



# The Need for More Turf Fields

Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

# Understanding our Club

## Burnaby Football Club ("BFC")

We are the largest non-profit sports club in Burnaby (by far) with over 450 Volunteer Coaches & Managers, and more than 3,200 players, and close to 200 teams. We provide high quality programming to players of all ages/skill levels, from the young toddler age of 3 (First Kicks) to 50 years of age and beyond. Recent registration numbers from our Burnaby District indicate that there are over 4,000 total players in Burnaby, making soccer the highest participatory team sport in the City.

**Purpose:** To develop and operate an inclusive, passionate football community.

**Mission:** Deliver exceptional football experiences for all players and members.

**Vision:** Be the most progressive community football club in the country.

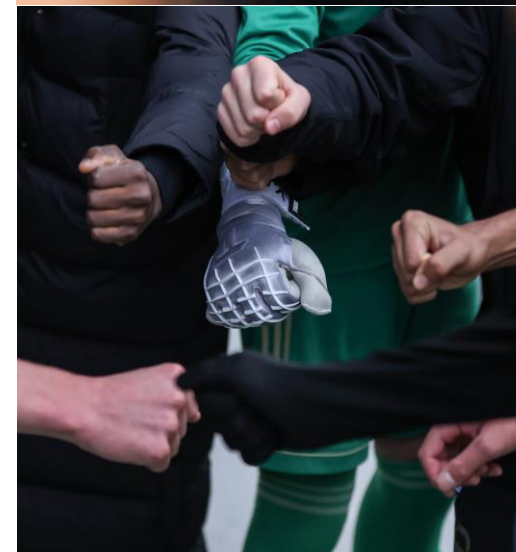
**Values: Unity...**One Club | All In **Community...**Football For All | Football For Life

**Excellence...**Passion | Character | Skill **Integrity...**Trust | Accountability | Respect

We gauge our success as a Club by our ability to build and instill in every member a lifelong love for the sport of soccer in a safe, healthy, and positive environment. Our goal is to inspire players of all ages and skill levels, and from every background to remain active in soccer and our Community throughout their lives.

## Community

Our Club is very active in the Burnaby Community. Through clothing drives, food bank drives, scholarships and much more – our BFC members and families are committed to giving back to our local Burnaby Community.

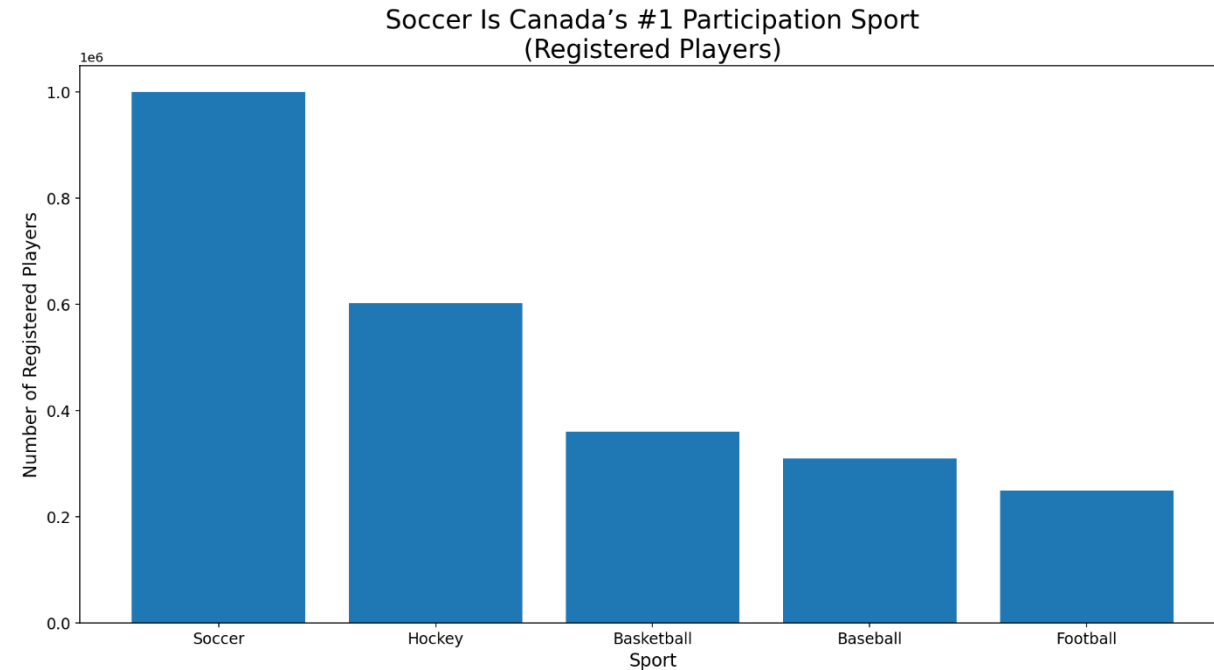


# Soccer in BC & Canada



## Growth & Stats

- Soccer is the largest team participation sport in Canada with currently more than 1 million registered players.
- One of the most affordable sports for youth and adults to be involved in.
- More than 40% of soccer players in Canada are female.
- Approximately **23% of youth in British Columbia participate in soccer**, in comparison with other sports at the provincial level
- 15% of Burnaby District Schools students (K-Grade 12) are currently registered in soccer.
- **Metro Vancouver** has the **highest concentration** of youth soccer registrations in BC.
- Soccer appeals to a broad demographic, with growth noted in a wide variety of cultural communities.
- Interest in soccer is about to explode as we get set to host the **FIFA World Cup** in the summer of 2026.
- **However, the lack of artificial turf fields is limiting growth and accessibility to Burnaby's youth and adults.**
- BC used to be a pipeline for national team players. Ontario and Quebec have now far surpassed BC, in large part due to increased access to artificial turf fields and covered facilities for their members to adapt to the various Canadian climates.

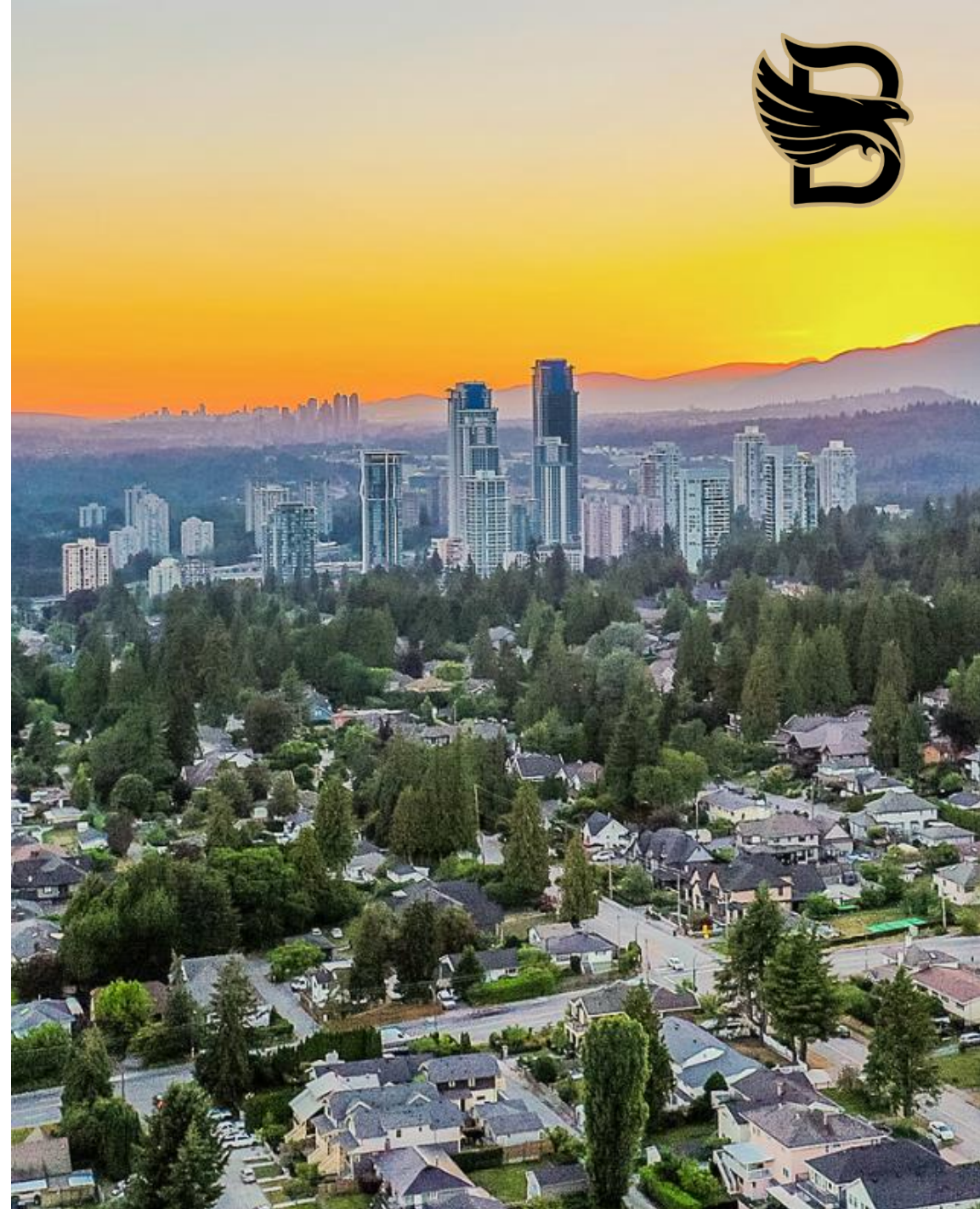


# Present Field Situation



## Current Challenges:

- Strong population growth in Burnaby, along with the popular demand of soccer has made finding turf field time much more difficult for us to support current programming in recent years and plan for growing demand.
- We are forced to turn away young players due to lack of adequate playing fields with many of our age levels having waiting lists. We had more than 300 players on waitlists this season.
- Due to lack of turf fields, we are also not meeting governing body training mandates (# of teams per field, training time) exposing the club to fines, loss of licensing and ability to provide programming.
- **We are currently short by more than 70/hours (Artificial Turf field time hours) to meet our current programming needs, let alone further growth.**
- More than 1,000 players are training on all-weather fields, which are not appropriate or safe training fields - especially in wet winter conditions.
- Grass fields and all-weather fields are often unplayable and/or closed during soccer season leading to canceled games and sessions.
- **Current allotments to "For-Profit" non-Burnaby based organizations to receive prime time hours and best turf fields at the expense a "Non-Profit" Burnaby-based organization like BFC.**
- **Adding more turf fields in Burnaby would allow our Club (and other user groups as well) to accommodate more Burnaby youth & adult players and mitigate the negative impact of poor weather during late fall and winter.**



# Present Field Situation

## Turf Field Facts:

- The last time the City of Burnaby added a new artificial turf field was more than 13 years ago (Burnaby Central turf - 2012)
- In 2012, the Population of Burnaby was 220,000. In 2026, it's 280,000+ and growing.
- **There has been a 27% increase in Burnaby's population during that time, yet no additional/new turf fields added in Burnaby.**
- We had 9 turf fields in Burnaby in 2012, and here we are in 2026 with still only 9 turf fields.
- Based on population growth alone, Burnaby should now have 13 turf fields in place to meet our City's growth, an increase of 4 turf fields.
- A recent public message from the City of Burnaby's Mayor's office on Jan 8, 2026 - Burnaby's new Task Force on Economic Growth and Resilience... ***"Burnaby is one of the fastest growing Cities in BC, between 2020 & 2024, there was a 15% population increase, more than 40,000 new residents, only Surrey grew faster, and some of the strongest year over year population increases are expected in 2027-2028".***



# The Benefits of Artificial Turf fields vs All-weather(Gravel) & Grass



## All-Weather (Gravel):

- Availability (playing time) affected due to weather
- Dust intake for kids negatively impacts lungs/breathing
- Injuries, scrapes & cuts are much more prevalent
- Technical development and safety is worse

## Grass:

- Great during the spring and summer, but less playing time due to weather and field usage during late fall/winter
- Increased maintenance to ensure a good playing surface
- Frequent cancellations due to weather related closures during the late fall and winter soccer season

## Artificial Turf:

- Not weather dependent, fully playable in the rain
- Low maintenance; replacement cost not significant after it has been turfed.
- Excellent for technical development, and safer to play on
- Playable 7 days/week, throughout the day & evenings
- Viable for a variety of community user groups (Soccer, Lacrosse, Field hockey, Football, Ultimate, Rugby)
- **Revenue generator for the City as well as the Turf Fields are booked out to various Sports/User groups.**



# Additional Upside from adding Artificial Turf Field Capacity

- It allows our Club to add many more youth and adult members, which in turn would help maintain current registration fees low and in check for families.
- It allows other community user groups and sports clubs to be able to play more often and not face the same challenges that soccer clubs currently face.
- There would be a sizeable reduction in the number of cancelled games and practices, resulting in more playing time for kids and more kids playing.
- There is both a short-term and long-term health benefits to growing the number of youth that are playing outdoor sports, both mentally & physically. It reinforces leading an active & healthy lifestyle, team building, wellness, and a sense of belonging, all the while allowing us to keep the sport of soccer as one of the most affordable year-long outdoor sport activities for families with young children, and adults as well.



# Potential Artificial Turf Field Locations



**We've identified a number of existing field locations in Burnaby that could be converted to artificial turf fields based on the criteria of: (1) good access to public transit; (2) parking availability; (3) existing lighting and infrastructure; along with (4) community usage beyond soccer**

## **Oval Grass field at Confederation Park:**

- Easily accessible by car & public transit as it's near Willingdon & Hastings, and plenty of available parking onsite
- Converting it to a turf field and adding lighting would make the track much more accessible to walkers/runners as well

## **Gravel field at Burnaby Lake East (Field #10):**

- Centrally located gravel field is located just south of the rugby grass fields at BLE and near current hub of BLW fields
- It already has lights in place, and there is plenty of nearby parking
- There is easy access from the #1 Highway and the newly constructed pedestrian bridge. An ideal location to be turfed

## **Gravel field at Confederation Park (Willingdon & Penzance):**

- This large gravel field is located at Confederation Park, and it already has lights in place, it's also easily accessible by car and public transit, and there is plenty of parking onsite

## **Grass Fields at Kensington Park (#4 Fields and/or Field #5)**

- Existing hub for BFC programming, excellent parking availability, and nearby access to BFC Clubhouse to facilitate programming

## **Gravel field at Cariboo Secondary (16th Ave)**

- This gravel field already has lights in place, it's fairly centrally located, and there is parking onsite

## **Gravel field at Wesburn Park (Moscrop & Patterson)**

- This is a centrally located Community gravel field which already has lights in place, with available parking nearby

## **Gravel field at Willingdon Heights Park (Williams St)**

- This is a centrally located Community gravel field which already has lights in place, with available parking nearby

## **Gravel field at Forest Grove park (Forest Grove Dr)**

- This is a Community gravel field which already has lights in place, with available parking close by

# The Ask!

Based on our overall assessment, our Ask to the City of Burnaby is for the addition of **4 new Artificial Turf Fields** to be built to meet both our existing requirements and our growing demands from both our youth & adult soccer players in Burnaby (along with other user sports groups).

These 4 new artificial turf fields would come from existing grass and/or gravel field locations that would to be converted into new artificial turf fields.

**We estimate the total cost to be under \$7 million.**

- \$1.0-1.2 million to prepare and turf and existing field that already has lights in place.
- \$1.5-\$1.7 million to prepare and turf an existing field that would need to have lights put in place.
- At the high end, \$1.7 million x 4 New Turf Fields = **\$6.8M**





**Thank You**

**Burnaby FC**