



May 7, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Park Planning and Development

SUBJECT : **Vancouver Technical School Synthetic Turf Field – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Vancouver Technical Secondary School ('Van Tech') synthetic turf field conditions and planned renewal, and related communications with field users issued on Monday May 5, 2025.

Background

The Van Tech synthetic turf field, located on Vancouver School Board (VSB) land and operated under a joint use agreement with the Park Board, is over 17 years old and the surface is identified in the 2023-2026 Capital Plan and 2025 Service Plan for an estimated \$1.2M renewal investment. Like the Park Board Andy Livingstone fields, the Van Tech field currently provides less cushioning for users than synthetic turf fields in good condition, and signs have been erected on site advising school and Park Board users of this issue, in close coordination with VSB staff counterparts. In response to the poor field conditions the Park Board permit type and fee structure on these fields will be adjusted to match those of typical all-weather fields until the field renewal commences. This information has been communicated to impacted user groups.

Context

The 2023-2026 Park Board Capital Plan represents a significant investment in renewing Vancouver's aging field sport amenities to keep them in a state of good repair for safe, quality play. Despite ongoing efforts by staff to accommodate displaced users, including providing access to temporarily illuminated all-weather fields, there will be unavoidable access issues for our users due to the high demand on all fields in the Park Board network. Through regular dialogue with interest groups, including the Vancouver Field Sports Federation, staff will continue to work with impacted users seeking ways to mitigate the displacement challenges that accompany our current intensive renewal program.

Next Steps

The Van Tech project is in the construction services tender stage, with contract award and site mobilization anticipated early summer, contingent on execution of a construction agreement with VSB to be ratified by City Council. Construction is targeted for completion by September 2025. The re-opening of the field will be aligned with the targeted closure of the Andy Livingstone synthetic turf fields for renewal work, to ensure that both locations will not be off-line at the same time, thereby reducing impacts to user groups. An updated Joint Use Agreement is under development with the VSB and will be completed in advance of the re-opening of the field.



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Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tiina Mack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
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