From: "van Dyk, Donny"
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 12/18/2025 1:50:18 PM
Subject: Upcoming news release: Breaking new ground: City pilots micro-tunnelling method to renew aging sewer pipes under Memorial West Park

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Dear Mayor and Council,

The City will be issuing the below news release on the morning of Thursday, December 18, about city crews piloting a micro-tunneling construction method through Memorial West Park. B-roll and images of the micro-tunneling machine has also been linked below for media.

Maria will share the Vancouver.ca and social links, which will include video footage of the micro-tunneling process through the large access pits outside of the park grounds. This short video will be used as a reel on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Thanks,
Donny

Donny van Dyk (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver

The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
News release
December 18, 2025

Breaking new ground: City pilots micro-tunnelling method to renew aging sewer pipes under Memorial West Park

The City of Vancouver is piloting new ways to replace aging sewer infrastructure that runs underneath Memorial West Park. Instead of digging a large, open trench like most infrastructure projects, crews are using a “trenchless” method thanks to a micro-tunnel boring machine. This means most of the work happens underground, which helps keep the park open, preserves 24 mature trees, reduces the impact on residents and shortens the construction period.

“We know that construction can be frustrating and disruptive, so we are always looking for better ways to complete core infrastructure work,” said Mayor Ken Sim. “The successful tunnel installation shows that this innovative trenchless method has the potential to work well for

future utility projects."

In October, crews used a specialized remote controlled micro-tunnel boring machine to install a concrete storm sewer main between W 31st Avenue and W 33rd Avenue directly underneath the park's main footpath. Once the machine completed the tunnel which spanned the full length of the park from north to south, crews used a second trenchless method to insert a smaller pipe fixed in place with grout inside the existing combined sewer main. This second method — called sliplining — extends the life of the aging pipe without requiring extensive excavation.

In 2026, crews will complete sliplining work, connect the new pipes to water and sewer systems and install new maintenance holes. During this time, the playground and pedestrian pathway through Memorial West Park will need to close for approximately three to four weeks to allow the work to be completed safely. Construction is anticipated to be completed by spring 2026.

The City appreciates the patience and cooperation of residents, businesses and park users while critical rehabilitation, renewal and development projects are underway across the city.

About Memorial West Trenchless sewer upgrades

The Memorial West Trenchless sewer upgrades, project is a significant investment in renewing core infrastructure being delivered under the 2023-26 Capital Plan. Valued at $10.6 million, this project is part of ongoing work to replace aging combined sewer infrastructure in the Dunbar-Southlands neighbourhood with new separated pipes. Once complete, the new sewer system will support population growth, accommodate heavier rainfall expected with climate change, and advance the City's regulatory requirements to eliminate combined sewer overflows (CSOs) by 2050.

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Note to editors:
Download photos and b-roll of the micro tunnel-boring machine