



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

November 8, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners
FROM : Director, Park Planning and Development
SUBJECT : **FIFA Training Site at Memorial South Park Petition**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to respond to the Commissioner enquiry received on October 21, 2024, which asked if the concerns raised about the FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ Venue Specific Training Site at Memorial South Park in the www.change.org petition for “[OUR Park NOT FIFA’s Field](#)” could be addressed in a Board Memo. According to the Change.org webpage, this petition was started by a group named “Friends of Memorial South Park” and has been signed by more than 1350 people to date.

The petition lists concerns about the duration of the Training Site project and its impact on the community. Appendix A lists the items of concern identified in the petition, a verbatim description of the item from the petition where applicable, and associated project information for your reference.

The design of the training site at Memorial South Park is nearly complete and staff are dedicated to keeping residents informed as plans are finalized. Staff will continue to share timely updates and information with the community and a public information session is scheduled on November 30, 2024, where the Host City, Park Board, and consulting team staff will be present to meet with residents and provide information about the Memorial South Park Training Site. Park Board Commissioners will be invited to this event.

Current training site information is available on the [training sites web page](#).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiina Mack'.

Tiina Mack, MBCSLA
Director, Park Planning and Development – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: FWC26 Host City Team
FWC26 Park Board Training Site staff team



APPENDIX A

Items of Concern

Item	Petition Description where applicable	Current Information
Field within the oval/ Cricket Pitch	We are not sure if the cricket pitch will be reinstated in the renovated field.	The grass field within the cricket pitch will be renovated for the event and permitted for grass field sport use by the Park Board permit office after the event. The cricket pitch will be reinstated at this location or at an alternate park location after the event. This will be determined in consultation with cricket permit holders.
Running/Walking Track	The running track will be permanently reduced from six to four lanes	As part of the park rehabilitation process, the project will return the track to a resurfaced condition that matches the current size and number of walking/running lanes.
Clubhouse		The fieldhouse adjacent to the track and field will be open during the construction period but closed during the event. Temporary portable washroom facilities will be provided during the closure.
Children's Playground	The playground will be demolished and apparently replaced, but we don't know when or where.	A temporary playground will be provided at Memorial South Park during the closure period in advance of the construction of the new destination playground and spray park to be delivered in 2027. The locations have not yet been confirmed.
Cenotaph		The Cenotaph will be accessible for Remembrance Day 2025.
43 rd Avenue connection to the Windsor Street Bike Path		A temporary pathway will be provided around the construction site to ensure continuous access to 43 rd Avenue east and west of the park.



<p>Trees</p>	<p>At least 12 trees are slated for removal to accommodate this temporary event, despite the fact that some have been deemed healthy.</p>	<p>The proposed site design was developed to avoid major impacts to mature trees. Up to 15 trees will be removed, including seven that are dead. Of the remaining eight, half of which are small, some will be removed to facilitate utility servicing that will enhance the park's long-term usability. In alignment with the City of Vancouver's mandate to prioritize the protection and retention of trees in all projects, we will adhere to the Urban Forest Strategy, which specifies a replacement tree planting ratio of 1:1. This means we will be providing 15 new trees to replace all removed trees regardless of their current condition.</p> <p>The project consultant team is preparing diagrams that will illustrate the pre and post FIFA Training Site conditions including information about the tree removals. These are still in progress and will be shared when completed.</p>
<p>Restricted access to other areas of the park and noise from construction.</p>		<p>No restrictions to access other areas of the park outside the construction access, staging, and training site are anticipated during the construction period. The construction activities will comply with all City of Vancouver Noise Control By-law requirements.</p>
<p>The communication and engagement process surrounding the decision to designate portion of the park as a training site.</p>		<p>The FIFA site selection process involved certain confidentiality requirements; The FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ Host Committee are dedicated to keeping residents informed as plans are finalized for the training sites. Staff will continue to share timely updates and information with the community.</p>
<p>The petition also asks for an alternate venue practice</p>		<p>The design and construction process to complete the training sites by the end of 2025 is extensive and well underway. An alternate practice venue location is not possible.</p>