



# Stanley Park:

## a tale of two management plans

Modified from a talk given to FRST100  
by Craig Farnden

# Stanley Park





# Park History

- Site of two First Nations villages and early European homesteading
- Last First Nations resident dies in 1923, last “European” in 1958

# Park History

- Extensive logging in 1860's through 1880's





# Park History

- Land is leased to City of Vancouver in 1888 by Federal Gov't
- Park dedicated by Lord Stanley in 1889
- First Park Board elected in 1890's
- Major recreation developments from 1890's through 1920's (beaches, trails, athletic facilities etc.)

# Park History

- Southern portions of park burned in 1886 Great Vancouver Fire



# Park History

- Major infestations of western hemlock looper (1920's and 1930's) and spruce budworm (1960's)





# Park History

- Control and mitigation efforts include logging, removal of dead tops, and aerial spraying
- 1918-1919: dead and dying trees removed from extensive areas surrounding Beaver Lake and behind Second Beach playground

# Park History

1949  
Image



# Park History

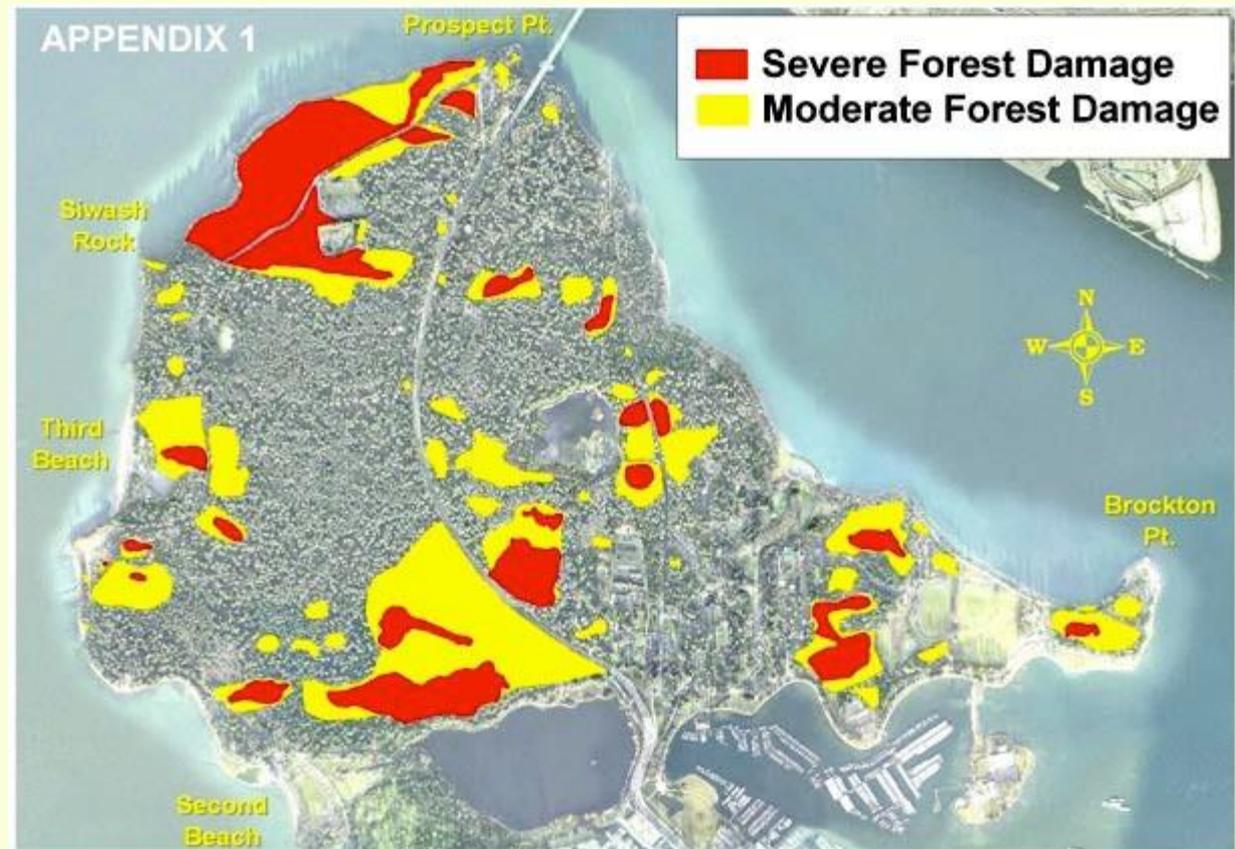
- Wind storms in 1934 and 1963 damage extensive areas of park

1963 “Typhoon Frieda” damage



# Park History

- Further wind damage in 2006





# Park History

- Eight pairs of eastern grey squirrels given to Park as gift from New York's Central Park (1909)
- Water lillies planted in Beaver Lake for 1938 Queens Jubilee
- 1970's: first observation of barred owls
- 1979: last record of Pacific red-legged frogs
- 1980's: coyote first observed in Park
- 1997: last record of pelagic cormorants nesting on cliffs; Beaver Lake down to 3.9 ha from 6.7 in 1938
- 1998: demonstration stream near aquarium stocked with 3 species of salmon
- 2009: lone American martin observed

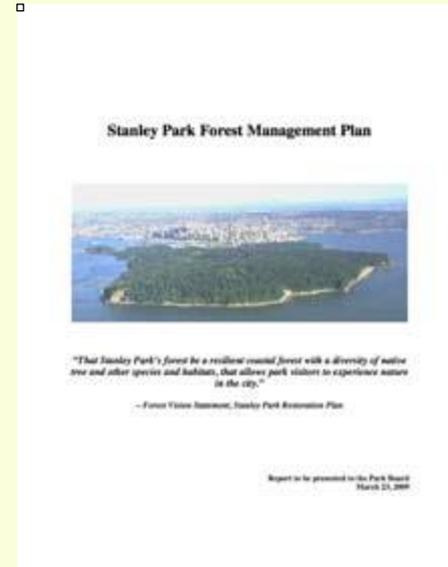


# Park History

*The landscape of Stanley Park is a dynamic hybrid of nature and culture, and its history brilliantly demonstrates this interdependence between people and their environments.*

Kheraj, 2010

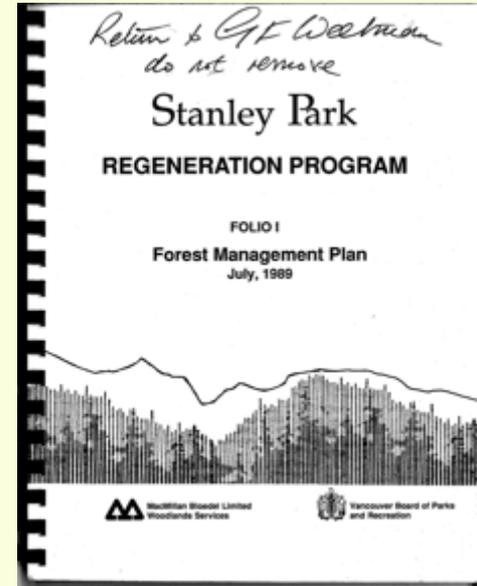
# A Tale of Two Plans



... a contrast

# 1989 Plan

- Park board entered negotiation with MB to be a corporate sponsor of the park
- MB scientists and professional staff worked with park staff to write forest management plan





# 1989 Forest Management Plan

- Ecosystem mapping
- Forest cover mapping
- Wildlife inventories and recognition of habitat requirements
- Explicit recognition of desired long term forest condition
- Recognition of long term development patterns toward desired conditions



# 1989 Forest Management Plan

- Explicit recognition of recreational use, public safety, visual quality and fire protection
- Explicit recognition of dual cultural history
- Prescriptions for planting, brushing and thinning
- Plans for pest management

# 1989 Forest Management Plan

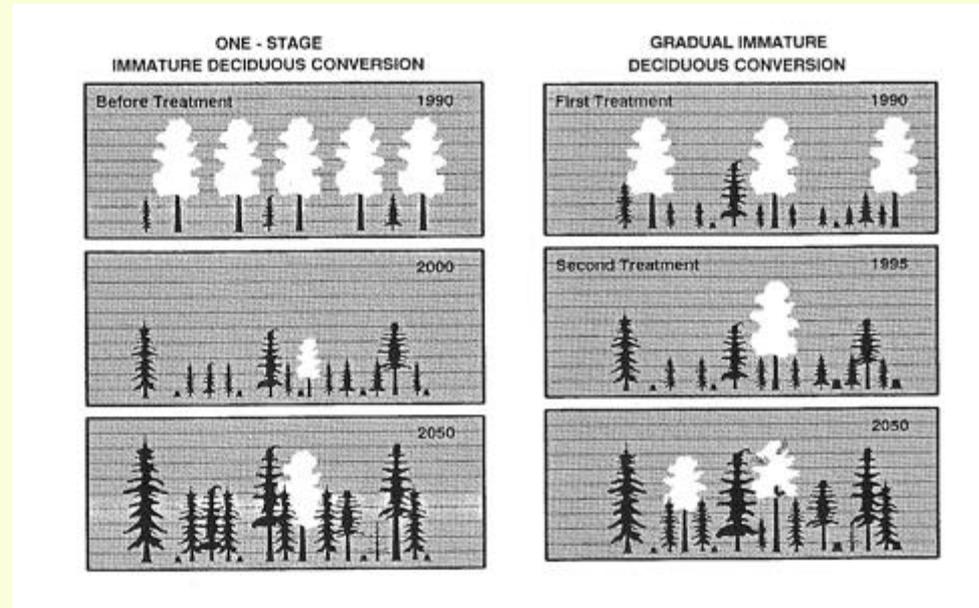
Detailed descriptions of current forest conditions

## MATURE STANDS

STAND NO. <sup>1</sup>	HECTARES <sup>2</sup>	SITE INDEX <sup>3</sup>	AVE. HEIGHT <sup>4</sup>	AVE. DBH (cm) <sup>5</sup>	AGE CLASS or Date of Establishment.	SPECIES <sup>6</sup> + %.	VOLUME PER HA <sup>7</sup>
6003	15.1	30	45	63	300	H6C3F1	571.5
6004	5.2	36	38	41	300	C7D3	236.1
6005	9.0	33	44	74	300	H6C3M1	493.2
6011	3.0	36	55	80	300	C5H3M2	346.9
6012	3.9	33	46	90	300	H8C2	473.9
6013	43.3	30	48	48	300	H5C4F1	447.2
6014	3.1	30	43	66	225	H5D3C2	417.3
6015	7.2	36	40	48	300	H5C3M1	404.6
6018	14.4	36	43	67	300	H4C4F2	415.8
6019	5.1	33	45	99	300	C7H3	99.6
6021	7.6	39	45	78	300	C6H3M1	438.5
6022	2.4	36	42	28	225	H8C2	217.5
6024	1.1	36	51	44	175	F4H3C2	511.0
6025	7.1	33	43	65	300	H6C2M1	590.3

# 1989 Forest Management Plan

Detailed descriptions of prescriptions and desired future forest conditions



# 1989 Forest Management Plan



# 1989 Forest Management Plan

However...

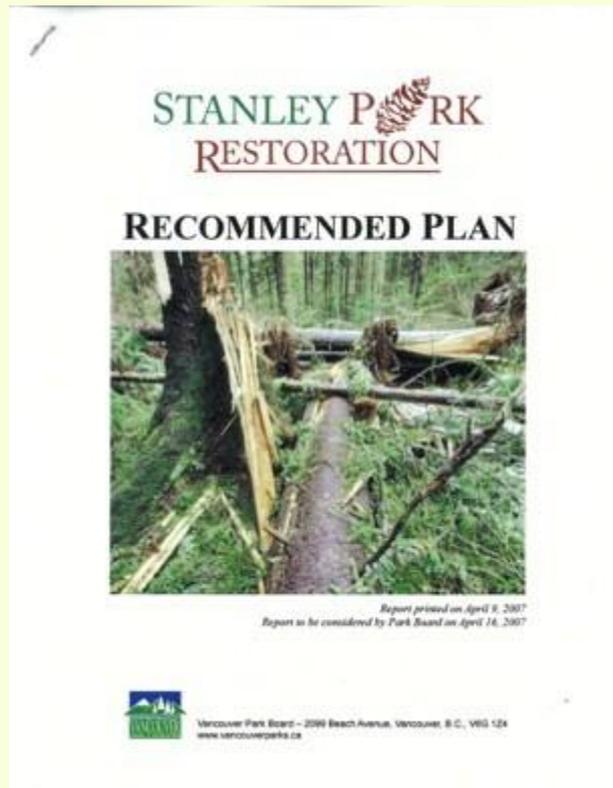
- Inventories were useful
- Reforestation prescriptions were useful
- Risk management plans were useful
- Etc.....



# 2006 Wind Storm



# 2006 Wind Storm



- foster a resilient coastal forest
- protect natural and cultural environments
- protect visitors and workers
- repair infrastructure
- create supporting legacies

# 2006 Wind Storm



**Extensive  
“industrial scale”  
restoration work**

# 2009 Forest Management Plan

- Logical follow-up to windstorm and recovery plan
- Wide range of input from Parks staff, SPES, public(s), scientific advisors

## Stanley Park Forest Management Plan



*"That Stanley Park's forest be a resilient coastal forest with a diversity of native tree and other species and habitats, that allows park visitors to experience nature in the city."*

*- Forest Vision Statement, Stanley Park Restoration Plan*

Report to be presented to the Park Board  
March 23, 2009

# 2009 Forest Management Plan



*“That Stanley Park’s forest be a resilient coastal forest with a diversity of native tree and other species and habitats, that allows park visitors to experience nature in the city.”*

*– Forest Vision Statement, Stanley Park Restoration Plan*



# Forest Management Goals

## Goals of Management Plan

1. Maintain the conditions that foster a resilient forest with a diversity of native tree and other species and habitats within the forest.
2. Reduce the risk of personal injury or property damage caused by failing trees or tree parts to reasonable level.



# Forest Management Goals

## Goals of Management Plan

3. Establish guidelines and work prescriptions that strike an appropriate balance between the healthy functioning of a forest ecosystem, and people's safe enjoyment of the park.
4. Establish resilient and healthy forests in the areas blown down in 2006.



# Forest Management Goals

## Goals of Management Plan

5. Protect the forest from large disturbances or from ecological threats.
6. Manage the forest in such a way that wildlife species and their habitats are protected or enhanced.



# Forest Management Goals

## Goals of Management Plan

7. Maintain the forest's contribution to reduction of atmospheric greenhouse gases by managing it for maximum productive health.
8. To provide a legacy of maps, data, and information that will form a baseline for ecosystem monitoring and public education.



# 2009 Forest Management Plan

- New ecosystem mapping
- New forest cover mapping
- Recognition of habitat requirements for sensitive species
- Explicit recognition of desired long term forest condition
- Recognition of long term development patterns toward desired conditions



# 2009 Forest Management Plan

- Explicit recognition of recreational use, public safety, visual quality and fire protection
- Explicit recognition of dual cultural history
- Prescriptions for planting, brushing and thinning
- Plans for pest management



# 2009 Forest Management Plan

- Invasive species management
- Management emphasis zonation

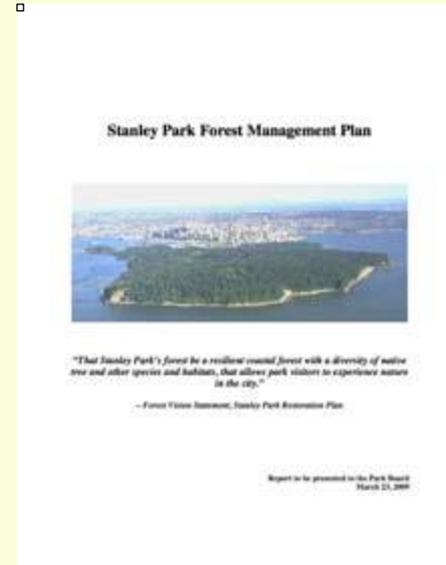


# 2009 Forest Management Plan

Outcome....

- Large degree of public acceptance (zero overt protests)
- Effusive praise from Parks Board Councillors
- Solid rationale for future management actions and budgeting

# A Tale of Two Plans



Why the different  
outcomes?



# Why the Difference in Public Acceptance?

The 1989 was an easy target:

- It was quite technical in its writing style
- MacMillan Bloedel was unpopular
- Focused on “what to do” rather than the reasons why
- Perceived to have a timber oriented focus



# Why the Difference in Public Acceptance?

A lot was learned in 20 years:

- Extensive public consultation at all stages
- Recruit potential opponents
- Use wide range of scientific input
- **TALKS ABOUT VALUES!!!**

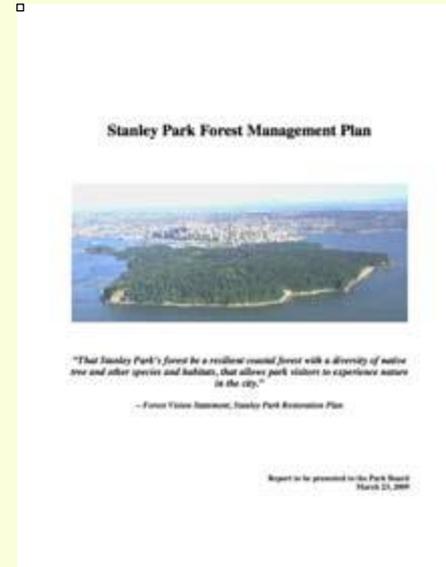
# Stanley Park Values



*“That Stanley Park’s forest be a resilient coastal forest with a diversity of native tree and other species and habitats, that allows park visitors to experience nature in the city.”*

*– Forest Vision Statement, Stanley Park Restoration Plan*

# A Tale of Two Plans



Which is sustainable?