

## CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE NEWS RELEASE

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## Another Milestone in Preparation for the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games

Maple Ridge, B.C. - On Thursday, September 14, the City of Maple Ridge held the grand opening of the new Beach Volleyball courts at the Albion Sport Complex. This will be the official venue for Beach Volleyball during the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games that will run from July 18 to 21 of next year.

"This is another milestone as we count down to the opening ceremonies of the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games," said Maple Ridge Mayor Dan Ruimy. "I would like to acknowledge the \$130,000 contribution from the Canada Community-Building Fund and the \$30,000 from the BC Summer Games Legacy Funding, provided by the Province of BC towards bringing this project to completion. The City's investment of \$60,000 makes this a great partnership that will benefit our community."

"Over the next 10 months this site will provide a place for the growth of beach volleyball in our community. We will be working with the experts at Volleyball BC to fine tune the facility in preparation for the BC Summer Games," said Valoree Richmond, Director of Parks and Facilities for the City of Maple Ridge."

She continued, "This is an ideal location in the heart of our Albion Sport Complex. In the coming week, as the drought conditions and watering restrictions ease, our team will complete the planting of grass and trees to enhance the overall site. It's very exciting to see these new amenities as part of our hosting of the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games."

"Sport and recreation bring people together and foster healthy lifestyles. As an official venue for the 2024 BC Summer Games, the new courts at the Albion Sport Complex will provide a welcoming space for young athletes from across British Columbia to demonstrate their skills and inspire more youth towards sport. We're proud to continue investing in projects that support our youth while improving the quality of life and well-being of communities across the province, including in Maple Ridge," said the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Physical Activity of Canada.

"Maple Ridge is home to a number of famous athletes and will soon become the centre of sports in our province with the upcoming B.C. Summer Games," said Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "Supporting the development of the official venue for the 2024 B.C. Summer Games beach volleyball events will bring benefits to the community during competition, while promoting years of active living and lifelong friendships for all community members".

"The 2020 BC Summer Games may not have gone ahead as planned but the positive legacy of the event continues to grow with the opening of these courts," said Alison Noble, President and CEO of the BC Games Society. "It is great to see the community of Maple Ridge rally together to continue investing in their sport infrastructure and hosting capacity and we know that they will come together to make the 2024 BC Summer Games an event to remember."

"The investments that we are making in local facilities and collaborations with BC's sports organizations to host the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games are part of the legacy that we will leave behind after these games. This facility will help local youth enjoy beach volleyball for recreation and create a catalyst for building competitive skills to help those with the skills and drive for this sport to achieve their dreams," said Laura Butler, president of the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games organizing committee.

The grand opening included demonstrations from Volleyball BC and Maple Ridge's Cougar Volleyball as well as a ceremonial 'serve and bump' by members of Council and the Maple Ridge 2024 BC Summer Games organizing committee.

Photos from the event will be posted on the City's social media channels.