

From: "Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 1/14/2026 3:01:59 PM
Subject: EMBARGOED: Temporary Closure of Hastings Skateboard Park During FIFA Fan Festival

EMBARGOED UNTIL FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 2026 @ 6PM

Dear Mayor and Council,

Below is an email from the Acting GM, Board of Parks and Recreation to the Park Board Commissioners concerning the temporary closure of the Hastings Skateboard Park during the FWC26 event period, for your information. We are sharing this with you now because the team will be conveying this information to the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition tomorrow evening. This information is embargoed until after this has been done.

All the best,

Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the traditional territories of the x m k y m/Musqueam, S wx\u817 _w\u7mesh/Squamish and s lilw ta /Tsleil-Waututh nations

Dear Commissioners,

The FIFA Fan Festival™ will take place at the PNE grounds during FIFA World Cup 26™, offering live match broadcasts, programming, and entertainment for up to 25,000 attendees at any given time.

This message is to advise you on plans to temporarily close the Hastings Skateboard Park leading up to and during the FIFA World Cup 26™.

Temporary Closure of Hastings Skateboard Park

The FIFA Fan Festival footprint overlaps with the Hastings Skateboard Park at Renfrew St and Pandora St, two blocks north of Hastings St. Keeping the skatepark open during the festival presents significant operational and security challenges:

- The skatepark is bordered on three sides by the festival and on the fourth by an accessibility gate, creating complex fencing and queuing issues.
- The presence of unscreened individuals near the secure perimeter increases the risk of prohibited items entering the site.

Given these risks, Hastings Skateboard Park will temporarily close from May 19 to July 27, 2026. All efforts will be made to expedite fence removal during load-out to shorten the closure period.

The Host Committee explored keeping the Skateboard Park open. However, in addition to the security concerns, mitigating these risks would require substantial construction cost and additional security resources, including fencing solutions that are technically challenging due to grade variance.

During the temporary closure, skateboard users will be able to use Leaside Tunnel Skatepark, about one kilometer away under the Cassiar Connector. Downtown Plaza skatepark will remain open during the tournament, and [other open and available skatepark locations are listed on the Park Board website](#).

Vancouver Skateboard Coalition Information Sharing

The Host Committee will meet with the Vancouver Skatepark Coalition on Thursday evening, January 15 to communicate this decision. Please keep this information embargoed until that meeting occurs.

Key Messages

The following key messages are for your consideration to use in conversation with constituents, media and interest holders:

- Large-scale gatherings like the FIFA Fan Festival™ require strict safety measures to mitigate risks.
- Due to the skatepark's location within the FIFA Fan Festival™ footprint, maintaining access during the event poses a significant security risk.
- Keeping the skatepark open would require major construction and increased security measures. It would also allow unscreened individuals near the secure perimeter, raising the risk of prohibited items entering the festival area. Skateboarders are encouraged to visit other skateparks across Vancouver. Nearby options include Leaside Skatepark, located about 1 km away under the Cassiar Connector. A full list of skateparks is available at City of Vancouver Skateboard Parks.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessie Adcock, Host Committee Lead, at jessie.adcock@vancouver.ca.