with the x̣ẉṃə̣θ̣ḳẉə̣ỵəm (Musqueam), Sḳẉx̣ẉụ́7̣mesh (Squamish), and sə̣ḷiḷẉə̣ṭə̣ł̣ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations to ensure that Indigenous perspectives on wildfire risk in Stanley Park are incorporated in the mitigation plan and any associated recommendations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY