University of Washington Basketball Training Facility Ensures Sustainable Approach to Demolition

Seattle, WA – To enhance training and development opportunities for basketball student athletes, the University of Washington (UW) has broken ground on a new training facility. The facility replaces the existing Pavilion Pool which is scheduled for demolition this spring. The UW and Mortenson Construction are committed to ensuring that the process is conducted with utmost care while prioritizing safety and environmental consciousness.

The abatement and demolition of the Pavilion Pool embraces the principles of Social and Environmental Justice. In concert with American Abatement and Demolition, a minority and veteran owned firm, as well as other specialty subcontractors, Mortenson is taking a concerted approach that involves recycling materials wherever feasible, minimizing waste, and mitigating environmental impact.

Overall, Mortenson is committed to the sustainable construction framework known as the “Contractors Commitment” which impacts and tracks activities in five different categories from jobsite wellness and carbon emissions to waste planning, waste management and materials selection. As a part of the waste management and diversion approach, Mortenson is meticulously identifying and segregating materials suitable for recycling during the deconstruction process. This involves recording the volume of materials that are re-used on-site, diverting a minimum of 75% of construction waste, and implementing a salvage assessment plan. By adopting this strategy, Mortenson is targeting use of an estimated 80% of recyclable materials on the project. Of the materials being deconstructed or demolished within the Pavilion Pool building, a portion will be reused and recycled in the new basketball training facility. The project is targeting LEED Gold V4 Certification, which includes embodied carbon thresholds for materials, as well as waste and water tracking requirements. This commitment to sustainability is a testament to Mortenson's dedication to environmental consciousness and responsible construction practices.

In addition to the Contractors Commitment, Mortenson is a Salmon-Safe Accredited Contractor, a rigorous standard that further validates our unwavering commitment to environmental protection and sustainability. This commitment is not just a box to check, but a guiding principle that we adhere to in every aspect of our work. The project site’s proximity to Lake Washington means that implementing a Project Water Plan and identifying project-specific water pollution risks and opportunities is critical. Mortenson is tracking potable water use, implementing water-saving strategies on site, and integrating trade partners into all aspects of the water plan to create broader team accountability. Individuals can learn more about the Salmon-Safe commitment here: salmonsafe.org/certification/construction-management.

For up-to-date information regarding the project's status, please visit https://facilities.uw.edu/projects/intercollegiate-athletics-basketball-training-facility