



March 19, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Steve Jackson, General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Stanley Park Hemlock Looper & Wildfire Risk Mitigation Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

Risk mitigation work has been advancing in response to tree mortality induced by the Hemlock Looper (HL) outbreak that has affected approximately 160,000 trees in Stanley Park. Since June 2023, Urban Forestry staff and Contractor (Blackwell) have undertaken removals of dead and dying trees in high use areas of the Park.

The highest priority areas that have been addressed include the Miniature Train area, the Causeway, Pipeline Road and Prospect Point. Priority removals were also completed by UF crews around the Tea House, Rawlings Trail and 2nd Beach. March data is forthcoming, but as of February 29, 2024, the following has been completed:

- Over **60ha** (23%) of Stanley Park's 263ha of forest areas have been treated;
- Approx. **4000 trees** over 20cm DBH have been felled;
- Approx. **3000 trees** under 20cm DBH have been felled;
- **107 loads** (1500 metric tonnes) of brush/fine woody debris converted to green waste;
- **47 loads** (2214 cubic meters) of logs removed and sent to a scaling yard for processing generating approximately \$20,000 which will go back into the project; and
- **39 logs** (mostly Douglas fir) have been reserved for First Nations at the scaling yard.

Project planning and scheduling has accounted for: the Miniature Train opening (Dec 2023); areas required for CAP5 mobilization; events and filming schedules; Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure protocols for Causeway closures; bird nesting season (Sept – March); and archaeological resources.

As mitigation work winds down to accommodate nesting season, the next phase of work is restoration tree planting (Attachment A) in treated areas. Approximately 25,000 seedlings will be planted in March/April 2024. This includes a variety of native species such as western red cedar, Douglas-fir, grand fir, Sitka spruce, and red alder to support a more resilient forest ecosystem.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the next phase of work closed on March 14th, 2024. The scope will address priority treatments (Attachment B) in forest areas at the Aquarium, Brockton Point, Chickadee Trail and a portion of the seawall west of Lion's Gate Bridge. The final schedule and scope of work will be dependent upon pricing and the extent of mitigation in each treatment area. Once RFP evaluations are complete and the next contract awarded, Urban Forestry will advance planning including prescription preparation, archaeology permits, communication plans, ongoing MST collaboration and updates to stakeholders.



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Thank you for your consideration of this memo and we look forward to the site walk scheduled for March 21, 2024, to discuss further.

Regards,

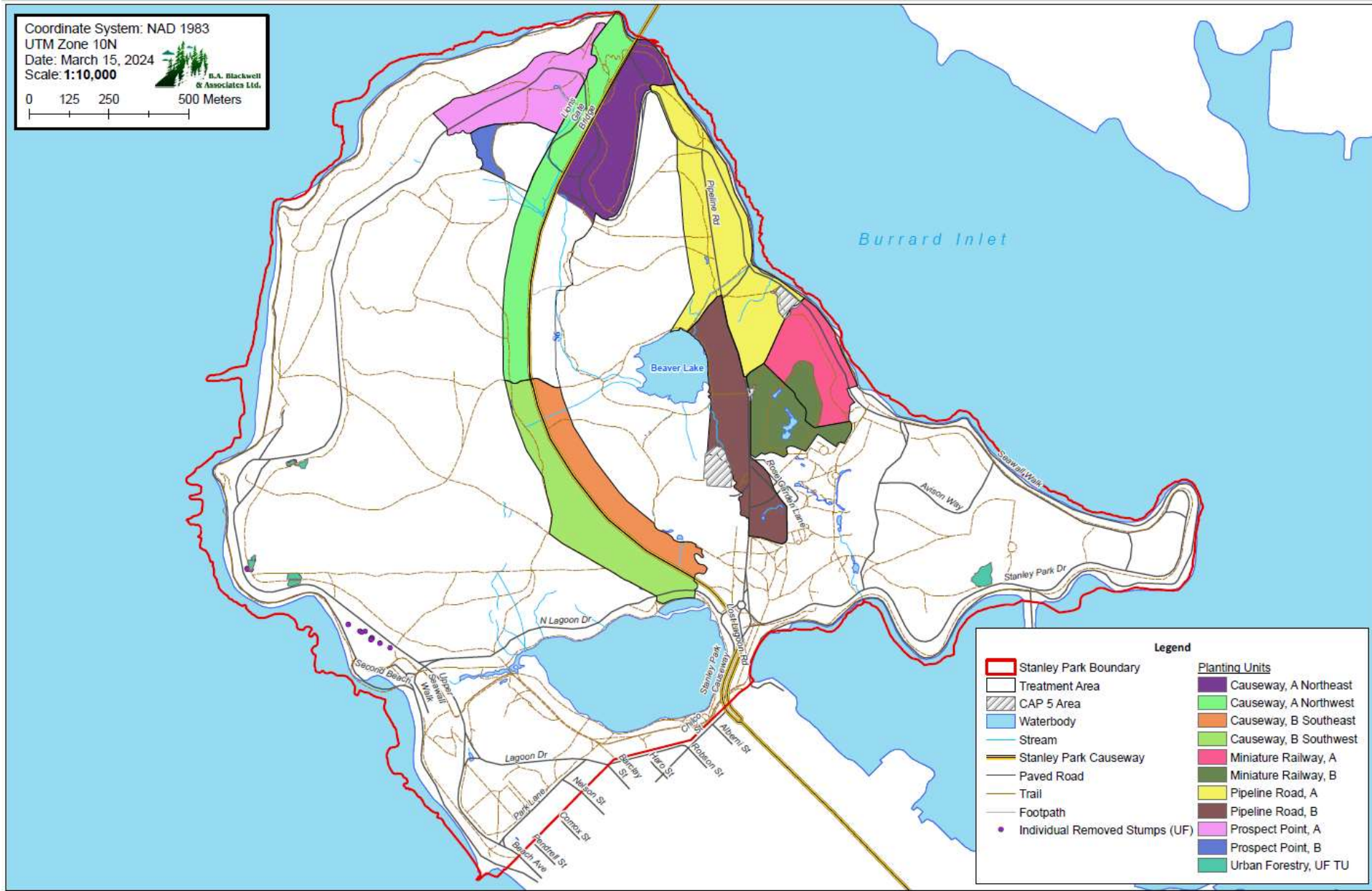
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Jackson
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

jm/ag/jk/cl

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications

ATTACHMENT A: PLAN ILLUSTRATING AREAS FOR PHASE 1/SPRING 2024 RESTORATION SEEDLING PLANTING



(NOTE THE EXTENT OF THIS WORK IS STILL PENDING AWARD OF CONTRACT)

