

*Community-Based Building:*

# ATLANTA UNITED'S NEW TRAINING FACILITY

*By Nikki Welch*

Atlanta sports teams have been the focus of many headlines this year with the Atlanta Braves officially moving their home base to SunTrust Park and the Atlanta Falcons both playing in Super Bowl LI and anticipating playing in its new Mercedes-Benz Stadium later this year. But, Georgia's newest team – Atlanta United – isn't willing to be overlooked.

Atlanta United, an American Professional Soccer Club, owned by The Home Depot co-founder and Falcons owner, Arthur Blank, is the first Major League Soccer franchise to be based in Atlanta. The team, which opened its inaugural season in March, is currently playing in Georgia Institute of Technology's Bobby Dodd Stadium with plans to play the remaining matches in the Mercedes-Benz Stadium following its completion.



While the soccer team may share a playing arena with the Atlanta Falcons in the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, one complex that's all United's own is the brand-new, world-class training complex located on Franklin Gateway in Marietta. The \$60 million facility, built to help develop a winning team in Atlanta United, was also nothing short of a team effort itself. The complex was designed by tvsdesign, while Long Engineering handled the civil engineering, Barrett Woodyard & Associates negotiated the mechanical engineering and Uzun + Case, LLC was at the helm of the structural engineering behind the project. Each of these companies is headquartered in Atlanta, allowing the Atlanta United franchise to support the local community that has, in turn, showed up in droves to support the team, helping sell out four straight home matches.

Construction began on the 33-acre site in February 2016, with naming partner Children's Healthcare of Atlanta joining the project nearly a year later in March 2017 – officially titling the complex The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Training Ground. The project was completed in mid-April 2017, unveiling the best-in-class facilities, competitive with many top international training centers.

The training grounds boast six full-sized fields, a 30,000-square-foot headquarter building, a 2,500-seat stand, as well as locker rooms, sport science facilities, two hydrotherapy pools and a double height gym. The complex is intended to host visiting and international club teams, as well as provide an inspirational environment for the club's youth academy players, who will also use the facility while getting the opportunity to observe and interact with the first Atlanta United team.

The design of The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Training Ground also allots for predicted future growth – anticipating the success and development of not only Atlanta United, but of the city whose name it boasts.

