



April 17, 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,

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

Since June 2023, Urban Forestry staff have been removing dead and dying trees impacted by the Hemlock Looper (HL) outbreak in Stanley Park. Starting in October 2023, UF and B.A. Blackwell successfully led a team of subcontractors to undertake essential tree removal work while keeping Stanley Park open to the public. Work to target the removal of dead and dying trees impacted by the hemlock looper moth across 67ha (25%) of high priority forested area is now complete. Below is a species summary of trees removed and/or treated by subcontractors between October 2023 and March 2024:

| Treatment Area | Trees over 20cm DBH | Trees under 20cm DBH |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| North Causeway* | 1640 | 1314 |
| South Causeway | 761 | 790 |
| Prospect Point | 371 | 650 |
| Pipeline | 639 | 592 |
| Railway | 247 | 197 |
| TOTAL | 3658 | 3543 |

- **67ha** (25%) of Stanley Park’s 263ha of forest areas have been treated;
- **3658 trees** over 20cm DBH have been felled;
- **3543 trees** under 20cm DBH have been felled;
- **Six (6) loads of firewood** were delivered to local First Nations for longhouse and ceremonial use;
- **One (1) load of firewood** was delivered to Vancouver Police Department to support the On the Land Cultural Training Program;
- **142 loads** (2,130 metric tonnes) of brush and fine fuels were removed from the park and chipped into green waste; and
- **63 loads** were hauled to a scaling yard generating 2,956 m³ of logs with the following species summary:



| Species | Volume (m3) | Percentage (%) |
|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Fir | 286 | 10 |
| Hemlock | 2603 | 88 |
| Cedar** | 23 | 1 |
| Balsam | 4 | <1 |
| Alder | 2 | <1 |
| Spruce | <1 | <1 |
| Cull (various) | 38 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 2956 | 100% |

- **The total net revenue generated from the logs is \$30,069.77 (\$10.55/m³)** after paying hauling costs of \$72,275.68.
- **105 m³ of logs (~4%) have been set aside for the local First Nations**, consisting of Fir and Cedar. Delivery of this material is still being coordinated and will be paid out of the remaining net revenue.
- **Approx. 700 trees** over 20cm DBH have also been felled by UF internal crews around Prospect Point, and various locations along Stanley Park Drive including at the Tea House, Second Beach, Rawlings and Kinglet Trails.

For clarity, please note the following:

** There remains approximately 6ha where trees have already been felled to mitigate the public safety risk, but log removal is deferred to fall 2024 to coordinate access and limit work in the bird nesting season, so final volume of logs removed does not consider that. Planting for this area will be coordinated at a later date.*

***19 cedar trees over 100cm DBH were assessed and treated due to poor and hazardous conditions. Treatment consisted of the removal of hazardous tops or limbs. None of these trees were felled in their entirety. Any wood generated has been sent to and set aside at the scaling yard for distribution to interested local Nations.*

This week of April 15 will involve the final stretch of reforestation planting for this phase of work (Appendix A). Across the treated areas, planting crews will have planted the following species mix:

| Species | Total Trees Planted | Percentage |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Western Red Cedar | 14,634 | 58% |
| Douglas Fir | 5,724 | 23% |
| Sitka Spruce | 1,530 | 6% |
| Red Alder | 1,404 | 6% |
| Grand Fir | 1,540 | 6% |
| Pacific Yew | 250 | 1% |
| TOTAL | 25,082 | 100% |



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

We are thankful for the input and support we have received from local Nations to date, from plant species selection to site monitoring during the planting process, and we look forward to continued communication and collaboration as we advance planning for the next phase of work.

A Request For Proposal (RFP) for the next phase of work closed on March 14, 2024. The scope will address priority treatments (Appendix B) in forest areas at the Aquarium, Brockton Point, Chickadee Trail, and a portion of the seawall west of Lion's Gate Bridge.

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

Regards,

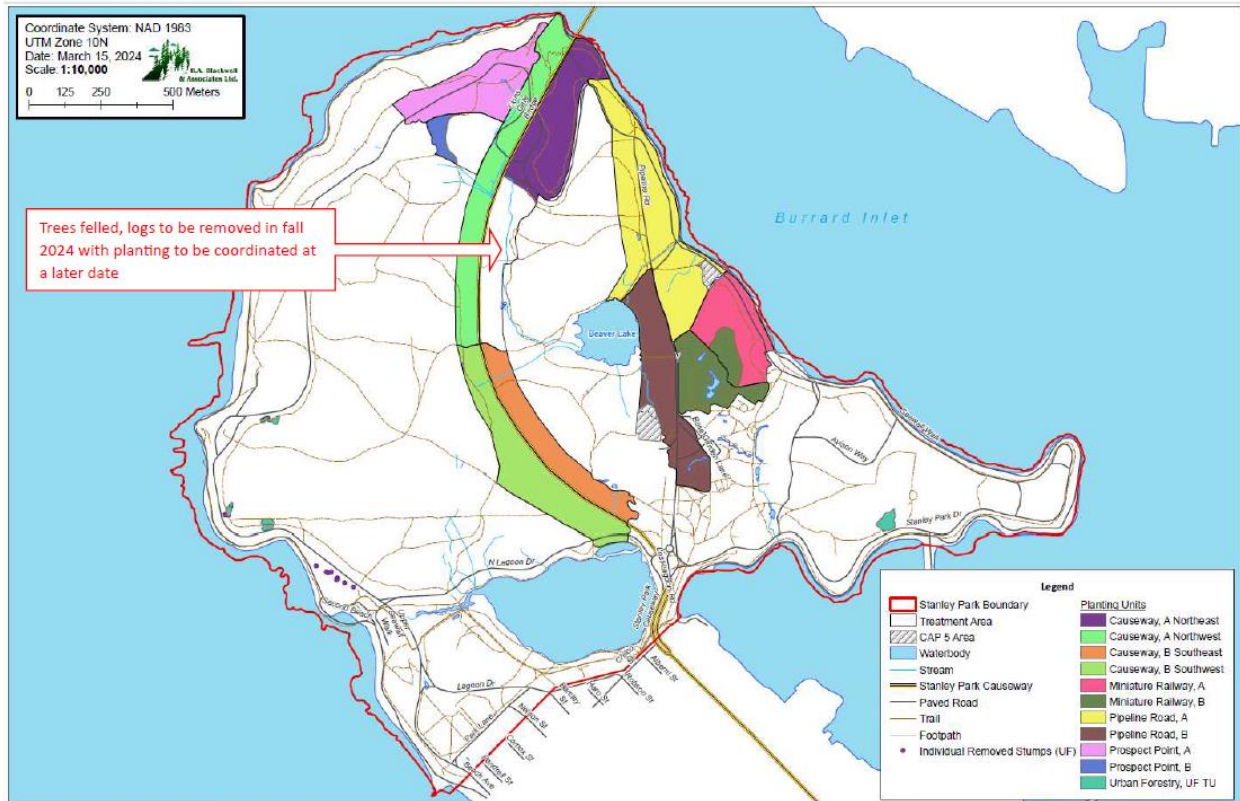
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Jackson
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

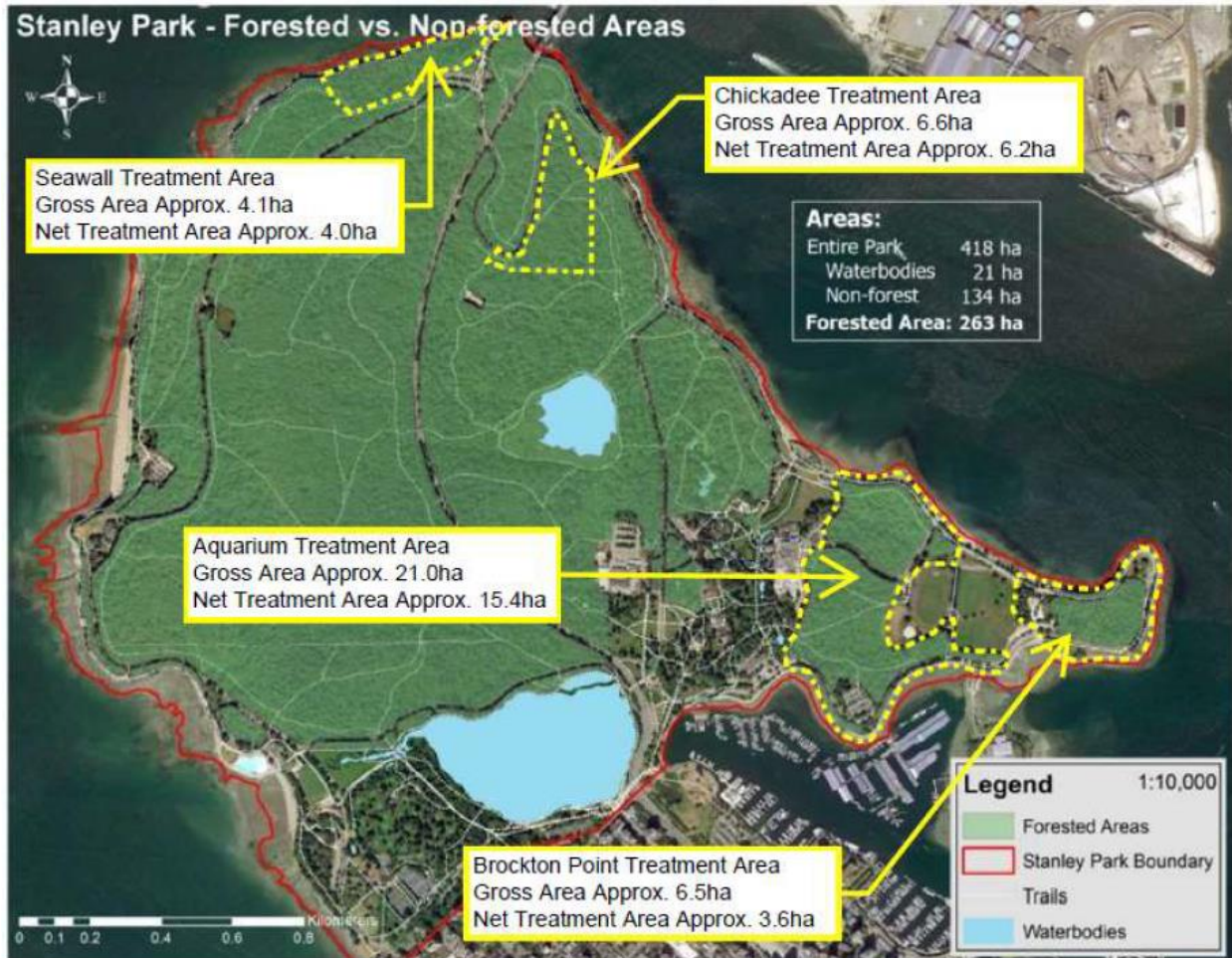
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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications

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



**APPENDIX B:
PLAN ILLUSTRATING PROPOSED PRIORITY TREATMENT AREAS FROM 2024 REQUEST
FOR PROPOSAL FOR TREE REMOVAL AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES IN STANLEY
PARK**



Note: The extent of this work is still pending award of contract.