



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

January 24, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Park Planning and Development

SUBJECT : **FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ Venue Specific Training Sites Update – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ Venue Specific Training Sites (VSTS) at Killarney and Memorial South Parks. On January 20, 2025, the City of Vancouver (the “City”) signed a letter of intent (the “LOI”) with the University of British Columbia (“UBC”) and Vancouver Whitecaps Football Club (“WFC”) describing the principles upon which FIFA Canada may potentially use the National Soccer Development Centre (“NSDC”) on UBC’s Vancouver campus as a Team Base Camp and a Venue-Specific Training Site for the FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ (“FWC26”). The execution of the LOI means that the Park Board will not need to build a VSTS at Memorial South Park for FWC26.

BACKGROUND

The Park Board held a Public Committee Meeting on [this topic](#) on Feb 19, 2018, followed by In Camera reports on January 24, 2022, March 7, 2022, December 5, 2022, October 10, 2023, and January 22, 2024 (links can be found [here](#)). With appropriate redactions to keep certain information confidential, the Park Board released these In Camera Reports to the public in December 2024.

To fulfill its anticipated legal commitments to FIFA Canada, the Park Board approved contracts for the construction of early works at Killarney and Memorial South Parks at its meeting on December 9, 2024. The Board additionally [directed](#) that *“tree removals be delayed as long as possible at Memorial South Park, to provide additional time for the City Manager Mochrie to determine that there is no possibility of using the existing high quality soccer facility at UBC (the NSDC) for a FIFA training site in place of Memorial South Park, while still ensuring that the Park Board’s legal commitments are met”*. Vancouver City Council approved the Early Works construction contracts for both Killarney and Memorial on December 10, 2024. The following week, the Park Board General Manager executed both agreements.

In case the NSDC became a possibility as a VSTS for FWC26, Park Board staff, in consultation with the City’s legal department, negotiated a term into the early works construction agreement for Memorial South Park that enabled the Park Board to terminate the agreement if it provided notice to the counterparty and paid certain fees and unrecoverable costs.



DESIGN & DELIVERY STATUS UPDATES

Memorial South Park

Upon notification from the City of the execution of the LOI, Park Board staff delivered notice of the termination of the Memorial South Park early works construction contract to the counterparty, Canadian Turner Construction Co. Ltd. All aspects of the planning for the construction of this training site will be wound down. The community will be informed of the termination of this project.

Killarney Park

The contractor mobilized on site on January 2, 2025. Construction of the early works, which involves groundworks including: construction staging; excavation of poor soils (peat) and hauling off-site for disposal; subgrade preparations; and site rough grading for the proposed natural grass pitch, parking lot and temporary facilities; ordering of long lead time items like the high mast field lights; service connections and upgrades as required; and operations compound preparations, is underway.

STAKEHOLDERS & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Memorial South Park: An information bulletin that announces the relocation of this VSTS to UBC was issued on January 20, 2025. Staff will post information signs in the park to indicate the cancellation of the Memorial South Park VSTS project and distribute a mail-out to residents surrounding the park with the same information by the end of this week.

Killarney Park: An information bulletin that announced the start of construction at Killarney Park was issued on January 8, 2025. Park Board staff continue to engage with user groups to accommodate their field use needs elsewhere, while the fields are under construction and when they are in use during the tournament. In addition, staff are providing the Killarney CCA and the Vancouver School Board with regular updates on the progress of the project.

The announcement of the relocation of the VSTS from Memorial South Park to UBC may generate media attention and if you are approached by media, we recommend you direct inquiries to media@vancouver.ca for a response as we will be coordinating responses with the Host City staff team.

Some key messages are below for your use:

- Construction of the upgrades that were planned for Memorial South Park will no longer proceed, which means that the park will remain fully accessible to the community in its current condition leading up to, and during the FIFA World Cup 26™ event.
- Key members of the Memorial South Park community were notified, and we will be issuing letters to residents in the community by the end of this week.
- Construction at Killarney Park has already begun and will continue until the event.
- FIFA's recent reduction in training site requirements will help to streamline efforts and reduce costs.
- To learn more about FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™, visit www.vancouverfwc26.ca or follow our [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts @FWC26Vancouver.



NEXT STEPS

The Board will receive a Committee Report in March or April, in which staff will seek approval of a change order to the Early works construction contract for the FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ Venue Specific Training Sites (VSTS) at Killarney Park with Canadian Turner Construction Co. Ltd. The change order will be for the remaining construction works to deliver the VSTS and restore the sites following the FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ event.

Regards,

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

Tiina Mack (*she/her*)

Director, Park Planning and Development – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
David Stein, Landscape Architect I
Erica McDonald, Associate Director, Recreation Strategy, and Innovation
PB Communications
Duncan Finley, Solicitor Team Lead
Jessie Adcock, Host City Lead
Taunya Geelhoed, Host City Operations Lead