



March 3, 2022

**TO:** Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
**FROM:** General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** FIFA World Cup 2026 – Updated Training Site Agreements

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**RECOMMENDATION**

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board, subject to the below Recommendations, approve the signing and delivery of the Training Site Agreement (revised and updated with a replacement Annex as described in this Report), Legal Opinion (updated from the opinion delivered in 2018), and any ancillary documents (collectively, the “Vancouver 2026 FIFA Documents”) to the Canada Soccer Association (“CSA”) and Federation Internationale de Football Association (“FIFA”) in support of Vancouver’s candidacy as a potential host city of the FIFA 2026 Men’s World Cup to be hosted by Canada, Mexico and the USA;

B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board, subject to the below Recommendations, enter into

a) a participation agreement with the Provincial Government (“Participation Agreement”), s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)

b) s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)

s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)

C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board component of the Vancouver 2026 FIFA Documents be delivered on such terms and conditions (“Release Conditions”) as are satisfactory to the City Manager, the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, and the City Solicitor, to ensure that such Vancouver 2026 FIFA Documents are not legally binding on the Vancouver Park Board unless and until such Release Conditions are satisfied;

D. s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)

s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)

- E. THAT the City Manager, the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, and the City Solicitor be authorized to execute and deliver all legal agreements contemplated by the above Recommendations (including for further certainty any related agreements between the City and other bid partners such as BC Pavilion Corporation, TransLink, or other related parties such as CSA, FIFA or any affiliates of them), and that the City Solicitor be authorized to execute and deliver all legal opinions and any ancillary documents required in connection with the Vancouver 2026 FIFA Documents; and
- F. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by the execution and delivery of any of the Vancouver 2026 FIFA Documents, the Participation Agreement, s.12, s.13(1), except to the extent authorized, executed, and delivered (by the City Manager, the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, and the City Solicitor in accordance with the Release Conditions.

## REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a status update on the progress of Vancouver's Host City Candidacy for the FIFA World Cup 2026, and the proposed Training Sites to be included in the host city package. Staff have reviewed the technical aspects of the hosting obligations required by the City of Vancouver by FIFA and the member association (Canada Soccer), and the legal obligations have been reviewed and outlined for Park Board's consideration.

## IN CAMERA RATIONALE

This report is recommended for consideration by the Park Board on the In Camera agenda as it relates to Section 165.2 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, which includes the following criteria for meetings that may be closed to the public:

- (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party] of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;
- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public.

Public release of the information at this early stage in the project could compromise Park Board and City of Vancouver.

## BOARD AUTHORITY / PREVIOUS DECISIONS

As per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within those parks.

In February 2018, the Board approved recommendations to sign and submit Training Site Agreements as presented in the report titled “[United 2026 Bid \(FIFA\) – Training Site Agreement](#)” in support of a bid to have Canada, Mexico and the USA jointly host the FIFA World Cup 2026 in North America.

**BACKGROUND**

United 2026, also known as the North American 2026 bid, was a joint bid led by the United States Soccer Federation, together with the Canadian Soccer Association and the Mexican Football Federation, to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In 2017, Canada Soccer solicited interested cities across Canada to participate in the United Bid, and at that time, the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Park Board confirmed interest and submitted the necessary bid documents, as well as key legal agreements with conditions, to be a Candidate Host City in the bid.

The United Bid required each Candidate Host City to submit four key FIFA legal agreements (see Table 1 below) to satisfy a complete bid submission by March 16, 2018.

**Table 1: FIFA Key Legal Agreements**

Key Legal Agreements	Signatory
1. Host City Agreement	City of Vancouver
2. Stadium Agreement	Pavco / Province of BC
3. Training Site Agreements (x4)	Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
4. Airport Agreement	Vancouver International Airport

Unfortunately, in March 2018, Pavco and the Province of BC were unable to agree to the terms of the Stadium Agreement and did not submit a unilateral executed agreement. As such, the United Bid removed Vancouver from the Candidate Host City list submitted to FIFA and Vancouver did not move forward in the bid process at that time.

**What happened between 2018 and now?**

Following is a timeline of the key events related to the FIFA bid from January 2019 to date.

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Jan 2018:	Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver Park Board supported Vancouver’s inclusion in a North American United Bid (Canada, USA, Mexico) for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
Mar 2018:	Vancouver was removed from the United Bid in March 2018, as PavCo and the Province of BC were unable to agree to the terms of the Stadium Agreement.
Jul 2018:	FIFA awarded the 2026 FIFA World Cup to North America (United Bid) over the only competitive bid from Morocco.
Jul 2021:	Revived FIFA interest in Vancouver as a Host City, <a href="#">s.12, s.16(1), s.17(1)</a>

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Jan 2022: **s.12, s.16(1), s.17(1)**  
 [Redacted]  
 [Redacted]

**s.16(1), s.17(1)**  
 [Redacted]  
 [Redacted]

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Feb 2022: FIFA provides deadline of March 11, 2022 for Vancouver bid partners to submit outstanding unilaterally signed agreements to complete bid submission package for Vancouver.

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**DISCUSSION**

**Key Park Board Involvement/Decisions:**

In 2018, the Park Board approved the required Training Site Agreements, which were signed and submitted with Annex’s identifying potential training sites and rental fees associated. The original sites proposed were:

- 1. Memorial South
- 2. Trillium
- 3. Empire Fields at Hastings Park
- 4. Jericho

In February 2022, the opportunity was presented to Park Board staff to reassess the original proposed training site locations and recommend (if necessary) new locations that better align with current planning conditions as related to [VanPlay](#), development of the Sport Fields Strategy, and ongoing capital renewal projects.

Guided by the FIFA specifications outlined in their training facility standards and requirements, Park Board staff identified eleven potential Park Board locations for consideration. Applying guiding principles of equity, service impact, programing, capital plan alignment, legacy, budget and accessibility, the following four (4) sites are recommended for consideration in the 2022 Training Site Agreements:

- 1. Killarney Park
- 2. Strathcona Park
- 3. Empire Fields at Hastings Park
- 4. Jericho West

If Vancouver is named a final 2026 Host City, FIFA will select two official training sites. Staff are working with federal and provincial partners to confirm capital funding support for training site upgrades to meet FIFA requirements. The amount of available funding and timing of confirmations are not known at this time.

**Training Site Rental Fee**

As part of the Training Site Agreement, **s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1), s.21(1)**  
 [Redacted]. Exclusive use

of the selected training sites would be granted 14 days prior to the start of the tournament until the last match is played in the Host City (potentially 45 days).

The daily rental fee previously submitted in 2018 has been adjusted to better reflect the staffing and services for the FIFA exclusive use period and ensure that the Park Board is ~~s.12, s.13(1),~~ [redacted]. The 2022 rental fee has been revised ~~from s.17(2),~~ [redacted] ~~s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1).~~ As such, we are recommending the FIFA Training Site Annexes will include an increased rental fee proposal to FIFA.

**City of Vancouver and Park Board Risk Mitigation**

Staff recognize that late entry into the bid process has expedited timelines to review and negotiate mutual acceptable terms for the four key FIFA legal agreements that bid cities must present, including the Host City Agreement and the Training Site Agreements. The full potential costs at this time are not fully known and the mechanisms to limit these costs are not in place by FIFA, Canada Soccer, or the National Host Government of Canada. ~~s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)~~ [redacted]

As a result, the City of Vancouver is working closely with the Province of BC and supporting bid partners to develop a reasonable order of magnitude that each of the FIFA contractual obligations impose. At this stage of the bid process it is not possible to provide the exact costs until further details are realized, including the number of matches confirmed, security and safety plans are finalized and final selection of training venues and ancillary event space needs are selected. It is expected operating and capital costs would be shared with the provincial and federal governments, and there is potential for contributions from private sectors partners and sponsors.

~~s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)~~ [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

~~s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)~~ [redacted]

[redacted]

~~s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)~~ [redacted]

For Vancouver to reach full status of a 2026 FIFA World Cup Candidate Host City, the 'release conditions' must be removed by the deadline of March 31, 2022.

**FIFA Legal Agreements Release Conditions**

To achieve the release conditions, and for Vancouver to be named an official Candidate Host City, s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)

[Redacted text block]

The release conditions must be met by the deadline of March 31, 2022.

**First Nations Collaboration**

The City of Vancouver, Park Board and Province of British Columbia have a deep commitment to fostering a sustained relationship of mutual respect and understanding with the local first nations, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh, on all matters, including cooperating to facilitate potential future FIFA World Cup matches in 2026.

This respects and supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 91, the Province of British Columbia’s legislation the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA), and Federal Government of Canada’s legislation the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDRIP).

As such, staff s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)

[Redacted]. A contact liaison has been nominated from each nation to allow staff to provide progress updates and outline participation opportunities as the work to enhance and secure Vancouver’s opportunity to be named an Official Host City for the FIFA World Cup 2026 continues.

Some envisioned collaboration opportunities include:

- s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

**Benefits**

The FIFA World Cup 2026 will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to host another global event in Vancouver. This is an opportunity to present our beautiful and diverse city, and promote what is unique about Vancouver and the people who live and work here. The exposure presented by the World Cup will form lasting impressions for visitors and broadcast viewers, further solidifying Vancouver’s reputation as a world-class event host and destination.

- **Strong Indigenous support:** The Vancouver working group includes representation from the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.
- **Opportunity for community engagement and legacy:** For the City of Vancouver, hosting the FIFA World Cup 2026 must be much more than what is hosted inside the stadium or what the score of the match is. The FIFA World Cup represents an opportunity to inspire and

engage our citizens, reaching people who have no interest in soccer otherwise. For hundreds and millions of people around the world, the sport of 'football' is the ultimate cultural expression.

s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

- **Incremental economic activity and a boost to the tourism and hospitality sectors:** Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the local tourism and hospitality sectors are shattered, and looking for future business confirmations to drive their long-term planning and support their recovery. The accommodation requirements to host a FIFA World Cup are significant and will provide future business certainty for hotel partners.

Canada Soccer and Sport Tourism Canada have conducted a review of the estimated economic benefit for Metro Vancouver if five matches were hosted in British Columbia:

- s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

- **Showcase Vancouver and provide a global platform to promote the City's priorities:** Along with enhancing Vancouver's sport hosting brand, the FIFA World Cup 2026 will provide a global platform for the City to promote its priorities including: Equity Strategy, Climate Emergency Action Plan and Culture|Shift.
- **Provide business opportunities in the lead up to 2026:** the runway to 2026 will include many other business opportunities including test events for BC Place, sponsorship summits, training camps, site visits and promotional events.
- **Ability to host the FIFA World Cup:** Without the joining of the three nations, Canada would likely not ever have the opportunity to host a FIFA World Cup alone. We do not have the stadiums or infrastructure to support this event in our country alone. The joint hosting is more compelling than if any one country tried to host independently, and allows Vancouver to leverage the upgrades to infrastructure already completed for the 2010 Games, with minimal further upgrades required.
- **Strong public support:** Soccer is one of the largest participation sports in Vancouver and British Columbia. Additionally, the recent success of the Men's and Women's National Teams has provided platform for increased growth and exposure. Further, given that there are only a few games and some practice facilities in operation, the disruption to the city would be in line with other major events hosted in and around BC Place stadium. This would create a small impact on the daily lives of residents.

**NEXT STEPS**

**Pathway to decision and beyond:**

The overall project timeline is outlined in Table 2 below (small chance dates will change if FIFA extends their timeline).

**Table 2. FIFA 2026 Project Timeline**

March 3, 2022	s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1), s.21(1) [Redacted]
March 7, 2022 <i>Park Board In Camera Meeting</i>	Park Board In Camera meeting to seek Board approval of unilaterally signed Training Site Agreements with updated proposed training venue sites and a new rental fee to include in Vancouver Host City bid package submission. Deadline to submit to FIFA: March 11, 2022.
s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1) g	s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1) [Redacted]
March 11, 2022	Host City Agreement and Training Site Agreements package submitted to FIFA with cover letter outlining conditions that must be met before they can be actioned.
March 15, 2022	s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1) [Redacted]
March 29, 2022 s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)	[Redacted]
March 30, 2022 <i>Council Public Meeting</i>	City Council public meeting. Staff to report and present implication analysis of being a 2026 Host City (costs, benefits, risks, etc.) s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1) [Redacted]



	<p>2. s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>3. s.12, s.13(1), s.16(1), s.17(1)</p>
<p>March 31, 2022</p>	<p>If Council approves release conditions, FIFA to publically acknowledge and declare Vancouver as an official Candidate Host City of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and Vancouver joins the official list of 23 Candidate Host Cities competing for one of the 16 official spots.</p>
<p>April/May 2022</p>	<p>FIFA's target window for publically announcing the final selection of 16 Official Host Cities from Canada, USA, and Mexico.</p> <p>Number of matches per host city and schedule of dates still to be determined – likely 2023</p>

**CONCLUSION**

Hosting a FIFA World Cup in Canada would not be possible without the opportunity of a North American hosting opportunity.

Vancouver can leverage the next four years to initiate exciting legacies in the pre-World Cup period, but more importantly measures must be taken to sustain these changes long after the event concludes -- this will be the success in hosting the FIFA World Cup in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Vancouver is very fortunate to have this opportunity to be reconsidered a potential Candidate Host City. A lot has changed since 2018, and the prospect of hosting events again to not only reconnect citizens but to stimulate the local economic recovery has more significant meaning. In addition the unprecedented success of the Canada's Women's and Men's National team makes this opportunity even more exciting for soccer fans.

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