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# Loudoun County, Virginia

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Loudoun County Breaks Ground on New Bolen Park Soccer Stadium**

Members of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors joined with officials of Loudoun United FC—the direct second division affiliate of Major League Soccer (MLS) club D.C. United—to break ground on a new soccer stadium at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park in Leesburg. The ceremony, held Tuesday, March 26, 2019, included officials from the county and Town of Leesburg, business community and members of the soccer team. The stadium is expected to be ready for Loudoun United's inaugural match, which is scheduled for August 9, 2019.



The stadium, with a seating capacity of approximately 5,000, will be home to the Loudoun United FC professional soccer team, which will play in the United Soccer League (USL) Championship Division, a professional league that has partnered with MLS to enhance the development of professional players in North America. The stadium also will be available for other community events, such as youth sports tournaments, graduations and concerts.

Members of the Board highlighted the benefits of the county's partnership with Loudoun United to the greater community, including use of soccer fields by the public, enhanced soccer-related opportunities for Loudoun's youth and a positive economic impact associated with potential soccer tournaments and visitors' expenditures at businesses in Loudoun.

In 2018, the Board approved legislative applications to allow for construction of the new stadium and other uses, including training facilities, team offices, parking lots and playing fields, two of which will be available for use by the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

Under the Memorandum of Agreement between Loudoun County and D.C. United, Loudoun County is providing the land for the facilities and approximately \$15 million in financing for construction of the complex. Construction of the facilities will be paid for by DC Soccer Management Company, LLC through lease payments to the county that will fully offset any debt payments incurred as a result of the financing package. The county will own the new stadium.

In addition, Loudoun County will construct parking lots at the stadium and will retain the ability to operate them as paid parking lots for stadium events and as a park and ride lot for Loudoun County Transit bus riders during commuting hours. The project also includes area road improvements.



Officials break ground for the new soccer stadium at Philip A. Bolen Park in Leesburg. From left: Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet, Catoctin District Supervisor Geary Higgins, Broad Run District Supervisor Ron Meyer, Loudoun United Chief Operating Office Adam Behnke, Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall, Algonkian District Supervisor Suzanne Volpe, Ashburn District Supervisor Ralph Buona, Leesburg Mayor Kelly Burk, and Loudoun County Department of Economic Development Executive Director Buddy Rizer.