



June 28, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Amit Gandha, Director, Park Operations, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Urban Forest Canopy Cover – Update – Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

The Park Board's Urban Forestry Department is pleased to share the recently completed 2022 Vancouver Tree Canopy Assessment report prepared by Diamond Head Consulting (DHC). DHC are also advancing updates to the Urban Forest Strategy which will be finalized by Q4 2024.

This canopy assessment updates the previous canopy analysis conducted in 2018 and offers valuable insights and trends on the current state of the urban forest. Data in this report is derived from aerial imagery and LiDAR data captured during the summer of 2022. The report underscores the City of Vancouver's ongoing commitment to urban forest stewardship and quantifies progress to expand city-wide canopy coverage. It also identifies focus-areas for future tree planting efforts that advance equity and climate-adaptation goals. This report provides critical data that will underpin the forthcoming Urban Forest Strategy update and associated actions and urban forestry initiatives to support a resilient, sustainable, and equitable urban forest canopy in Vancouver.

### Key Highlights

- **Canopy Growth:** Canopy cover expanded from 23% in 2018 to 25% in 2022, showing positive progress towards the target of 30% canopy cover by 2050.
- **Public Land Canopy:** 63% of the city's canopy cover is on public property despite only 45% of Vancouver's land-base being public property.
- **Private Land Canopy:** 37% of the city's canopy area is on private property and 55% of the land-base is private property.
- **Neighborhood Trends:** There are disparities in canopy coverage across the City's neighborhoods, with areas like Shaughnessy and Dunbar-Southlands having over 30% canopy cover, while Strathcona has less than 10%.



### Next Steps

This report will support strategic advancement of actions outlined in recent motions from both the Board and Council seeking expanded tree planting and Urban Forestry programs.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amit Gandha". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Amit Gandha (*he/him*)

Director, Park Operations - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Communications