



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

September 1, 2022

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Looper Moth Infestation – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

We want to provide you with the latest information on the ongoing Hemlock Looper moth infestation, affecting many trees in Stanley Park and its surrounding area. We are receiving numerous media inquiries as the damage to these trees is becoming increasingly visible.

The Hemlock Looper moth feasts on coastal coniferous species - primarily western Hemlocks, which makes Stanley Park with its abundance of Hemlock, particularly vulnerable. Typically, Looper moth infestations run for 3-4 consecutive years, with Stanley Park currently in its fourth year of an outbreak. Larvae hatch in the spring and aggressively feed on foliage, with most damage occurring between July and October.

The current state: a significant portion of the park is affected, particularly near Lions Gate Bridge. This outbreak is also heavily affecting parts of West and North Vancouver, where many trees are showing signs of infestation.

Our Urban Forestry team is working to fully understand the extent of the damage and determine a course of action. Our mitigation efforts for this outbreak will prioritize high-risk trees first. Affected trees and trees that may be dead are of low risk in the short term, but, with time, may present more risk as the wood decomposes. The team is keeping a close eye on the impacted trees and will actively remove any that pose a risk to visitors to the park.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Donnie Rosa', written in a cursive style.

Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)
General Manager - Parks and Recreation

/jpb

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Communications