# WANDERERS GROUNDS

Aligned with our combined mission to make our community stronger, the time has come for a permanent, multi-use stadium on the Wanderer Grounds that would become Halifax's premier community outdoor sports and entertainment venue.

## Item 10.3.3

# RERS GROWNERS



# HISTORICALLY HALFAX'S OUTDOOR COMMUNITY VENUE

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## THE HISTORY OF THE WANDERERS GROUNDS A HISTORIC LOCATION THAT DATES BACK TO THE 1800s





## **EARLY YEARS**

The Wanderers Amateur Athletic Club (founded 1882) begins the land's legacy as a home for sports in Halifax, hosting various events including cricket, rugby and soccer.

## **HISTORIC EVENTS**

Several of Halifax's historic sporting events, such as amateur sports championships and international rugby, were played at the Grounds. Babe Ruth took to the plate during a baseball game in 1942.





## **GATHERING PLACE**

For parts of three centuries, Nova Scotians have come together at this special piece of land between the Citadel and the Public Gardens to celebrate sport in the community.



## **STATE OF THE WANDERERS GROUNDS IN 2016**









## FOUR PROMISES MADE **FROM OUR 2017 POP-UP PROPOSAL**

## PROMISE 1

Return the Wanderers Grounds to its historical position as THE outdoor sports and entertainment hub for Halifax and leverage the investment the city is already making in the field surface.

## **PROMISE 2**

Assume all costs associated with the installation and management of a temporary 6,000 capacity stadium structure for a 3-year term, with an option for us to renew for an additional 3 years.

## **PROMISE 3**

Secure a professional soccer team and pursue additional events for the city of Halifax to be hosted at the venue.

## **PROMISE 4**

Provide community access to the Wanderers Grounds field in a manner consistent with the current rental policy.







## **COMMUNITY IMPACT** THE IMPACT THE WANDERERS GROUNDS HAS HAD ON OUR COMMUNITY



The temporary stadium has returned Wanderers Grounds to its historic status as a gathering place for sports in the Halifax region with 5000+ citizens consistently attending games. The club works with various organizations to bring thousands of youth to matches, inspiring the next generation of athletes.



Wanderers matches attract people from across Atlantic Canada to downtown Halifax, visiting nearby businesses before and after the game.







Wanderers Grounds is a welcoming environment for people of all backgrounds, bringing the community together through sport. The Wanderers hold annual events such as the Pride and Diversity match and New Canadians Night to support inclusivity. The location of the stadium makes it accessible to the greater region due to the proximity of transit and bike routes.



## **SUCCESS STORIES** HOW WE CONNECTED WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR CHARITY PARTNERS

## 400,000+

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE COME** THROUGH OUR GATES

\$200,000+ **RAISED FOR LOCAL CHARITIES AT THE** WANDERERS GROUNDS









## **OVER 20**

**COMMUNITY GROUPS SUPPORTED AT** WANDERERS GROUNDS EVENTS



## WANDERERS GROUNDS IN 2023 A COMMUNITY MADE STRONGER THROUGH THE POWER OF SPORT





## **NEED FOR PERMANENCY**

**EXAMPLES SHOWCASING THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT SOLUTION** 

PILOT PROJECT COMPLETION

**INCREASE COMMUNITY USAGE** 

LONG-TERM VIABILITY

**BASIC AMENITIES** 

The current stadium is built with temporary structures such as metal bleachers and repurposed shipping containers. Food trucks and beverage tents provide refreshments while portable toilets comprise nearly all washroom facilities.







## **SCALABLE INFRASTRUCTURE A RIGHT-SIZED STADIUM THAT GROWS WITH OUR CO**

- 8,500 capacity venue (increase of 2000)
- Replace rented bleachers with permanent grandstands
- Groundwork (water, plumbing, electrical, lighting, sound)
- Install FIFA artifical surface, sized properly for multisport community use

#### **EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES**

- Replace seacan suites with additional permanent grandstands
- Installation of bubble dome for year-round use









## LAYOUT OF THE WANDERERS GROUNDS BLOCK In Partnership with our neighbours







### **LEGEND:**

- 1 Museum of Natural History
- 2 Halifax Lancers Outdoor Paddock
- 3 Hay Loading
- 4 Halifax Lancers Barns
- 5 Parks Maintenance
- 6 Summer Street Entry Plaza
- 7 Wanderers Grounds Pitch
- 8 Lawn Bowling Pitch
- 9 East End Stand & Gathering Room (lawn bowling clubhouse and VIP hosting underneath)
- 10 Greenhouse
- 11 Bell Street Entry Plaza (pedestrian entrance only)
- 12 Power House
- 13 New walking path
- 14 Field Suites, Sky Suites and Media Towers
- 15 Sackville Street Entry Plaza
- 16 Road for vehicle traffic



## WANDERERS GROUNDS AS THE LOCATION why this is the best place for a permanent stadium

Located steps from Halifax's historic downtown, the Wanderers Grounds uses existing infrastructure.

The Grounds is within walking distance to hundreds of businesses, homes and accessible by numerous transit options and bicycle routes.

The Halifax Wanderers consistently lead the Canadian Premier League in average attendance, bringing thousands of people to the downtown core on match days.









## **KEY ADVANTAGES OF A NEW FACILITY** MAIN REASONS FOR A PERMANENT VENUE

#### A COMMUNITY STADIUM FOR THE REGION

A permanent structure at the Wanderers Grounds provides citizens with continued access to high level outdoor sport and cultural events with amenities in-line with stadiums across Canada and worldwide.

#### **ENABLING A COMMUNITY ASSET**

Upgrades made on the Wanderers Grounds would allow for increased usage by other community groups (including youth soccer, high school football, festivals, gatherings, concerts, etc.).

### INTERNATIONAL EVENT ATTRACTION

A premier outdoor venue will help Halifax attract marquee sports and entertainment such as international soccer, international rugby matches and concerts.

#### **INSPIRING THE FUTURE OF SPORT**

The permanent stadium could be a base for national team programs, both mens and womens, such as rugby and other high-performance field sports



## **A RIGHT-SIZED STADIUM** WANDERERS GROUNDS **AN OUTLINE OF THE COSTING ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT MODULAR STADIUM COMPONENTS** LOCAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS **COST FOR THE GROUNDWORKS (SEWAGE, WATER AND ELECTRICAL) BROADCAST INFRASTRUCTURE COST FOR PITCH PREPARATION AND INSTALLATION OF FIFA TURF VIDEO BOARD AND SOUND SYSTEM** INTERIOR FINISHINGS, WASHROOMS, CONCESSIONS AND OTHER AREAS **NEW LIGHTING SYSTEM**

SITE FINISHING INCLUDING PAVING AND FENCING

## **ESTIMATED COST:**





## **OUR COMMITMENT & CONTRIBUTION**

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT, COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT & EVENT ATTRACTION

#### FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The Halifax Wanderers Football Club is committed to being the anchor tenant at the Wanderers Grounds through a fair agreement that will contribute to the cost of construction over the lease period. The Wanderers are proposing a 30-year lease.

#### **COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The Wanderers would continue to provide commercial management of the stadium during the lease period.

#### **EVENT ATTRACTION**

The Wanderers will work with new and existing partners to attract national and international events to the stadium.



## **TIMELINE FOR OPENING IN 2025 A VISUAL TIMELINE FOR THE EIGHT MAJOR STEPS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT**

#### **SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

**Presentation to Community** Planning and Economic Development Committee.

#### **APRIL 2024**

Stadium construction confirmed and materials ordered.

#### **JANUARY 2024**

Approval by HRM council.

#### **NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

Removal of temporary stadium infrastructure.





#### **NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

Groundwork at Wanderers Grounds begins.

#### MAY 3, 2025

Stadium opens.

#### **MARCH 2025**

Stadium materials delivered and construction begins.

#### **SUMMER 2026**

World Cup in Canada, USA and Mexico.

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING **LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE PROVIDED LETTERS OF SUPPORT**



























**THE WESTIN** NOVA SCOTIAN HALIFAX











**ATLANTIC / ATLANTIQUE** 

