

From: **"Levitt, Karen"**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 2024-07-15 12:17:56 PM
Subject: *Embargoed* - Information Bulletin - Vancouver announces locations for the FIFA World Cup 26™ Training Sites

EMBARGOED until Tuesday July 16, 2024 at 10 am

Dear Mayor and Council,

As the momentum builds for the FIFA World Cup 26™, tomorrow the City together with the Park Board will publicly share the location of the Venue Specific Training Sites (VSTS) as Killarney Park and Memorial South Park via an Information Bulletin. A requirement for all sixteen host cities, the training sites are a key element of FIFA World Cup 26™ infrastructure. The two training sites will host teams (referred to as Participating Member Associations, or PMAs) as they prepare to play their FWC26 matches. We will not know which specific teams will be using these training sites until the Final Draw which will be held in December 2025.

The City will be seeking an expression of interest from interested vendors to supply sod for the training sites this month. This opportunity, and all others tied to the planning and preparations for the event, will be live on the **Business Opportunities** page of vancouverfwc26.ca.

We anticipate that tomorrow's training site announcement will generate some media attention. If you are approached by media, we as usual recommend you direct inquiries to media@vancouver.ca, as we will be coordinating responses with the Vancouver Park Board, Vancouver School Board and FIFA.

Below are some key messages that you may find helpful.

- As Official Host City of the FIFA World Cup 26™, the City of Vancouver is responsible for delivering many services that are beyond the ongoing and standard operational City service levels, including Venue Specific Training Sites (VSTS), which are a FIFA requirement of all sixteen Host Cities.
- Teams – referred to as Participating Member Associations (PMA's) in FIFA World Cup 26™ -- will use the sites to train and prepare for matches that will take place at BC Place Vancouver. We will not know which specific teams will be using these training sites until the Final Draw which will be held in December 2025.
- Requirements for training sites include provisions for security and privacy, media operations and team facilities. Natural grass fields will be used for training and supported by facilities including locker rooms and a press conference room. Further details will be available as the detailed design process progresses.
- During the construction period and operational window of the tournament, those that normally use these fields – various permitted and non-permitted sport, education, and community groups – will have access to alternative locations; the Park Board will work with relevant stakeholders to find the appropriate location to suit their needs.
- To learn more about FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™, visit www.vancouverfwc26.ca or follow our **Instagram**, **X** and **Facebook** accounts @FWC26Vancouver.

All the best,

Karen

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱əθḵ'əy̱əm/Musqueam, S̱ḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh/Squamish and s̱əḻiḻw̱əta̱ł/Tsleil-Waututh nations

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City of Vancouver
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Information Bulletin
July 16, 2024

Vancouver announces locations for the FIFA World Cup 26 Training Sites

With less than two years to go until the FIFA World Cup 26, the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Park Board will be upgrading fields at Killarney Park and Memorial South Park into two official training sites for FIFA World Cup 26

A requirement for all 16 Host Cities, these two training sites will host global teams on world class fields, as they prepare to play the beautiful game in front of a global audience. The fields will be equipped with lights, team facilities such as locker rooms and a press conference room. We will not know which teams are competing at BC Place Vancouver or using these training sites until the Final Draw, which will be held in December 2025.

Work will be completed on Killarney Park North grass and gravel fields and the Memorial South Park Oval. Construction of the sites will commence in January 2025 and conclude in time for the World Cup in June 2026, with fields expected to return to use for permitted users by fall 2026. Renderings of the training sites will be visible on the Development Permit sign which will be on-site beginning August, 2024.

During the construction period and tournament, the public will not have access to the training sites. Over the coming months, we will be working with various permitted and non-permitted sport, education, and community groups to find appropriate locations to suit their needs.

Additionally, the City will be seeking an expression of interest from interested vendors to supply sod for the training sites this month. This opportunity, and all others tied to the planning and preparations for the event, will be live on the [Business Opportunities](#) page of vancouverfwc26.ca. Further details on the nature of the future amenities will be shared as the detailed designs progress.

To learn more, please visit vancouverfwc26.ca and sign up to receive updates, and follow our [Instagram](#), [X](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts @FWC26Vancouver.

Fans can pre-register for FIFA World Cup 26 ticket information at fifa.com/tickets.

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Media contact:

Civic Engagement and Communications
media@vancouver.ca