



February 7, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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

Hello Commissioners,

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

Starting in October 2024, 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 II work to target the removal of dead and dying trees impacted by the hemlock looper moth across 41 ha (15%) of high priority forested area is now complete. Below is a summary of work completed by subcontractors between October 2024 and December 2024:

- **41 ha (15%)** of forest area was treated in Phase II and a total of **108 ha (41%)** of Stanley Park’s 263 ha of forest areas have now been treated;
- **693 trees** over 20cm DBH have been felled; and
- **636 trees** under 20cm DBH have been felled.

Treatment Area	Trees over 20cm DBH	Trees under 20cm DBH
Chickadee	66	103
Aquarium	205	133
Seawall	225	314
Siwash	90	31
Brockton	107	55
Total Phase II	693	636
Total Phase I	3658	3543
Total All Phases	4351	4179

- **Four (4) loads of firewood** were delivered to local First Nations for longhouse and ceremonial use;
- **40 loads** (800 metric tonnes) of brush and fine fuels were removed from the park and chipped into green waste; and
- **8 loads** were hauled to a scaling yard generating 350 m³ of logs with the following species summary:



Species	Volume (m3)	Percentage (%)
Fir	7	2
Hemlock	325	93
Cedar*	15	4
Balsam	2	<1
Alder	<1	<1
TOTAL	350	100%

- **The total net revenue generated from the logs is -\$1509**** after paying hauling costs of \$11,610 and selling the material for \$10,101.
- **18 m³ of logs have been set aside for the local First Nations**, consisting of Fir and Cedar. Delivery of this material will be coordinated upon completion of Advanced Phase III works.

For clarity, please note the following:

**Only a few Cedar trees were treated in this phase of work, and it consisted of the removal of hazardous tops or limbs. No Cedar trees were felled in their entirety. The majority of Cedar came from failed trees during the fall weather events. Any cultural wood generated has been sent to and is set aside at the scaling yard for distribution to interested local Nations.*

***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. The revenue loss from this Phase II work will be covered by the revenue from Phase I work.*

Advanced Phase III work approved at the [December 9 Board Meeting](#) is underway on the West side of the park, along Stanley Park Drive and North Lagoon Drive. This work will be complete in March 2025 to respect the bird nesting window. Afterwards, reforestation efforts will be undertaken in all Phase II and advanced Phase III treatment areas.

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

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 and we look forward to their continued communication and collaboration as we advance the upcoming planting and planning for the next phase of work.

A scope of work for the next phase of treatment is being prepared. The scope of work will address priority treatments in the forested areas remaining in the interior of the park, along high use trails and adjacent to park assets.



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

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

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Jackson".

Steve Jackson
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

JM/AG/VT

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications