



May 9, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Park Operations

SUBJECT : **Stanley Park - Hemlock Looper and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Update - Board Briefing Memo**

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Hello Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide a progress update regarding recent Phase III Advanced Hemlock Looper work in Stanley Park.

Starting in January 2025, Urban Forestry and B.A. Blackwell successfully led a team of subcontractors to undertake essential tree removal work while keeping Stanley Park open to the public. Phase III Advanced work targeting the removal of dead and dying trees impacted by the hemlock looper moth across 44 ha (17%) of high priority forested area is now complete (Appendix A). Below is a summary of work completed by subcontractors between January 2025 and April 2025:

- **44 ha (17%)** of forested area was treated in Phase III Advanced and a total of **152 ha (58%)** of Stanley Park's 263 ha of forest areas have now been treated for public safety risks;
- **1202 trees** over 20cm DBH have been treated; and
- **1284 trees** under 20cm DBH have been treated.

Treatment Area	Trees over 20cm DBH	Trees under 20cm DBH
Hollow Tree	175	194
Merilees	182	253
Trails	468	511
North Lagoon	377	326
<b>Total Phase III Advanced</b>	<b>1202</b>	<b>1284</b>
Total Phase II	693	636
Total Phase I	3658	3543
<b>Total All Phases</b>	<b>5553</b>	<b>5463</b>

- **Eight (8) loads of firewood** were delivered to local First Nations for longhouse and ceremonial use;
- **78 loads** (1560 metric tonnes) of brush and fine fuels were removed from the park and chipped into green waste; and
- The total volume of logs hauled to a scaling yard and total net revenue generated from the logs is still under review, but the following is a breakdown of species hauled to a scaling yard:

Species	Volume (m3)	Percentage (%)
Fir	17	2
Hemlock	803	92
Cedar*	46	5
Balsam	2	<1
Alder	2	<1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>100%</b>

For clarity, please note the following:

*\*Only four Cedar trees were removed due to major structural defects, and only one had a hazardous top removed during this phase of work.*

*\*\*The majority of the wood material sent to the scaling yard were pulp grade hemlock logs, which do not have a significant value and did not cover the cost of transport.*

- **44 m<sup>3</sup> of logs have been set aside for the local First Nations**, consisting of Fir and Cedar. Delivery of this material will be coordinated.

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Restoration efforts have been completed in all Phase II and advanced Phase III treatment areas including a contribution of donated seedlings from Western Forest Products.

Species	Total Trees Planted	Percentage
Western Red Cedar	18,888	64%
Douglas Fir	3,690	13%
Sitka Spruce	3,150	10%
Grand Fir	2,898	10%
Red Alder	450	2%
Pacific Yew	111	<1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,187</b>	<b>100%</b>

Urban Forestry Crews have also been and will continue to be in the park dealing with individual hazard trees as necessary.

We are thankful for the input and support we have received from local Nations to date, from plant species selection to site monitoring during archaeological assessments. Park Board staff were privileged to attend and support separate planting events with the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and we look forward to continued communication and collaboration with MST as we advance planning for the next phase of work.

A scope of work for the next phase of treatment is being prepared and more information is forthcoming.



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Thank you for your continued support around the delivery of this essential tree work.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amit Gandha".

Amit Gandha  
Director, Park Operations  
SJ/AG/JM

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Communications

## Appendix A

### Stanley Park Hemlock Looper Mitigation Work - Fall 2024 & Spring 2025

