



VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION

October 11, 2024

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Park Planning and Development

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

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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the development of the Venue Specific Training Sites for FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™ at Killarney and Memorial South Parks and to introduce a project-specific webpage at [www.vancouverfwc26.ca/training-sites](http://www.vancouverfwc26.ca/training-sites).

#### **Design and Construction:**

The planning and design process for the two sites is on schedule. The construction contracting will occur in two phases. Phase one involves early works, and phase two is the remaining works. The early works includes site preparations (construction staging, soil excavation, and utility servicing) and the purchase of long lead time items like field lights. The remaining works are the field and facility construction. The first phase will be tendered in October 2024 and brought to the Board, the City's Bid Committee and Council for a decision to award the work in December 2024. This will enable the start of construction in January 2025. The second phase tender is targeted for March 2025 and construction will complete by December 2025. This schedule aligns with the legal agreements for training site delivery.

As a result of the work done to prepare for hosting training sessions, these sites will be upgraded to grass sport fields with lights, drainage irrigation systems and utilities which will enhance the park's long-term usability. Additionally, when Memorial Park is reopened to the public it will benefit from a resurfaced track.

The training sites in these parks will be closed from January 2025 until late 2026 to accommodate the construction period, the event, and site restorations.

#### **Communications and Engagement:**

In 2024 a series of meetings and information updates were provided and are anticipated as follows.

- July: Training Sites announced, and Development Permit signs posted at both parks.
- August: Field User engagement virtual meeting.
- August: Killarney Community Centre Association meeting.



- September: Information booth at the Killarney Community Centre event.
- October: Information Signs will be posted in the parks.
- November: Open House Information session at Memorial South Park (deferred to later in the process when details are confirmed)
- Ongoing: A monthly meeting with the Vancouver School Board.

Residents who enjoy using Memorial South Park are expressing concerns about the loss of park use for the duration of construction. The following details related to Memorial South Park may be of interest, as some social media posts are presenting inaccurate information. This information is being communicated to news outlets and enquirers:

- While the track will be closed, paved pathways will remain accessible including a lit walking loop around the synthetic turf field.
- Field permit holders will be provided alternate sites for field bookings.
- A temporary playground will be available if the existing one is closed, leading up to a new destination inclusive playground and spray park scheduled for 2027.
- Up to 15 trees will be removed as part of the project work, including seven dead standing trees however all 15 trees will be replaced.
- The field house will remain unaffected but will be closed during the event.
- Access to the Cenotaph will be ensured for Remembrance Day 2025.

While some details are still in the planning stages, we have been in correspondence with community members to hear their concerns, share information and answer questions and have posted a web page with information and FAQs on the training sites. If Commissioners are receiving enquiries residents can be directed to [www.vancouverfwc26.ca/training-sites](http://www.vancouverfwc26.ca/training-sites) to obtain accurate and current information.

Regards,

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

Tiina Mack (she/her), BCSLA  
Director Planning and Park Development - Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team, Host City Leadership Team, Associate Director Park Development