

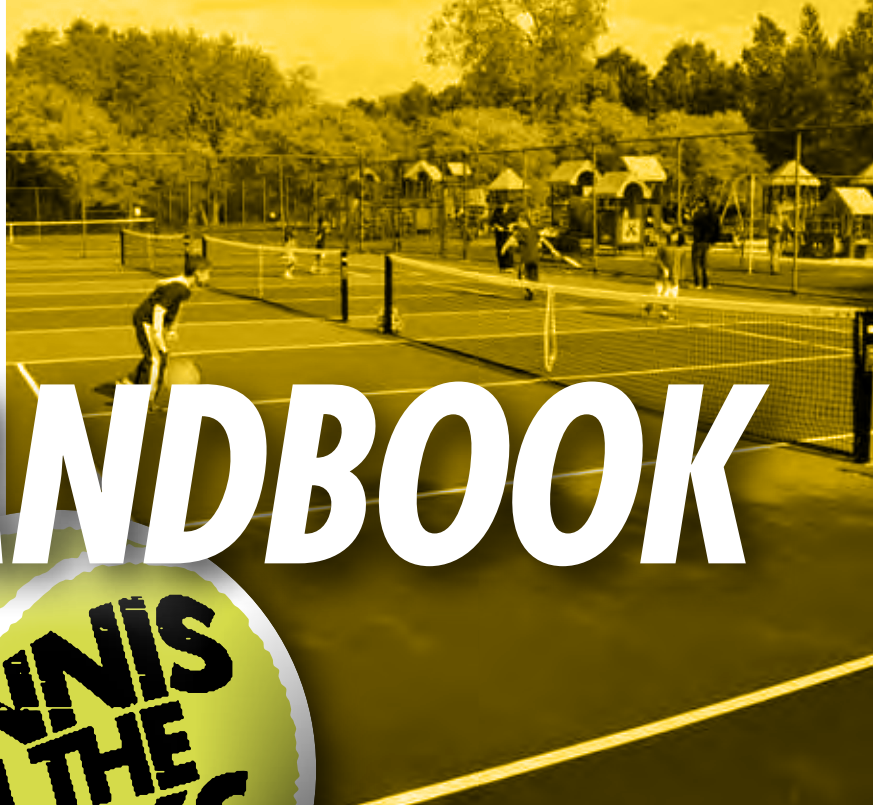
TENNIS IN THE PARKS

IDEA HANDBOOK

TENNIS
IN THE
PARKS

Great Ideas Inside!

- Programming
- Facilities
- Fundraising
- Events
- Media
- Partnerships
and more...





National Recreation and Park Association



Dear Tennis in the Parks Agencies,

Welcome to the **2011 Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook**. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) are pleased to provide you with this update to our collection of best practices from diverse tennis communities nationwide.

NRPA and the USTA are confident that you will benefit from learning about what your tennis peers are doing in their communities to improve programming, facilities and advocacy efforts. We hope the ideas shared in this handbook inspire you to try new things, and we urge you to reach out to others to tap into their knowledge and expertise.

Thank you to all of the participating tennis communities who have shared their terrific success stories and ideas. We encourage you to openly share your knowledge with others if you are contacted by peers seeking more information about the ideas you submitted about how you are growing tennis in your community.

We expect this publication to grow each year and look forward to your continued participation and contributions.

For more information on the Tennis in the Parks initiative please visit: www.nrpa.org/usta.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. Slade".

David, T. Slade
National Manager
United States Tennis Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Logan".

Nancy Logan
Senior Manager National Partnerships
National Recreation and Park Association

2011 TENNIS IN THE PARKS IDEA HANDBOOK
TIP IDEA BOOK TABLE OF CONTENTS – BY CATEGORY

<u>AGENCY/ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>CITY, STATE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1 - Most Successful New Youth Program		
Amador Tennis Club.....	Jackson, CA	3
City of Selma Recreation & Community Services.....	Selma, CA	6
DC Parks and Recreation	Washington, DC	12
Lee County Community Tennis Association.....	Ft. Myers, FL	14
Roswell Recreation, Parks, Historic & Cultural Affairs Department....	Roswell, GA.....	27
Savannah Area Tennis Association.....	Savannah, GA	28
City of Worcester Public Works and Parks.....	Worcester, MA	51
Town of Cary Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.....	Cary, NC.....	66
McCook Tennis Association.....	McCook, NE	69
NJTL of Trenton.....	Trenton, NJ.....	71
Township of Ocean Recreation Department.....	Ocean, NJ	74
City of Mentor Recreation.....	Mentor, OH.....	76
Public Tennis, Inc.....	Hilton Head, SC.....	84
Ida Lee Park Tennis Center.....	Leesburg, VA.....	109
Nelson County Parks & Recreation Department.....	Lovington, VA.....	113
Oshkosh Tennis Association.....	Oshkosh, WI	120
2 - Most Successful New Adult Program		
City of Selma Recreation & Community Services.....	Selma, CA	7
New Fairfield Park and Recreation.....	New Fairfield, CT.....	11
Columbus Regional Tennis Association.....	Columbus, GA	26
Roswell Recreation, Parks, Historic & Cultural Affairs Department....	Roswell, GA.....	25
Savannah Area Tennis Association.....	Savannah, GA	29
Des Peres Parks and Recreation.....	Des Peres, MO	62
Town of Cary Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.....	Cary, NC.....	60
Ida Lee Park Tennis Center.....	Leesburg, VA.....	109
Oconomowoc Community Tennis Association.....	Oconomowoc, WI.....	118
3 - Most Successful New Team Tennis Based Program		
Roger Scott Tennis Center.....	Pensacola, FL	22
Munster Parks and Recreation.....	Munster, IN.....	46
Independence Parks and Recreation Department.....	Independence, MO.	64
Ida Lee Park Tennis Center.....	Leesburg, VA.	111
Oshkosh Tennis Association.....	Oshkosh, WI.....	122
4 - Best Growth of Existing Youth Program		
City of Lompoc Parks & Recreation.....	Lompoc, CA.....	4
City of Sanger Parks & Recreation Department.....	Sanger, CA	5
Redstone Park Tennis Center/Highlands Ranch Metro District.....	Highlands Ranch, CO.....	9
Decatur Park District.....	Decatur, IL	31
City of Mendota Heights.....	Mendota Heights, MN.....	58
NJTL of Trenton.....	Trenton, NJ.....	64
City of Hillsboro Parks and Recreation.....	Hillsboro, OR	80
Bobcat Public Tennis Center.....	Bluffton, SC	83
Wimberley Community Tennis Association.....	Wimberley, TX	88
Arlington Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources....	Arlington, VA	96
Ida Lee Park Tennis Center.....	Leesburg, VA.....	110
5 - Best Growth of Existing Adult Program		
Savannah Area Tennis Association.....	Savannah, GA	30
Wimberley Community Tennis Association.....	Wimberley, TX	89
Ida Lee Park Tennis Center.....	Leesburg, VA.....	110
6 - Best Coaches Training Event		
Lee County Community Tennis Association.....	Ft. Myers, FL	15
Kansas City, MO Parks and Recreation.....	Kansas City, MO	65
7 - Best Parents Training Event		
City of Selma Recreation & Community Services.....	Selma, CA	7
Waseca Community Education & Recreation.....	Waseca, MN.....	61

2011 TENNIS IN THE PARKS IDEA HANDBOOK
TIP IDEA BOOK TABLE OF CONTENTS – BY CATEGORY

8 - Best QuickStart Tennis Idea

Kiwanis Tennis Center.....	Tempe, AZ.....	1
New Fairfield Park and Recreation.....	New Fairfield, CT.....	11
Martin County Parks and Recreation.....	Stuart, FL.....	21
Roger Scott Tennis Center.....	Pensacola, FL.....	23
City of Largo Southwest Recreation Complex.....	Largo, FL.....	20
Decatur Park District.....	Decatur, IL.....	32
H-F Racquet & Fitness Club.....	Homewood, IL.....	40
Morton Park District/Morton Tennis Association.....	Morton, IL.....	43
City of Worcester Public Works and Parks.....	Worcester, MA.....	52
General Butler State Resort Park.....	Carrollton, KY.....	49
Metro Omaha Tennis Alliance.....	Omaha, NE.....	70
NJTL of Trenton.....	Trenton, NJ.....	72
Wimberley Community Tennis Association.....	Wimberley, TX.....	90
Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation.....	Cottonwood Heights, UT.....	94
Charlottesville Tennis Patrons Association.....	Charlottesville, VA.....	97
Quickstart Tennis of Central Virginia.....	Ivy, VA.....	100
Rockbridge Tennis Association.....	Lexington, VA.....	112
Oshkosh Tennis Association.....	Oshkosh, WI.....	123

9 - Best Fundraising Idea

City of North Miami Parks & Recreation Department.....	North Miami, FL.....	13
H-F Raquet & Fitness Club.....	Homewood, IL.....	38
City of Clintonville Parks and Recreation.....	Clintonville, WI.....	117

10 - Best Media Event

City of Worcester Public Works and Parks.....	Worcester, MA.....	53
---	--------------------	----

11 - Best Tennis Block Party Idea

Redstone Park Tennis Center/Highlands Ranch Metro District.....	Highlands Ranch, CO.....	9
Lee County Community Tennis Association.....	Ft. Myers, FL.....	16
MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation.....	Jacksonville, FL.....	19
City of Albany Recreation and Parks Department.....	Albany, GA.....	25
Decatur Park District.....	Decatur, IL.....	33
H-F Racquet & Fitness Club.....	Homewood, IL.....	41
City of Worcester Public Works and Parks.....	Worcester, MA.....	54
City of Mendota Heights.....	Mendota Heights, MN.....	59

12 - Best Charity/Fundraiser Event

City of North Miami Parks & Recreation Department.....	North Miami, FL.....	13
NJTL of Trenton.....	Trenton, NJ.....	73

13 - Best Partnership Agreement

Redstone Park Tennis Center/Highlands Ranch Metro District.....	Highlands Ranch, CO.....	10
Lee County Community Tennis Association.....	Ft. Myers, FL.....	17
Decatur Park District.....	Decatur, IL.....	34
Peoria Park District.....	Peoria, IL.....	44
City of Worcester Public Works and Parks.....	Worcester, MA.....	55
Town of Cary Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.....	Cary, NC.....	68
Bucks County Tennis Association.....	Langhorne, PA.....	81
Concho Valley Tennis Association.....	San Angelo, TX.....	85
Staunton/Waynesboro/August County Tennis Association.....	Staunton, VA.....	114
Oshkosh North High School Tennis.....	Oshkosh, WI.....	125

14 - Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

Kiwanis Tennis Center.....	Tempe, AZ.....	2
West Sacramento Recreation Center.....	West Sacramento, CA.....	8
City of North Miami Parks & Recreation Department.....	North Miami, FL.....	13
Decatur Park District.....	Decatur, IL.....	35
Leominster Recreation Department.....	Leominster, MA.....	50
Marshall Recreation Department.....	Marshall, MI.....	56
Al's Clinics.....	Sandusky, OH.....	78
Westwood Tennis.....	Norman, OK.....	79

2011 TENNIS IN THE PARKS IDEA HANDBOOK
TIP IDEA BOOK TABLE OF CONTENTS – BY CATEGORY

Chestnut Ridge Community Tennis Association.....	New Paris, PA	82
Concho Valley Tennis Association.....	San Angelo, TX	86
Ida Lee Park Tennis Center.....	Leesburg, VA.....	103-110
Staunton/Waynesboro/August County Tennis Association	Staunton, VA	114
Peninsula Tennis Club	Port Angeles, WA.....	116
Oconomowoc Community Tennis Association.....	Oconomowoc, WI.....	119
Oshkosh North High School Tennis.....	Oshkosh, WI.....	127

15 - Wildcard Category

H-F Racquet & Fitness Club	Homewood, IL	37-42
Lee County Community Tennis Association	Ft. Myers, FL	18
Decatur Park District	Decatur, IL.....	36
Franklin Park Tennis Association.....	Boston, MA.....	43
City of Edina Park and Recreation.....	Edina, MN.....	57
Waseca Community Education & Recreation.....	Waseca, MN.....	60
City of Ferguson Parks and Recreation Department	Ferguson, MO	63
City of Carlsbad.....	Carlsbad, NM	75
Al's Clinics	Sandusky, OH	77
Concho Valley Tennis Association.....	San Angelo, TX	87
Pinedale Aquatic Center	Pinedale, WY.....	128



City of Tempe
Kiwanis Tennis Center
6111 S. All-America Way
Tempe, AZ 85283
480-350-5701
www.tempe.gov/tennis

Parks and Recreation Department

Category 8: Best Quickstart Tennis Idea

The Kiwanis Tennis Center in Tempe, AZ converted the hitting wall area into four 36 foot Quickstart Tennis Courts. Two courts are located on both sides of the tennis wall. Now tennis classes for the 4-8 year olds have their own dedicated tennis courts.

Since we no longer have to set up the portable nets and lines on the regulation tennis courts the teaching pros are able to spend more time with the players and parents. The players think it's really cool to have their own playing area and parents immediately see the dedication we have to developing young junior players.



For more information on this project contact:

Larry Funk, Tennis Director
(480) 350-5721
Larry_Funk@Tempe.gov



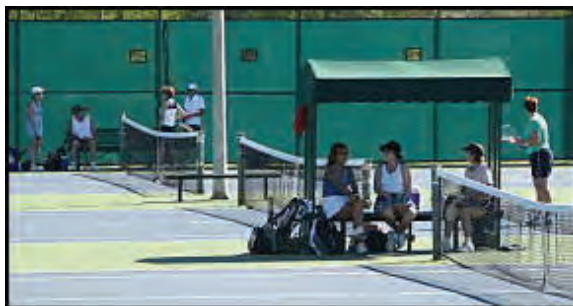
City of Tempe
Kiwanis Tennis Center
6111 S. All-America Way
Tempe, AZ 85283
480-350-5701
www.tempe.gov/tennis

Parks and Recreation Department

Category 14: Best Facility Renovation

In June, 2008 the City of Tempe completed resurfacing 15 tennis courts at the Kiwanis Tennis Center. The tennis courts had not been resurfaced in over 10 years and an upgrade in the facilities was needed. In 2007, Rebound Ace was chosen to install one court to measure the suitability of the surface for the entire facility. After a successful test, the existing tennis surface was removed and the substrate repaired on all remaining courts. Ace Surfaces then installed Rebound Ace with the now popular color scheme of the royal blue playing area and green surrounding court.

Players have appreciated the comfort of the shock pad and the consistent playability of the surface. The all around style supports player development and is fair to any style. The quality of the installations was excellent and the surfaces are holding up extremely well. These new outstanding tennis facilities are now attracting many tennis players throughout the Phoenix Area to the Kiwanis Tennis Center.



For more information on this project contact:

Larry Funk, Tennis Director
(480) 350-5721
Larry_Funk@Tempe.gov



C I T Y O F S E L M A

1710 TUCKER STREET • SELMA, CALIFORNIA 93662

Category #1- Most Successful New Youth Program

In January of 2008 the City of Selma Recreation and Community Services department introduced a new program “Tennis in the Park” for boys and girls ages 6 to 12 years old. It was structured as a six week instructional program that taught participants how to play the game of Tennis. The instructors for this program were volunteers, mostly parents of kids participating in the program who were trained by a USTA liaison. The program was a big hit, it meet for six weeks on Saturdays for two hours a day at Brentlinger Park tennis courts which were refurbished in 2007. 52 participants filled the courts every Saturday to learn how to play Tennis in a non-competitive fun environment.

Tennis in the Park was structured like our other youth sports programs in that the department provided the racquets and various types of tennis balls and as part of their fee participants received a bright yellow t-shirt that they wore during the program. Parents and participants both enjoyed the program so much that they didn’t want it to come to an end. Staff is already gearing up for the 2009 season with information about Tennis in the Park being listed in the 2008-2009 Activity Guide.



Pictured Above: Participants in the Tennis in the Park program going through warm-up exercises before working on their Tennis drills.



"Preserving Our Past, Enriching Our Present, Building Our Future"

33 Broadway, Jackson, California 95642-2301 • voice (209) 223-1646 • fax (209) 223-3141
E-mail: cinfo@ci.jackson.ca.us • Web site: <http://ci.jackson.ca.us>

Category 1: Most Successful New Youth Program

The City of Jackson, CA (pop. 4,320) teamed up with our local Community Tennis Association (Amador Tennis Club) to sponsor a county-wide junior team tennis league. The league is open to kids of all abilities, from age 7 – 14 and involves parents and other interested adult players in team organizing and coaching.

Since there are no private clubs in our rural area, we rely on cooperative arrangements with our local school district for use of public courts. It is not logistically viable to create actual "Quick Start" courts, but we make other modifications to enable all the kids to play. These include:

- Three ability levels (beginner, intermediate and advanced)
- Progression of court playing area (service court lines are used for beginners)
- Progression of playing equipment (foam balls for beginners, low-compression balls for intermediates, regular balls for advanced)
- All play is doubles and team based (beginners rotate after each point; intermediates and advanced after each game)
- Progression of playing rules (beginners play timed matches – 10 minutes; intermediates play "best of three" sets with "no ad" scoring; advanced play "best of three" sets with regular scoring)
- Matches are played one afternoon a week (Saturday or Sunday) with all league players participating

Our league plays two six-week seasons per year (Spring and Fall) and has been received with an ever more enthusiastic response. More than 100 children have been introduced to tennis – these are children who otherwise might never pick up a racquet. Children are progressing in their tennis from one ability level to the next. Playing at the advanced team level lets them enter high school ready to join the tennis team and play competitively at a regional and state level.

The key to the success of this program is involvement of the parents and the team format for the competition. If we had to rely on tennis professionals in our county (remember, no private clubs) junior tennis would be reserved for the elite few. We are proud to be a Tennis in the Parks agency that has been instrumental in bringing tennis to whole community.

For more information, please contact Rosalie Escamilla, Amador Tennis Club (and Mayor), by email: rosalie.escamilla@sbcglobal.net or telephone: (209) 257-1545 or visit the Amador Tennis Club web site at <http://www.amadortennisclub.org>.



Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

FROM: Adam Paul, USPTA Tennis Professional, City of Lompoc, CA Parks and Recreation

Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

Increased enrollment was accomplished in four different ways, as illustrated:

1. Increased growth of Little Tennis program by approximately 33 % by incorporating newly established 10 & Under teaching and play methodology.
2. Offered free trial demonstration clinics to interested youth and their parents. The mini-nets, low compression balls, and "Little League"-type courts were the hook required to attract new players.
3. Expanded offerings to the local military installation Youth Programs division—Vandenburg Air Force Base, which tapped into a new and untapped market.
4. Attended local summer festival, setting up an informal table to promote program, using fliers and examples of equipment on hand.



#4 - Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

The City of Sanger Parks & Recreation Department offers a youth tennis program for boys and girls ages 7 to 12. We have hosted a special event that encourages all of the participants to bring family and friends who may be interested but did not register for whatever reasons to join the group for the day to experience the program first hand. We had music in the background, giveaways and other raffle prizes. There were some of the regular activities and drills like a normal class session plus some other things like clocking serves with a radar gun and having kids hit targets worth different points. We tried to involve the parents as well. Our thoughts are that if the parents play tennis (or whatever other activities) with their children, they may have more of an interest and be more likely to continue playing.

Obviously, the intent of this special event was to get more participants. So if the newcomers enjoyed the day then we were prepared to register them on site afterwards. Of course there would be a late fee; otherwise, we would be concerned that too many people would intentionally wait until the last minute. At some of these events we have had over two times as many kids show up. Typically, about a third of those will continue with the program. Some of them are interested but are too young or too old. Of those kids we try to have them join our other program for younger children or get them into private lessons with our instructor. At the very least, we would try to collect their contact info to include them in future marketing and everyone would get our current Activity Guide as well. Even if they still did not want to participate in our tennis program, there are likely other things that they would enjoy.

For more information, contact Sean Fitzgerald, Recreation Specialist II at 876-6300x1430 or sfitzgerald@ci.sanger.ca.us.



C I T Y O F S E L M A

1710 TUCKER STREET • SELMA, CALIFORNIA 93662

Category #1- Most Successful New Youth Program

In January of 2008 the City of Selma Recreation and Community Services department introduced a new program “Tennis in the Park” for boys and girls ages 6 to 12 years old. It was structured as a six week instructional program that taught participants how to play the game of Tennis. The instructors for this program were volunteers, mostly parents of kids participating in the program who were trained by a USTA liaison. The program was a big hit, it meet for six weeks on Saturdays for two hours a day at Brentlinger Park tennis courts which were refurbished in 2007. 52 participants filled the courts every Saturday to learn how to play Tennis in a non-competitive fun environment.

Tennis in the Park was structured like our other youth sports programs in that the department provided the racquets and various types of tennis balls and as part of their fee participants received a bright yellow t-shirt that they wore during the program. Parents and participants both enjoyed the program so much that they didn’t want it to come to an end. Staff is already gearing up for the 2009 season with information about Tennis in the Park being listed in the 2008-2009 Activity Guide.



Pictured Above: Participants in the Tennis in the Park program going through warm-up exercises before working on their Tennis drills.

**CITY HALL**

1110 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691

City Council
City Manager
City Clerk
Human Resources
(916) 617-4500
Fax (916) 372-8765

Building
(916) 617-4683
Fax (916) 371-0845

Community Development
Planning
Engineering
(916) 617-4645
Fax (916) 371-0845

Finance
(916) 617-4589
Fax (916) 373-9006

Fire Administration
(916) 617-4600
Fax (916) 371-5017

Housing & Community Investment
(916) 617-4555
Fax (916) 372-1584

Information Technology
(916) 617-4520
Fax (916) 372-8765

Parks & Recreation
(916) 617-4620
Fax (916) 373-5329

Redevelopment
Economic Development
(916) 617-4535
Fax (916) 373-5848

Refuse & Recycling
(916) 617-4590
Fax (916) 373-9006

Utility Billing
(916) 617-4589
Fax (916) 373-9006

POLICE

550 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Administration
(916) 617-4900
Fax (916) 373-2377

Code Enforcement
(916) 617-4925
Fax (916) 617-4340

PUBLIC WORKS

1951 South River Road
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(916) 617-4850
Fax (916) 371-1516

Category 14: Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

The City of West Sacramento Parks & Recreation Department has partnered with the Washington Unified School District to build eight (8) brand new tennis courts as part of its new Recreation Center. The courts and facility will be joint use between high school classes and teams, and city youth and adult tennis programs. The collaboration for the development and construction of the project has mutually benefited both organizations by allowing us to share the costs to build and providing the West Sacramento community with an opportunity to participate in tennis programs.

For more information on the West Sacramento Recreation Center and the joint use project, visit www.westsacfun.org/reccenter.cfm.

For more information on this project contact:

Katie Harris, MPA, AFO
Recreation Supervisor I - Aquatics, Tennis, and Skatepark
(916) 617-4636
kathleenh@cityofwestsacramento.org





Submitted by: Redstone Park Tennis Center
Highlands Ranch Metro District
3280 Redstone Park Circle
Highlands Ranch, Colorado 80129

Carolyn Peters, Recreation Manager
720-240-5931; cpeters@highlandsranch.org

Category 11: Best Tennis Block Party Idea

Contact: Mike Shellman, Redstone Team Leader, 303-471-8934, mshellman@hrcaonline.org

In March of each year, Redstone Tennis hosts a “Spring Into Tennis” block party to coincide with the opening of our seasonal facility. The event is held from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday Redstone Tennis is open for the year. In 2008 over 150 new and returning players came for three hours of entertainment and court activities.

To lend a festive air, a local band (one year jazz, another soft rock, another school led strings) is invited to welcome guests and play throughout the morning on the patio of the pro shop. A clown or other wandering entertainer is on hand to encourage players onto the courts and entertain children while parents have an opportunity to challenge the courts. Cake and ice cream top the party atmosphere.

On court, there are several different activities to be involved with. Adult and youth drills each have a court dedicated to them with another court set up for ball machine practice. This past year a court was also set up with two quick start nets that initiated much talk and anticipation for beginning youth programs. A fourth court is used for players to test out demo racquets supplied by local tennis shops and equipment representatives. In 2009, there will be a Rapid Rally court to introduce the new backboard installed following grant awards from the local parks foundation and Colorado Tennis Association.

Providing constant activity along with entertainment & snacks, make for a really fun morning to start the season. Preparations include arranging for the music (local schools have been a great resource) and contacting several local tennis shops who also provide additional staffing along with some free giveaway prizes. Local Wilson, Prince and Babolat reps are contacted and are on hand with demo equipment and more giveaway prizes. Additional courts are set up for social play that is self-directed and circulated which all lends to an event that needs minimal staffing and excites everyone for the upcoming season.

Category 4: Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

Contact: Mike Shellman, Redstone Team Leader, 303-471-8934, mshellman@hrcaonline.org

Redstone Park Tennis Center offers several youth tennis team opportunities including Junior Team Tennis, USA Junior Team and C.A.R.A team tennis. The Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics (C.A.R.A) program is offered throughout the front range of Colorado in association with Colorado Parks and Recreation Association. Redstone Tennis has offered the C.A.R.A program as an introduction to competitive tennis as well as a supplemental opportunity for additional play for members of our other

junior team programs. Information regarding the program was sent to all past junior and youth players this year to inform them of the program and a special parents meeting was held prior to registration.

In 2008, Redstone Park Tennis Center had a 58% increase of players in the C.A.R.A program growing from 25 to 47 players. The program is community based and designed to encourage beginning players into a competitive format. Over 25 communities have teams that are divided into north and south regions. Inter-community play is set once a week with state championships held in August at the end of a ten week season. To qualify for the state playoff, a player must have only played in two matches. Teams are age grouped but matches may be played across groups if teams do not have full representation, thereby allowing kids to play each week without defaults. Staff coaching is allowed and encouraged to assist players. C.A.R.A. teams practice once or twice during the week preparing for Friday matches with an active atmosphere. This introduction to competition is grass roots tennis at its best.

Category 13: Best Partnership Agreement

Contact: Carolyn Peters, Recreation Manager, 720-240-5931, cpeters@highlandsranch.org

Highlands Ranch, Colorado is a growing community and has a current population of 92,000. While there are many providers of recreation services in the community, the Highlands Ranch Metro District and the Highlands Ranch Community Association (HRCA) are two organizations that provide a full range of programming.

In 1999, Highlands Ranch Metro District, the local governing agency, opened the first public tennis court facility in Redstone Park. Redstone Park Tennis Center has eight outdoor lighted courts open to the public year round on a first-come, first-served basis and seasonal tennis programs March through October. During its first years of operation the Metro District funded programming at Redstone Tennis through its general fund.

In 2003, the HRCA and Highlands Ranch Metro District kicked off a partnership to promote and increase tennis participation in our community. At the beginning of the 2003 season, 628 players participated in Redstone Park Tennis Center programs. Five years later, at the end of the 2007 season, there were 1,901 participants, which is a threefold increase. In tennis talk, we hit the sweet spot by working as teammates.

This all began when HRCA leased the \$1.3 million, USTA national award winning Redstone Park Tennis Center from the Metro District to offer public tennis programs seven months per year. In 2003, to get these programs off on the right foot, the Metro District agreed to accept a low lease fee of \$6,620, which did not cover costs typically recovered by user fees. That same year HRCA subsidized programs at Redstone by about \$5,000 but increased participation by 143 players or 22 percent. From that point forward, the participation and financial picture has improved for HRCA's programs. From 2004 through 2008 HRCA has met or exceeded its budgetary goals for the program, while the Metro District is recovering its maintenance and promotional costs through planned lease fee increases.

As one looks closely at this partnership, only one conclusion can be drawn: *Everyone benefits* – tennis players, the HRCA, the Metro District and the Highlands Ranch community.

NEW FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION

4 Brush Hill Road

New Fairfield, CT 06812

Telephone (203) 312-5633 Fax (203) 312-5608

2. Most Successful New Adult Program

Adult Tennis has been reinstated this past summer. The town used to have a tennis organization that coordinated play between adults. The Parks and Recreation has started this program again by setting up play in an informal manner in which all players will find fun, friendship, and competition.

8. Best Quickstart Tennis Idea

This set of instructional books has given my staff and I the knowledge to set up our own in-house program. The Parks and Recreation department used to use outside vendors who priced a lot of parents and kids out of the tennis program. Quickstart Tennis has given us the option of using student athletes as instructors to reduce the cost of our tennis camps. This will enable us to reach more kids and run longer camps.

Contact: Steve Merullo
312-5634
smerullo@newfairfield.org



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Parks and Recreation



Category 1: Most Successful New Youth Program

The DC Parks & Recreation recently conducted a new youth program for youths 8 & under. The program was a huge success. We used the Quick start format and set up four mini courts on one court. We used another court to set up cones, ladder, hoops, and other developmental equipment. While I was the only certified Professional there, we use parent volunteers to help with the teaching. (I conducted two training sessions with the parents before we started the classes). Our students came from nearby schools, and they keep coming. Our expected class size was 16 students; with our actual class size being 36 students. I had to cut the class off. They keep coming and coming, and coming. This was a fall program that lasted for 8 weeks. We have had so much respond to continue this program. It was a great introduction to tennis for the little ones. It was truly enjoyed by all. The DC Parks & Recreation has received so much positive feedback from the parents of the participants, from the school, and other staffs that we have decided to copy it to other parts of the city.

The strategy was to expose a group of youth to the game of a lifetime. To promote a Quick start tennis program for the youth of Washington, DC. To grow the game of tennis from the grassroots.

As a result of this program, the department has began to look at other sites to implement the program, and addition training sessions for staff on Quick Start Tennis, and other recreational tennis programs for the spring. This type of program can help us in exposing a great deal of youth to tennis. Thanks USTA and NRPA for the information and resources that help us provide opportunities for the District of Columbia residents.

For more information contact:

Jeff Mays
Tennis Program Manager
DC Parks & Recreation
www.jeff.mays@dc.gov
(202) 671-0412

Join in the Fun!



City of North Miami
Parks & Recreation Department
It Starts In Parks!



810 Northeast 125 Street
North Miami, Florida 33161
Phone 305-895-9840 Fax 305-892-8639

Category 9: Best Fundraising Idea

The City of North Miami hosts an annual “Wilson Demo Day and Tennis Fundraiser Event” to help raise money for underprivileged residents and for improvements to the center. This is a free event for adults and children of all ages as well as skill levels. Wilson provides the latest rackets on the market for people to test out; we have a pro on every court working with participants on tennis related drills. In addition to interactive matches and fun games, players are rotated from court to court every ten minutes. This event is partially funded through a silent auction; gift certificates and annual memberships are among items local businesses donate in exchange for advertisement. Proceeds of the silent auction go towards the above stated causes. We also have food and refreshments included for all the participants. At the conclusion of the event, there is a “hit for prizes” competition for all who participate. Everyone is able to go home with a prize.

Category 12: Best Charity/Fundraiser Event

The City of North Miami hosts an “Annual Clayton Feig Memorial Tennis Tournament.” It is a wonderful event which has been held for the past 15 years at the Penny Sugarman Tennis Center at Sans Souci. This is the only free USTA sanctioned tournament in the state. It is a boys and girls event with 16 & under and 18 & under divisions of both singles and doubles. This is a memorial tennis event held in honor of Clayton Feig, a participant who grew up playing tennis at our center as a gentle and kind young man who sadly lost his life due to epilepsy at the early age of 18. His parents sponsor the event by paying for refreshments, balls, trophies and a t-shirt for all participants. The city donates the center and the staff to organize, plan and coordinate the event. All money raised through donations and from the silent auction goes to the Epilepsy Foundation-Clayton Feig Fund, which helps other children battling epilepsy to improve their quality of life.

Category 14: Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

In August 2007 the City of North Miami Parks and Recreation Department partnered with USTA to renovate the tennis courts at Penny Sugarman Tennis Center. The hard courts were in need of resurfacing as they showed significant wear and tear. The red clay court was also in need of a facelift, which would include converting the red clay court to a green clay court to coincide with our above ground watering system. We searched and found a matching USTA grant which our city qualified for and was thrilled to receive. All 12 hard courts were resurfaced in the US open colors of blue and green. The resurfacing came out great, and it also matched the resurfaced clay court in green. As a result of the grant, the city was also able to purchase a shady court for each court to provide protection and to enhance the look of the facility. This joint project between the City of North Miami Parks and Recreation Department and USTA has received great reviews from all of our players and from the community as a whole.

Contact: Ross Dubins, Tennis Pro
305-893-7130
ross10is@bellsouth.net



LEE COUNTY COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Category # 1: Most Successful New Youth Program

The National Student Athlete competition was implemented when the Lee County Community Tennis Association partnered with Lee County Parks and Recreation to implement the First Serve program. The National Student Athlete Competition gives participating youth points for report-card grades and tournament results. First Serve members earn points for 365 days.

Members compete with their points to win a scholarship for college. Parents were excited about the chance of their child winning a college scholarship. This excitement has led to parent buy-in in the tennis program that their child loves. Parents began entering their children in the local sanctioned tennis tournaments to give their child an opportunity to gain tournament points to match their academic points. Children tried harder, studied harder in school and parents sign up for more tennis tournaments.

Through the National Student Athlete Competition, children brought home better grades and parents became a part of the child's love for the sport of tennis. After-school tennis programs are always looking for ways to create parent buy-in and bringing academics and tennis into a competition worked in our park.

Contact:

Shannon Rogers
Senior Parks and Recreation Program Specialist
Lee County Parks and Recreation
Schandler Hall Community Center
419 Florence Ave
Ft. Myers, FL 33905
Office (239) 694-6467
Cell (239) 707-3765
Fax (239) 694-2264
srogers@leegov.com



P. O. Box 101138
Cape Coral, FL 33910
Phone: (239) 565-5300 Email: Info@LCCTA.com
Website: www.LeeCountyTennis.usta.com





LEE COUNTY COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Category # 6: Best Coaches Training Event

The Lee County Community Tennis Association hosted a Recreational Coach Workshop exclusively for Lee County Parks and Recreation employees who deliver after school programs. The workshop was held at Lee County Parks and Recreation's Schandler Hall Park Facility.

Lee County Parks and Recreation encouraged and paid for all of the interested staffers to attend this workshop. The idea was to have this class just for PARD staff so they would not be intimidated by tennis teaching professionals and they would be free to learn without reservations or embarrassment that they were not familiar with the sport of tennis.

Twenty-two staffers hit the tennis courts at Schandler Hall at 7:30 A.M. Most of these employees had little to no tennis experience. By the end of the six-hour workshop they were all playing and had learned how to incorporate tennis into their after school programs even at sites that do not have tennis courts.

Contact:

Susie Bessire

USTA Florida Community Coordinator - Region 7

2489 Celebes Court

Punta Gorda, FL 33983

Office Phone/Fax 941-629-4733

Cell Phone - 941-916-1628

E-Mail - bessire@florida.usta.com



P. O. Box 101138
Cape Coral, FL 33910
Phone: (239) 565-5300 Email: Info@LCCTA.com
Website: www.LeeCountyTennis.usta.com





LEE COUNTY COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Category #11: Best Tennis Block Party Idea

The Lee County Community Tennis Association (LCCTA) partnered with several local organizations including Lee County Parks and Recreation to host a two-day USTA Tennis Block Party was held at Lee County Parks and Recreation's Rutenberg Park during May, which is National Tennis month.

The Lee County Community Tennis Association was awarded a grant from USTA to promote the Block Party and to deliver information about their youth tennis programs to the 600 fifth-grade students who attended the Block Party.

Students and their Physical Education Teachers enjoyed three hours of playing in a "mini-tennis" court round-robin in the parking lot and received instruction from local USPTA teaching professionals.

The collaboration between the local school system who bused in the students and their teachers to the park, the USPTA Pros who donated their time, the local LCCTA, Lee County Parks and Recreation, USTA Florida and more than 40 local volunteers were all essential in the success of the event.

This event for fifth-grade students has been in existence for more than 12 years as an introduction to tennis through the efforts of local USPTA Pros. Adding the element of the Block Party made it possible for all of the students to leave with information on the Rallyball Youth Tennis and USTA Jr. Team Tennis programs that are offered through the CTA and Lee County PARC.

This season more than 200 children are registered for the Rallyball Youth Tennis Program being delivered at the Park sites, and a core group of USTA Jr. Team Tennis children are in the process of registering for this fall league season

Contact:
Susie Bessire
USTA Florida Community Coordinator - Region 7
2489 Celebes Court
Punta Gorda, FL 33983
Office Phone/Fax 941-629-4733
Cell Phone - 941-916-1628
E-Mail - bessire@florida.usta.com



P. O. Box 101138
Cape Coral, FL 33910
Phone: (239) 565-5300 Email: Info@LCCTA.com
Website: www.LeeCountyTennis.usta.com





LEE COUNTY COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Category #13: Best Partnership Agreement

Lee County Tennis Association has partnered with Lee County Parks and Recreation to create a perfect match.

Lee County Parks and Recreation provides the use of tennis courts all over Lee County for tennis classes, league plays and special USTA programs. In exchange, the Lee County Tennis Association provides instructors for all tennis lessons, workshops, youth and adult programs.

Since starting their partnership several years ago, tennis has become an interracial part of programming through out the county.

Contact
Kathy Cahill
Volunteer Services Coordinator
Lee County Parks and Recreation
3410 Palm Beach Blvd.
Ft. Myers, FL 33916
239-432-2159 work
239-707-0876 cell
239-432-2030 fax
kcahill@leegov.com



P. O. Box 101138
Cape Coral, FL 33910
Phone: (239) 565-5300 Email: Info@LCCTA.com
Website: www.LeeCountyTennis.usta.com





LEE COUNTY COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Category 15 Wildcard~ Wimbledon in Lee County

Lee County Community Tennis Association has teamed up with Lee County Parks and Recreation to offer free tennis lessons in local parks programs through out the school year and competed at the Cross Town Rally for trophies and other prizes. Lee County youth tennis players competed in a Wimbledon-style Cross Town Rally to bring a great year to an end. The Cross Town Rally is an activity that brings area youth together to experience competitive play.

The children competed in a doubles tournament and many of them – for the first time – became familiar with a tournament bracket. Most participants had only played tennis in the after school program of the park before the Cross Town Rally.

Before the tournament, the children learned about the Wimbledon Championship and their knowledge of the grass courts intensified the enthusiasm in the air. Four grass courts were set up on a football field. Setting up the grass courts allowed more children to play at once so this activity was streamlined enough to be held during the after-school program.

Holding the tournament after school also allowed parents the opportunity to watch their child compete. Many parents mentioned that they didn't know their child was so talented in the sport. The day ended with an award ceremony with a level of excitement that would compete with the actual Wimbledon.

Contact:

Shannon Rogers
Senior Parks and Recreation Program Specialist
Lee County Parks and Recreation
Schandler Hall Community Center
419 Florence Ave
Ft. Myers, FL 33905
Office (239) 694-6467
Cell (239) 707-3765
Fax (239) 694-2264
srogers@leegov.com



P. O. Box 101138
Cape Coral, FL 33910
Phone: (239) 565-5300 Email: Info@LCCTA.com
Website: www.LeeCountyTennis.usta.com





Category 11: Best Tennis Block Party Idea

The MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation hosts a Tennis Block Party & Kids Carnival each spring. This past year, we moved the event to the new MaliVai Washington Youth Center in an inner city urban area. The event attracted 500+ participants and attracted a diverse group of participants, both tennis enthusiasts and new recruits!

Since many of the neighborhood families had not been exposed to tennis, we included a number of other activities: carnival games, arts & crafts, inflatable rides and a dj. Soon, many people who came for the other activities were dancing their way to the tennis courts!

In addition to the fun activities, we also had numerous community groups and non-profit agencies display information about their programs and services. This included government agencies (such as police, fire, health department) as well as other agencies focusing on such services as credit repair, home ownership, insurance, medical services, etc.

The strategy was four-fold:

1. To hold a 'welcome to the neighborhood' event so that MWKF could show neighbors what we were all about.
2. To promote the sport of tennis—and tennis activities to the community at large.
3. To provide access to needed services in an impoverished area.
4. To bring people together across race and class through the shared experience of tennis.

As a result, we exposed 500+ to the sport of tennis, conducted a neighborhood needs analysis and developed many new partnerships and collaborations.

For more information on this event, contact:

Terri Florio, Executive Director
MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation
904-359-KIDS (5437)
terri@malwashington.com



City of Largo
Southwest Recreation Complex
13120 Vonn Rd
Largo, FL 33774
727-518-3095

Quickstart program-block party

We did a program this fall where we did an 8 week QuickStart program at 2 area elementary schools. There were 20 kids in each school that participated in the program. Additionally we offer the QuickStart program at our facility. At the conclusion of the 8 weeks program we planned a QuickStart Block Party at the Tennis Center. We bussed the 40 kids from the 2 area schools and incorporated the kids in the program at the facility. We had a competition among the groups in QuickStart and did other drills and activities. Food and music was also provided and the general public was welcome to attend.

Martin County Parks & Recreation

2401 SE Monterey Road

Stuart, FL 34996

Phone (772) 475-7477

Fax (326) 419-4096

<http://www.martin.fl.us>

Category 8: Best Quick Start Tennis Idea

Martin County Parks & Recreation recently offered a 12 week Quick Start tennis program in Stuart, Florida. After watching a demonstration of Quick Start at the USPTA World Convention in Tampa last year and watching how it was implemented in various Saturday morning "Play Days" in Florida it was decided to replace the existing Rallyball program with a Quick Start format. Everyone 10 went from tennis balls and an adult sized court to sponge balls and a Quick Start sized court for the 12 week course.

The strategy was three fold:

- 1) To get kids rallying a lot sooner
- 2) To increase their level of interest and effort
- 3) To retain more kids for future programs

The after school quick start tennis program has been supplemented with "Play Days" on Saturday mornings to increase their interest and understanding of the game.

The result has been a 500% increase in improvement, higher retention of existing players and more fun in the lessons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the USTA and USPTA for launching this excellent idea in this country. I would not teach beginners 10 and under now without using the quick start method.

For more information on this program contact:

Jim Richards, Tennis Coordinator

Martin County Parks & Rec.

Stuart, FL

772-475-7477

Jrichards25@sprintpcs.com

Roger Scott Tennis Center

**4601 Piedmont Road
Pensacola, FL 32503**

Category #3 - New Team Tennis Based Program

Roger Scott Tennis Center, which has operated an annual team tennis program for many years, introduced the QuickStart Tennis format into the program this year.



Youth and parents alike have found the format to be successful in the quick progression of skills, from the first week when serving the ball over the net was the main goal to four weeks into the program when even the youngest player can rally points. More importantly, the youth are having fun while acquiring a love of the game.

Forty-one youth participate in the 5 to 8 year old age group while thirty youth participate in the 9 to 10 year old group.

Parents have been very vocal about their favorable impressions of the format and the results it produces. Word of the success of the program has spread among parents and players to the point that with only two weeks left in the fall season, new parents are coming forward asking if their children can join the league.

Players eagerly “hit the courts” on match day, many showing up thirty minutes early just so they can hit the ball more. They immediately go the QuickStart courts, get some balls and start playing, many times even before the coaches have shown up for matches.

Who knows, we may have the next American tennis star in our group!

Without a doubt, QuickStart Tennis is “here to stay” at Roger Scott!



For More Information, Contact: Donna Underwood; panache2_2@yahoo.com; 850-572-0312

Roger Scott Tennis Center

**4601 Piedmont Road
Pensacola, FL 32503**

Category #8 - QuickStart Training Idea

Roger Scott Tennis Center has fully adopted the QuickStart Tennis format into its programs and introduced it to other tennis professionals in the Pensacola area.



Roger Scott Tennis Center has sponsored three separate QuickStart training events conducted by USTA staff members to introduce the QuickStart format to the local community. Attended by tennis professionals, volunteers, parents, and staff of local community centers, the training provided a springboard for the adoption of the QuickStart format into the local area. Staff members of Roger Scott, in turn, have provided training to local community center staff members for incorporation into their programs.

As a introduction of the QuickStart format to , local youth, Roger Scott hosted a “Play Day”. Over 35 local children attended the “Play Day” event and many have continued their participation by playing in the Grand Prix tournament series hosted by the local junior tennis association, by playing in the Fall School Team tennis league, and by attending Quick Start clinics held at Roger Scott Tennis Center.





The local summer camp held annually at Roger Scott Tennis Center also incorporated QuickStart format tennis into its daily activities. The camp, which operates each week of the summer, introduced a large number of youth to tennis using the QuickStart format.

Roger Scott Tennis Center has hosted one of the youth tournaments sponsored in the fall of 2008 by the Pensacola Junior Tennis Association. The Grand Prix, a series of five separate tournaments, has used the QuickStart format for children ages 5-10. In addition to the tournament held at Roger Scott Tennis Center, staff members of Roger Center have run the QuickStart portion of the other two Grand Prix events which have been held at other tennis facilities in the area.

Fully accepted as the “way to go” by parents, players, and staff members, the QuickStart Tennis format has become a daily way of life at Roger Scott Tennis Center. It’s adoption into our program is resulting in a love of the game by local youth players, even at the youngest ages!



For More Information, Contact: Donna Underwood; panache2_2@yahoo.com; 850-572-0312



Category #11 - Best Tennis Block Party Idea

Tennis Block Parties work best when they are all inclusive and fun. In order to achieve this goal, invite local community organizations, schools, support groups, and rehab clients to the event. Utilize the services of not only area teaching professionals, but also teaching pros that specialize in wheelchair and adaptive tennis instruction. Structure the event so that all participants have the opportunity to experience wheelchair tennis. This is an eye opening experience for not only your youth participants, but also your adult participants. Not only will this increase the number of tennis players in your community, but also create a diverse group that can come together to celebrate a common interest: Tennis. Of course, keep the theme of the event fun. Have music, contests, and prizes that can be enjoyed by all.

For more information, please contact:

Suzanne Davis

Director

City of Albany Recreation & Parks

Albany, Georgia

229-430-5222

sudavis@albany.ga.us



Columbus Regional Tennis Association

P.O. Box 8236

Columbus, GA 31906

www.corta.org

Category 2. Most Successful New Adult Program

The **CORTA 101-Scramble** is a six-week program offered as an intermediate program designed to prepare players for play in our Adult League.

CORTA (Columbus Regional Tennis Association) developed the program to target the beginner tennis player and educate them on “real” match play. This program is offered to players who have completed our Tennis 101 and 102 programs; which are for new players who have no prior tennis experience.

In the **CORTA 101-Scramble** players are given instruction on the procedures and rules of league tennis. Two league players who have many years of tennis experience taught the program. The instruction includes everything the players need to know on how to play a “real” tennis match; from the spin of the racket to determine 1st service to how to play a 3rd set tie - break. Players have the opportunity to stop play to ask questions and correct any mistakes they make along the way. The instructors circulate among the matches and advise players with the correct procedures and rules to use to resolve any situations that arise, mistakes they observe or questions asked.

CORTA noticed that after players had completed Tennis 101 and 102, many were still not comfortable enough with the procedures, rules, and regulations associated with playing actual matches to join league play. This program was developed for the purpose of educating these players about the game of tennis to a point that would allow them to register for the upcoming Adult League.

As a result, we had 18 participants sign up the first time this program was offered and out of these 18 players, 14 signed up to play in the upcoming adult league.

For more information on this program contact:

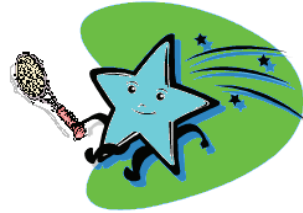
Cissy Sanders or Charlie Clippinger

CORTA Local League Coordinators

(706) 317-4136

www.corta.org

adultprograms@corta.org



#1 Most Successful New Youth Program

Rising Tennis Stars

This is a beginner level program for young players ages 9 & 10. Each player is given a new 23" or 25" tennis racquet to keep at the start of the program so that they have the correct equipment from the beginning. The program lasts for 6-weeks and they meet once a week for 1 ½ hours. The program uses the *Quickstart* format in that the tennis racquet is size appropriate, the courts used are 60' and the low compression orange balls are used. The program can handle up to 24 participants and they work directly with two certified teaching pros. The first half of each session the players will work on some aspect of the game to try to develop and hone that particular skill. The second half of each session will be match play for the participants so that they can immediately try their newly developed skill in a competitive setting.

This program can be switched up for other age groups and the basic philosophy can remain the same; learn a new skill with the correct equipment and then immediately put it to use. The instructors will arrange the matches so as to put players of similar ability on the court together. Match play can be done in a singles format, doubles format, mixed doubles format or a combination of any format as time permits. This is also a great opportunity to put together junior teams for league play.



#2 Most Successful New Adult Program

Parent / Child Tennis Lessons

This 6-week program teaches the game of tennis to both the parent and the child at the same time. The only requirement is that one or both must be a beginner. Surprisingly, it is often the parent who is the beginner who wants to learn the sport their child already enjoys playing. The focus of this program is to work with the two so that they can play together as a doubles team or against one another. We have found that with the very hectic and busy schedules the adults in our community have setting aside quality time with their children is very important making this a very fun and very popular program.

J. Scott Laakso, PPRP, AFO

Tennis Supervisor
Roswell Recreation, Parks, Historic &
Cultural Affairs Department
38 Hill Street, Suite 100
Roswell, GA 30075
770-641-3760
770-641-3969 (fax)
slaakso@roswellgov.com



Savannah Area Tennis Association
128 Brown Pelican Drive
Savannah GA 31419
912-961-9862
ctcsavannahga@prodigy.net

Category #1: Most Successful New Youth Program The Savannah Grand Prix

Savannah Area Tennis Association had six Grand Prix events every other Saturday afternoon through the fall season. These events are designed to introduce novice players to local match play & also to provide a tournament styled experience for the more advanced players. We have two divisions – Novice/Intermediate and Intermediate/Advanced. Each division has age groups – 10U, 12U, 16U and 18U. Play is Singles.

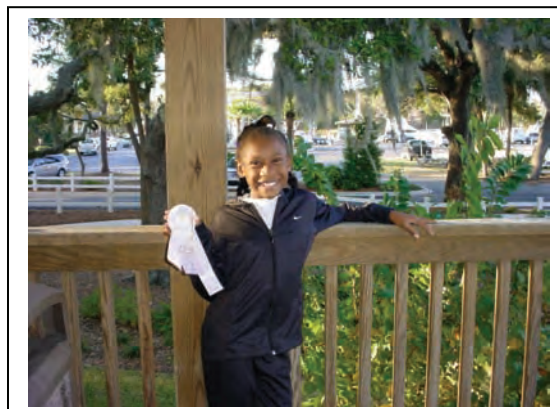
Parents are the scorekeepers and court monitors. Scorekeepers are given the number of players in their grouping and a schedule of play that matches that group. We try to provide at least 2 hours of play for each child. So if the group has 5 players for instance, they will round robin 6 games each round, no ad. If there are 6 players, they would round robin 5 games in each round. That works out to about 24 or 25 games and plenty of time on court. If there are 8 or more in an age group, we divide into two groups of 4 each or whatever the number may dictate.

This is an easy format to administer. If a player does not show up for any reason, the scorekeeper's schedule is just switched with the schedule that will match the number that did show up. Parents are able to network with each other as they watch play for an afternoon and help with scoring if they so wish.

Scores are kept throughout the six weeks and awards are presented at the last event. Approximately 80 young people enjoyed this format this past fall.

For More Information:

Phyllis Greene, Community Tennis Coordinator
Savannah Area Tennis Association
961-9862, 507-9862
ctcsavannahga@prodigy.net





Savannah Area Tennis Association
128 Brown Pelican Drive
Savannah GA 31419
912-961-9862
ctcsavannahga@prodigy.net

Category #2: Most Successful New Adult Program You-Decide Lessons

Savannah Area Tennis Association started a new adult program that has had some success this past season. We found that with adult schedules the way they are, the time and place of adult community programs didn't always work well for everyone. There were always adults unhappy that their schedules just wouldn't allow them to participate in what we had set up. It was often confusing and difficult for them to get a list of instructors and start calling for private instruction. So with a few of our SATA instructors being willing to work through our CTA, we set up a program called You-Decide Lessons.

Participants were allowed to set up their own private or group lessons. They contacted our coordinator and gave her a day and time and courts preferred. The coordinator then sent the order out to the You-Decide instructors and in most cases there was always at least one instructor willing to accommodate the participant(s). Once the match-up was made, the participant and instructor would stay in touch with each other in case schedules or weather cancelled a lesson. We kept the fees low, ran the fees through payroll and returned all except for a small charge back to the instructor in their paycheck.

We originally set this up for adults but have had family groups and children's groups with varying ages join up as well. Some of the You-Decides go for one or two lessons or continue play for a month or two. It's gotten people on court who were having a hard time fitting into the time and place of the community programs so that makes it a success in our eyes.

For More Information:

Phyllis Greene, Community Tennis Coordinator
Savannah Area Tennis Association
961-9862, 507-9862
ctcsavannahga@prodigy.net



Savannah Area Tennis Association
128 Brown Pelican Drive
Savannah GA 31419
912-961-9862
ctcsavannahga@prodigy.net

Category #5: Best Growth of Existing Adult Program The Flex League

Savannah Area Tennis Association started the Singles Flex League and it has definitely been a success. There are always adults who play the leagues but are still hungry for more play or adults who are in the leagues but not as a singles player and they want that opportunity as well. And then there are adults who are not in leagues because of family schedules and the Flex League gives them a welcomed chance to play.

SATA's Flex League started off with 70 players in the first season and grew last summer to almost 100. Our coordinator has two leagues, summer and winter, at the urging of players and this too has proven to be popular. The adults love it. Our coordinator has done a good job keeping the players focused and interested. If a player should miss playing his/her scheduled matches, they are defaulted out of play for the rest of the season so that other players are not disappointed in not having a match every week or two.

The SATA board is now discussing adding a Doubles Flex League and a Mixed Doubles Flex League to the schedule. Being flexible leads to a popular format.

For More Information:

Phyllis Greene, Community Tennis Coordinator
Savannah Area Tennis Association
961-9862, 507-9862
ctcsavannahga@prodigy.net



4. Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

Decatur Park District has long been associated with The First Tee, a golf program teaching not only the skills needed to play golf, but also offers presentations of life skills programs by prominent role models in the community. These same methods were employed back in 2004 to create our own version of The First Serve, which has served hundreds of young players up to 18 years of age. Most of the players hail from impoverished families, some holding a tennis racquet for the first time in their teens. A local orthopedic physician helped us start the program not only with seed money, but by taking afternoons off to talk with the players and to play tennis with them. We expanded out to two middle schools and two high schools, as well as Homework Hangout, an after school program to also promote The First Serve this past year.

William Clevenger, bill@decparcs.com, (217) 422-5911





Parks · Recreation · Golf · Decatur Airport · Scovill Zoo

8. Best Quickstart Tennis Idea

When USTA offered the Quickstart program, we were immediately interested, but worried about how our local kids would pay the \$50 entry fee. We made Decatur Community Tennis Foundation scholarships available to an entire day care center serving poorer children in our community, boosting our numbers up over 40 for our first season of Quickstart. We have a scholarship program in place which typically awards 50% assistance up through 90%, but were able to offer 100% through a generous partnership with our local tennis foundation. The foundation members themselves did presentations in the schools to promote Quickstart, and helped sign the kids up, moving the families quickly through the registration system to begin playing tennis right away as soon as school was out.

Rodney Buhr, rodney@decparcs.com, (217) 422-5911





Parks · Recreation · Golf · Decatur Airport · Scovill Zoo

11. Best Tennis Block Party Idea

We scheduled a block party in the fall of 2007 for May of 2008, only to find out later it was to be our last formal day of school in our community. We contacted USTA and rescheduled for a June weekday when we could bus in participants from our 23 supervised playgrounds. We then hosted a sizeable number of children and their young adult site supervisors, as well as interested parents. This would not have happened in May if we had used our original date. We timed the event so the kids could enjoy our free lunch program in the parks, board the bus, play tennis and return to their parks in time for a snack, courtesy of another one of our partners, Illinois State Board of Education.

Mary Jane Hayes, emjay61@aol.com, (217) 433-9960





13. Best Partnership Agreement

Decatur Park District has worked hard to rekindle interest in tennis within our community, this past year partnering with both the Decatur Athletic Club and the Decatur Community Tennis Foundation. Chuck Kuhle, tennis pro from the club, agreed to run our facility and programs, while the foundation wrote a check to pay for instructors to run Quickstart, tournaments, our USTA Block Party and other special events. Foundation seed money also provided some scholarship opportunities for kids who would not otherwise have had a chance to play. Putting turf issues aside, we have been able to reach larger numbers and promote all of our programs collectively at all partnering agencies and facilities.

William Clevenger, bill@decparcs.com, (217) 422-5911





14. Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

Fairview Tennis Complex received a complete facelift in the 1990's, refurbishing nine old courts, building a beautiful clubhouse and eventually becoming home to the USTA Ursula Beck Pro/Am Tennis Tournament, hosting hundreds of players over the years from over 60 different countries. But the renovations did not stop there. Each year some part of the facility is upgraded, sometimes with the aid of USTA grants. Courts have been resurfaced on a regular basis, fencing has been replaced, parking has been upgraded, while painting and horticultural enhancements have taken place each year, all creating a state-of-the-art facility used also by local high school and collegiate players. Fairview Tennis Complex recently won a Facility of the Year designation at the US Open from USTA!

William Clevenger, bill@decparcs.com, (217) 422-5911





15. Wildcard Category

Decatur Park District offers birthday party options at a number of our facilities, including pools, riding stables, zoo and parks. We decided to construct a birthday party package which would also introduce children to tennis. For a modest fee per child we offered tennis instruction with portable nets set up, foam tennis balls, smaller racquets and prizes, along with heart healthy snack and drinks. Parents also got on board, bringing their own decorations, prizes, special treats, balloons and presents. Each party often attracted at least a dozen children to the Fairview Tennis Complex who had not previously visited the facility.

William Clevenger, bill@decparcs.com, (217) 422-5911





2920 W. 183rd Street, Homewood IL 60430
Phone: (708) 799-1323, Fax: (708) 957-4993
www.hfracquetandfitness.com

Entry for Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 15: Wildcard Category

Reaching out to a new target audience!

The H-F Racquet and Fitness Club, a USTA/NRPA TIP Agency, has included as part of their ten day "Tennisfest" festival, a "Favourite Athlete Pet Contest". Does your pet remind you of a famous athlete or, just look like you?

Participants sign up ahead of time and on the day of the contest, bring their pet (or a photo or drawing of their pet) together with a picture of the athlete, or themselves to the contest. All pets must be on a leash or crated and must have current vaccinations. There is no charge to participate.

A ribbon is given to all entrants and pet related prizes, donated by local businesses, are awarded to the top three entries. The event is judged by volunteers from the South Suburban Humane Society who also set up a booth at the event and have a rescue dog on site available for adoption.

In addition to the Humane Society promoting our event, we feel that we are reaching out to a different segment of the community and exposing them to "the game for a lifetime".



For more information on this event, contact:

Sylvia Gothard, H-F Racquet & Fitness Club Racquet Sports Manager
(708) 799-1323 x28
sgothard@hfparks.com



2920 W. 183rd Street, Homewood IL 60430
Phone: (708) 799-1323, Fax: (708) 957-4993
www.hfracquetandfitness.com

Entry for Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 9: Best Fundraising Idea

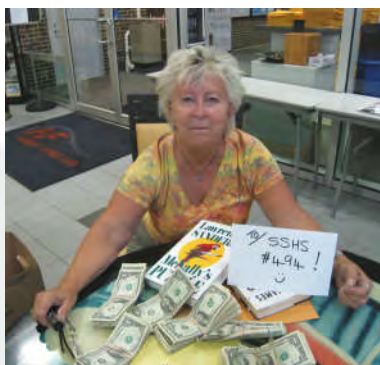
As an offset to The South Suburban Humane Society providing volunteer help for a tennis related pet contest, the H-F Racquet and Fitness Club held a fourteen day book sale during their "Tennisfest" festival, to raise funds for the SSHS.

The book sale was primarily organized by SSHS volunteers and was set up in the lobby of the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club.

Books were donated by Friends of the Homewood-Flossmoor and Flossmoor Public Libraries and by club members. All books were in new or gently used condition. Most books were hard back fiction but there were some collectibles and paper backs. The hard backs sold for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Paper backs were 50 cents each or 3 for \$1.

Purchases were made by members and their guests. In addition to being a fundraiser, this event created a lot of camaraderie, interest and discussion between people that would not normally have taken place

Just this little idea raised \$500 for SSHS (\$494 + a \$6 late payment!)



For more information on this event, contact:

Sylvia Gothard, H-F Racquet & Fitness Club Racquet Sports Manger
(708) 799-1323 x28
sgothard@hfparks.com



2920 W. 183rd Street, Homewood IL 60430
Phone: (708) 799-1323, Fax: (708) 957-4993
www.hfracquetandfitness.com

Entry for Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 15: Wildcard Category

Managing My Success Junior Achievement Ladder

This is a continuation of the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club's commitment to tennis and one way of encouraging junior players to be responsible for their own destiny.

Junior members keep track of their training and can earn points in any of the categories below. This ladder is for any junior player at any age and any level.



Action:

Play Practice Matches (min 1 set)
Practice with Ball Machine
Private lesson
Serve practice
Group 1 hour
Group 2 hours
Tournament
USTA Jr Team Tennis
Tennis Mentor Volunteer
Personal Training (fitness)
Rapid Rally
Boot Camp

Points Breakdown:

30 points (5 bonus points to winner) (SI)
10 points (min. 30 minutes) (SI)
10 points (min. 30 minutes) (SI)
10 points (min. 30 minutes) (SI)
10 points (SI)
20 points (SI)
60 pts (5 bonus pts each match played) (D)
30 pts (5 bonus pts for each match played) (SI)
10 points (SI)
10 points (min. 30 minutes) (SI)
10 points (plus highest 30 second score) (SI)
20 points (SI)

Players complete a success card after each activity. Must show/attach action verification, either staff initials (SI) or completed draw sheet (D). See above. Activities must be at HFRFC with exception of off site tournaments or away team tennis matches. No points without verification. Cards must be turned in no later than 48 hours after activity.

Points scored are tallied weekly and spreadsheets with accumulative scores are posted on the Junior Bulletin Board by the TEC (Tennis & Education Center). The sooner players sign up, the more points they earn. They will get a free court card for every 350 points accrued plus season end prizes! Eligible dates are between: September 1, 2010 – May 14, 2011. This program is in addition to any junior incentive program that we may have.

So far, 79 junior players have enrolled in this program.

For more information on this event, contact:

Sylvia Gothard, H-F Racquet & Fitness Club Racquet Sports Manager
(708) 799-1323 x28
sgothard@hfparks.com



2920 W. 183rd Street, Homewood IL 60430
Phone: (708) 799-1323, Fax: (708) 957-4993
www.hfracquetandfitness.com

Category 8: Best QuickStart Tennis Idea

QS is not just for kids! The H-F Racquet and Fitness Club, a USTA/NRPA TIP Agency, presented **“FAB Restart Tennis”** A 1½ hour league for 50+ players who stopped playing tennis due to bad knees, hips, feet or felt they were just falling apart! Play is on a 60’ court with a smaller racquet and low compression balls. First time registrants receive a USTA membership (\$40 value). All scores are entered on TennisLink at usta.com. A Golden Gosse awards celebration is scheduled for the last day of each session. Sessions are once a week for four weeks. There are 4 players on a team, doubles only. The program originated from discussion between Nancy Watland, HFRFC Program Coordinator and Jodi Gosse, HFPD Irwin Community Center Manager. We created a “Golden Gosse Award” which we made out of an upside down planter adorned with two coat hooks that an antique racquet could sit in. This was spray painted gold and as winning teams emerge, we put their names on the side of the trophy. The program features a USPTA organizer who keeps thing moving and makes it fun. Non-members are welcome to participate in this program. As indicated, sessions are for four weeks followed by a Rejuvenate, Regenerate week.

FAB = Fifty and Beyond!

We use blue masking tape to line out 60’ courts at our indoor facility.

Based on the success of this program as well as the success of junior programs using the QuickStart format, permanent 60’ & 36’ lines have been added to two of the outdoor Park District tennis sites. We plan to add lines to at least two additional sites in 2009.



For more information on this event, contact:

Nancy Watland, H-F Racquet & Fitness Club Program Coordinator
(708) 799-1323 x24
nwatland@hfparks.com



2920 W. 183rd Street, Homewood IL 60430
Phone: (708) 799-1323, Fax: (708) 957-4993
www.hfracquetandfitness.com

Category 11: Best Tennis Block Party Idea

In 1988, H-F Racquet and Fitness Club's "**Tennisfest**" was born. It was a ten day community event designed to introduce tennis and its players and programs to the community. It was also designed to bring revenue to the Chicagoland South Suburbs. In 2008, Tennisfest's 21st year, it is still going strong! The ten day party consists of free clinics by Prince, Wilson and Head/Penn. A week's worth of USA 1-2-3 free lessons and a round robin, presented by the Greater Homewood-Flossmoor Community Tennis Association. A favorite athlete pet contest judged by the South Suburban Humane Society featured winner Calley, a Doberman dressed as Venus Williams. A free picnic with entertainment. A free clinic featuring QuickStart format on 36' courts and an appearance by ACE the USTA/Midwest Kid's Club mascot. A 53 event recreational tournament. The Little Mo Regional Competition for kids 8, 9, 10, 11 who hoped to qualify for National competition. The Chicago District Junior Team Tennis Championships where winning teams would represent Chicago District at Sectional Championships. The finale, an awards celebration with free outdoor cookout and raffle. What a block party!



In 1988, approximately 500 total attended Tennisfest. In 2008, over 2500 total attended Tennisfest which was sponsored by Pasquinelli Homes.

Additional Tennisfest events that have been held in previous years include: Special Olympics State & Regional Competition, Junior Olympics Regional Competition, Paint a Picture of Tennis contest, a Tennis Sculpture contest and appearances by Billie Jean King, Joanne Russell, Stan Smith, Jack Groppel, Peter Burwash International Tennis Show, Tom Gullikson, Vic Braden, amongst others.

The whole goal of Tennisfest from inception to now, was and still is to create a community event that has something for everyone. If you've never played and want to try, now is the time. If you are a player and want to have fun and meet new friends, now is the time. If you just want to watch the action, now is the time. If you want to get your family involved, now is the time and if you want to include your pet, now is the time!

For more information on this event, contact:

Sylvia Gothard, H-F Racquet & Fitness Club Racquet Sports Manger
(708) 799-1323 x28
sgothard@hfparks.com



2920 W. 183rd Street, Homewood IL 60430
Phone: (708) 799-1323, Fax: (708) 957-4993
www.hfracquetandfitness.com

Category 15: Wildcard Category

Champion Citizens are Champion People. As part of the H-F Racquet & Fitness Club's commitment to tennis and the community, we created **TEC (Tennis & Education Center)** at HF where juniors have the opportunity to gain education and excellence through the game of tennis. The center comprises a modest library, **with** tennis books and extra large dictionary/encyclopedia, DVD's and tapes and a computer to help with homework and projects. All books are donated and may be removed from the facility if signed out and returned within 7 days.



TEC combines with a junior member reward program for excellence and motivation!

Rewards are for efforts both on and off the court.

Off the court: If a junior member is enrolled in a tennis program and brings us a copy of their school report, they can receive a reward for excellence and achievement.

B average = one hour walk on court card

A average = five hour walk on court card

We must receive a copy of the report card within two weeks of issue to qualify.

On the court: The following program discounts are available to junior players to recognize their on court successes.

Tier 1: USTA National Rankings (from year end ranking list, usually published in spring of following year). i.e. 2006 Final rankings were published between Jan & Mar 2007)

500 + points	Free Class Enrollment.
200 – 499 points	50% class discount

Tier 2: USTA/Midwest Year End Ranking

200 + points	20% class discount
--------------	--------------------

Tier 3: USTA/CDTA/NITA/NIN District Year End Ranking

60 + points	10% class discount
-------------	--------------------

Court time perks: Junior members will receive one court card for any completed draw sheet that they give to either the Program or JD Coordinator. The player must complete the tournament. This offer is good for both ranking and non-ranking events.

For more information on this event, contact:

Sylvia Gothard, H-F Racquet & Fitness Club Racquet Sports Manager
(708) 799-1323 x28
sgothard@hfparks.com

MORTON PARK DISTRICT/ Morton Tennis Association

Morton, IL

Category 8: Best QuickStart Tennis Idea

The Morton Park District and Morton Tennis Association sponsored 2 Quick Start tournaments at the end of their summer tennis program. Also included in the tournament was a Rookie Tournament for beginners 11 – 18 years of age.

For the Quick Start 8 & under players, we divided one tennis court into 6 courts playing from doubles sideline to doubles sideline (36 ft). We used mini-nets and foam balls. The tournament lasted 1 ½ hours with a 15 min. refreshment break. We blew the whistle every 10 minutes; the players stopped and reported their scores; and then they moved one court to their right. We totaled together the points from each of their matches. The player with the highest number of points scored at the end of the tournament received a first place ribbon and so on. We made sure everyone received a ribbon along with a tournament t-shirt.

For the Quick Start 10 & under players, we used lines to create a 60 ft. court for singles. We used the low pressure transition balls. Some of the players served overhand, but some served underhand depending on their ability. The children had long rallies using the transition balls. We used the new Quick Start scoring for 10 & under. Everyone received a ribbon and tournament t-shirt.

The beginners in the 11 – 18 yrs. of age category used the scoring format of first person to win 4 games. Then they would play a new opponent. The rules were relaxed so that everyone would have instant success. Some of the younger players would move into the 60 ft. line to complete a successful serve. The main priority was instant success and a social atmosphere. Everyone received a ribbon and t-shirt.

The goal of the Quick Start and Rookie tournaments was to offer a non-threatening, competitive, but yet social tournament for the young and inexperienced junior players.

We far exceeded our goal. Parents and players gave the tournament an excellent rating and are excited about the next Quick Start and Rookie tournaments. As a result of our success more Quick Start tournaments are being scheduled throughout the Middle Illinois District.

For more information on this event, contact:

Vicki Schmidgall, Tennis Coordinator
309-263-7550
mita@mtco.com



Pleasure Driveway & Park District of Peoria

Peoria Park District

2218 N. Prospect Road • Peoria, IL 61603-2193 • PH: (309) 682-1200 • FAX: (309) 686-3352

Best Partnership Agreement

Category 13

The Jack Sweney Youth Tennis Program is a culmination effort between the Peoria Park District and the family of the late Jack Sweney. It was a view of the Sweney family to have a program named in their father's name where kids can learn the game of tennis. Hosted at the Bradley Park tennis courts in lower Bradley Park, this program runs Monday – Thursday mornings and afternoons for two four-week sessions and gives kids the chance to take tennis lessons completely free of charge. Participants range between the ages of 7-14 and predominantly come from local day camps and agencies. After attending four of the sessions all kids receive a t-shirt, tennis racquet, sleeve of tennis balls and the opportunity to compete in the end-of-the year tournament and carnival featuring tennis matches and tennis related games. In its second year of existence the Sweney family was able to attend the carnival and participate in instructing the kids and helping run the games while enjoying tennis in their father's name. The family has put up the funds to pay the expenses of the program and all the prizes while the park district provides staffing of the program and all necessary equipment. This program has proved very successful as we have seen around one hundred kids go through the program each year. We are fortunate to have such an opportunity available and are looking to make the most of it.

Matt Suellentrop
Sports Coordinator
Peoria Park District
309-681-2866
msuellentrop@peoriaparks.org



The Jack Sweney Youth Tennis Program is a culmination effort between the Peoria Park District and the family of the late Jack Sweney



Category 3: Most Successful New Team Tennis Based Program

Munster Parks and Recreation (MPR) ran the Junior Team Tennis program within our Community Park. With knowing the program popularity in other communities, we knew it would hit big in the Tennis Community of Munster, IN. We began with an informational meeting put on by the USTA. With the 10-15 parents that had showed, the excited parents created our CTA (Community Tennis Association.) The CTA met twice prior to the registration end date to arrange pricing, dates, assign positions and to make sure everything else was covered.

With 165 players and 16 coaches, this program needed close supervision and an organized contact. Of the 10% of evaluations that were returned, all will return next year. The main key to running this program correctly, is to stay in close contact with your CTA, section representative, the USTA, coaches, parents and to be well prepared to answer questions about the program at any time. Some promotional ideas and recommendations for a successful program are below:

Promotion ideas:

- Make flyers and pass them out to last year's participants of your tennis programs, participants of the current year and/or make posters to hang up at supporting local businesses.
- Be in contact with the local school district. Contact each principal to see if this program can be demonstrated within the gym classes. Use the section representative, Tennis Director or staff and yourself as the teachers. Contact USTA for equipment use.
- Drop off Jr. Team Tennis Flyers at schools for each kid to take home.
- Have a Tennis Block Party prior to the registration end date to demonstrate the program.
- Other: MPR Summer Recreation Guide, Local newspapers, USTA website, MPR website, Community Park Message Board

Recommendations:

- Have a local sign-up location as well as a mail-in process to the USTA works best. Some parents like to register by person to get the original receipt for personal record keeping.
- Constantly remain in contact with your section representative.
- Have the deadline a month out from the start date as it is plenty of time to get the teams set, equipment in and schedules set.
- Get parents involved to be coaches rather than college or high school-aged kids.
- Run a coaches clinic prior to the start of the program ran by the USTA to train and educate the parent on drills/games.
- The program coordinator must plan on being there the first night as you will direct kids to their teams, coaches to their courts and coaches to their equipment.

For more information on this event contact:

Jill Porento, Recreation Supervisor
(219) 836-7275
jporento@munster.org



13 Year-old, Michael Herelle—Welcome to the FPTA Family

This thank you card was written by 13 year-old, Michael Herelle, who spent the summer with his uncle and aunt in Boston (when he wasn't at the courts!) He was a great addition to the FPTA family and his wonderful words are an illustration of how we can impact youth in our community.

Michael's impeccable manners, his willingness to learn and his thoughtfulness are remarkable, particularly for someone his age. We hope to see Michael return to Boston in the summer of 2009!



Dear FPTA Family,

Before I depart for New York, I just want to thank you for all of the things you have done for me this summer. Because of all the great advice everyone has given me my tennis game has improved tremendously. On the first day I came my serve had only gone in 10% of the time, until Mr. Joe told me to keep my head up and make contact with the ball, now my serve goes in almost 75% of the time. Also, when I first came my volleys manifested mediocrity, but Mr. Billy helped me stand firm, cover the court and try to push the ball past the service line. The tennis and many other people helped me immediately by just supporting me everyday no matter how badly I played, and last but not least Ms. Dinae (sorry if I misspelled your name) and Mr. Armando helped me with stuff on and off the court. Mr. Armando helped me with my fitness by making me run after every drop shot and lob he gave me, and Ms. Dinae helped me become stronger mentally by making me read books. In fact whenever I have to read and I don't want to I will always remember her encouraging words which were "no dumb athletes". This summer FPTA has been like a second family to me and I will never forget anyone there on my path of becoming the best tennis player I could possibly be.

Thank You



Sincerely,
Michael Herelle

P.S. If I didn't mention your name in the letter I am very sorry if I have offended you because every one at FPTA is equally important to me.





Best QuickStart Tennis Program Idea General Butler State Resort Park

The whole idea is to have fun! As with other sports, adapting to the natural progression to regulation play can be difficult for those in primary grade levels. We approached this by introducing to our local elementary schools the potential QuickStart Tennis can offer in one's Physical Education curriculum not only based on health and fitness, but for the continuing interest in building life long tennis players.

General Butler State Resort Park offered in conjunction with United States Tennis Association of Louisville, Kentucky and Kentucky Recreation & Park Society, a Recreational Tennis Workshop featuring QuickStart Tennis held at General Butler State Resort Park October 19th – 20th, 2010. The first day was dedicated to training the trainer; whether it was a teacher, parent or professional in the field of Parks & Recreation. Such topics included Jr. Team Tennis, After School Programming and QuickStart Tennis. The second day involved applying information and skills taught the day before with live on court instructions to over 200 2nd graders from Katherine Winn Primary School located in Carrollton, Kentucky. The school is located about 1 ½ mile from General Butler's Back Entrance, where the event was held. This was significant, because it offered another avenue for health & fitness because the students were not bused- they walked to the program site.

Everything about the event was an awesome opportunity! The only cost was to anyone needing overnight accommodations; even at that, a special lodging rate was applied. I secured a \$2,000.00 sponsorship with North American Stainless (steel company) located in Carrollton, Kentucky, their generous support paid for over 200 t-shirts for those attending (students, teachers and trainers).

What we emphasized was the truth; kids really don't want or need a court, they just want to play, and that was our goal towards introducing this program to the students, teachers and parents of Katherine Winn Primary. If you get kids playing and having fun, you then begin to build upon life long interest-the right-way! The park to school partnership in Carrollton and Carroll, County has been started, now comes the work of holding onto this interest.

We in the field of Parks & Recreation understand the endless benefits of getting kids involved in life long activities. With this understanding; we know that providing programs of such nature goes hand in hand with campaigns such as No Child Left Inside and youth obesity. And, with a collective effort working with schools, teachers and parents the positive engaging influence in getting kids involved in a sport that they never thought about getting involved in becomes a reality; because the avenues of affordability and accessibility have been alleviated, and all that remains is sustaining that interest in tennis!

I'm very excited to have created and hosted USTA Kentucky Recreational Tennis Workshop featuring Quick Start Tennis, and look forward towards additional programming. For more information on this program, feel free to contact me @ General Butler State Resort Park #1-502-732-4384, ext# 2412 Recreation Center.



Judith Sumner
Director of Recreation

LEOMINSTER RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Phone: (978)534-7529

Fax: (978)534-7549

Website: www.leominster-ma.gov

Category #14 - Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project – Describe how you navigated the renovation and construction project.

The City of Leominster's eight tennis courts have been in disrepair unusable for a number of years. With the help of the United States Tennis Association and the American Sports Builders Association, the City's Purchasing Agent wrote reconstruction specifications to bid the project.

The Recreation Director and Purchasing Agent began the City's project by searching the web and contacting a number of court builders for construction specifications. Once we joined Tennis in the Park, we were shipped an impressive, very detailed, 228 page Tennis Court Construction and Maintenance Manual. This manual had everything we needed to be sure the courts were constructed properly. The manual is a great resource for anyone looking to build or reconstruct tennis courts. It even has professional information on care and maintenance of the courts.

I would recommend that if anyone needs information on tennis court construction, care, or maintenance to contact the United States Tennis Association. For more information on our project, contact Judith Sumner at jsumner@leominster-ma.gov

Old Tennis Courts-Leominster, MA



8 New Tennis Courts-Leominster Using USTA Construction Manual



Mailing Address:

City Hall
25 West Street
Leominster, MA 01453

Office:

40 Barrett Parkway
(Off of Chestnut Street)
Leominster, MA 01453

CITY OF WORCESTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

Robert L. Moylan, Jr., P.E.
Commissioner



Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP
Assistant Commissioner

(508) 799-1190
(508) 799-1293 FAX

Michael V. O'Brien, City Manager

Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 1: Most Successful New Youth Program

The City of Worcester, Department of Public Works and Parks, Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Division has partnered with the Worcester School Department 21st Century Grant and Community Schools After School Program to offer an introduction tennis program to Worcester students. This program was offered at six schools: Clark Street Elementary School, Sullivan Middle School, Forest Grove Middle School, Elm Park Community School, Vernon Hill Elementary School, and Belmont Community School. This tennis program averaged fifteen students per site and met once a week for eight weeks. Each school site was staffed with volunteers from local colleges (College of the Holy Cross, Clark University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and from the University of Massachusetts Pharisical School) as well as the following Worcester High Schools: South High Community, Doherty High, and Saint Peter Marian. The program was equipped with donated nets, racks, and balls courtesy of the United States Tennis Association.

The tennis program described above was offered in the spring of 2008 at no cost to the City of Worcester or the youth who participated. With the help of the donated equipment from USTA and the USTA two hour instructional workshop, the Worcester School Department 21st Century Grant and Community Schools After School program, and our seventeen volunteers, we were able to introduce tennis to almost one hundred city youth. We currently have ten schools interested in hosting this program in the future, and we are in the process of recruiting more volunteer staff.

For more information on this event contact:
Sean Dwyer, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
City of Worcester
(508)-799-1190
dwyers@ci.worcester.ms.us

CITY OF WORCESTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

Robert L. Moylan, Jr., P.E.
Commissioner



Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP
Assistant Commissioner

(508) 799-1190
(508) 799-1293 FAX

Michael V. O'Brien, City Manager

Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 8: Best QuickStart Tennis Idea

The City of Worcester, Department of Public Works and Parks, Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Division developed a "Roving Summer Tennis Crew" that taught the QuickStart tennis program at five different locations in the city of Worcester twice a week. Partnerships were formed with South Worcester Neighborhood Association, UMASS Health Care, Worcester Housing Authority, Summer Feeding Program, and the Boys and Girls Club of Worcester to introduce tennis to the youth of Worcester during the summer of 2008.

The goals of the program:

- 1 – To offer "Tennis in the Park" in city parks that have a summer feeding program, to enable youth to receive a meal, a recreational activity, and a second meal.
- 2 – To use the QuickStart program to introduce tennis the City of Worcester youth
- 3 – To partner with the existing summer youth programs in the City of Worcester parks, to assist with providing more structured activities
- 4 – To hire three staff through the Summer Youth Employment Funds that could travel site to site with the proper equipment to teach tennis.

The "Roving Summer Tennis Crew" concept worked well. Using the equipment that USTA donated, the City of Worcester had free tennis instruction in eight city locations during the summer of 2008 (three of the locations were operated by Tenacity). In the summer of 2006 there were no tennis programs available. The "Roving Crew" allowed for teaching at different locations throughout the City of Worcester, with limited staff expense. The staff were able to bond and work together and enjoyed working with different youth at various locations every day.

For more information on this event contact:
Sean Dwyer, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
City of Worcester
(508)-799-1190
dwyers@ci.worcester.ms.us

CITY OF WORCESTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

Robert L. Moylan, Jr., P.E.
Commissioner



Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP
Assistant Commissioner

(508) 799-1190
(508) 799-1293 FAX

Michael V. O'Brien, City Manager

Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 10: Best Media Event

Monday, June 2, 2008
Bell Pond

The City of Worcester, Department of Public Works and Parks, Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Division each summer hosts 10 of the cities 50 summer feeding sites. The kick-off to this program begins with a media day, where members of the local government and community groups speak to help promote & educate people about the impact this program has on the Worcester community. This year, Belmont Community School Tennis Program was invited to participate in the Summer Feeding Kick Off event. All of the youth in the after school tennis program, along with the help of volunteers from Tenacity set up four of the Quick Start nets - the youth did a fabulous job.

The media allow us to do the following:

- 1). Showcase the after school program and the equipment donated to us from USTA
- 2). Promote our "Roving Summer Tennis Crew"

In the end, the youth enjoyed having a few hours out of class on a beautiful June morning. One of the fifth grade students wrote a speech and spoke at the event about how lucky the school was to have the tennis program. The tennis program was well received by all present community members.

For more information on this event contact:
Sean Dwyer, Recreation Coordinator
City of Worcester
(508)-799-1190
dwyers@ci.worcester.ms.us

CITY OF WORCESTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

Robert L. Moylan, Jr., P.E.
Commissioner



Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP
Assistant Commissioner

(508) 799-1190
(508) 799-1293 FAX

Michael V. O'Brien, City Manager

Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 11: Best Tennis Charity/Fundraiser Event

Crompton Park

Monday, June 2, 2008

This event was designed to introduce tennis into the Green Island Area as well as have a small community gathering.

Goals: This event, held at Crompton Park, started with a tennis clinic, and grew into a fun community event with approximately 150 residents enjoying a beautiful evening in the park. Six different community and city agencies helped put this event together: the Parks and Recreation Division, New England Tennis Association, Pernet Family Health Services, Green Island Neighborhood Center, South High School Academy of Education, Service and Government, and Tenacity.

Program: Tenacity and the New England Tennis Association set up four portable tennis nets on the Crompton Park Tennis Courts. Foam balls were used to make it easier to volley and more attainable to the novice player. This activity was so inundated by a large number of residents interested in participating that the clinic was ended, and residents enjoyed playing together, while help was available if needed. This also allowed Tenacity to market their summer program and register new participants. There have been no tennis programs in the parks in years - this year we had an eight week program supported by the efforts of various aspects of the Worcester community. The Green Island Neighborhood Center and Pernet Family Services helped with refreshments, games and activities, while the Green Island Center was open to the public and made their chairs and tables available for program use, while also recruiting a DJ for this event. The event ended with the South High Academy of Education, Service and Government presenting the American Red Cross Longfellow Whale Tales Program to the young kids in the neighborhood.

Success: This event brought together residents and community organization for a safe, positive leisure activity in the park. It also assisted us with promoting our summer tennis program within the city parks, especially Crompton Park.

For more information on this event contact:
Sean Dwyer, Recreation Coordinator
City of Worcester
(508)-799-1190
dwyers@ci.worcester.ms.us

CITY OF WORCESTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

Robert L. Moylan, Jr., P.E.
Commissioner



Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP
Assistant Commissioner

(508) 799-1190
(508) 799-1293 FAX

Michael V. O'Brien, City Manager

Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 13: Best Partnership Agreement

The idea to bring tennis to the youth of Worcester began during the summer of 2007. The United States Tennis Association and Tenacity approached the Worcester Recreation Division about offering tennis to the youth of Worcester. At the same time, the City of Worcester, School Department's 21st Century Grant and Community Schools approached the Worcester Recreation Division about offering recreational after school programming. With no budget to offer the program, the Worcester Recreation Division then approached the Worcester College of Consortium about having college students volunteer their time to teach tennis within the Worcester Schools. USTA donated nets, rackets, and balls to the Worcester Recreation Division for the program.

The Worcester School Department's 21st Century Grant and Community Schools had six sites with an average of fifteen students and site supervisors ready for an eight week program. The Worcester College Consortium of schools (Clark University, College of The Holy Cross, UMass Pharmaceutical School, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute) came through with nine volunteer instructors. To further assist the program, Worcester High Schools (South High Community School, Doherty High School, and Saint Peter Marion High School) added an additional seven student volunteers. The Tenacity program director rounded off our team of volunteers for a total of seventeen volunteers for six sites. Before the start of the program, the USTA provided a free two hour recreation instructional workshop for the volunteers and Clark University donated the indoor courts for the training.

The Tennis Program was offered in the summer at eight different sites, where the partnerships continued to blossom. Tenacity put together a fantastic tennis/reading program at three City of Worcester sites: Newton Square with the help of the Friends of Newton Hill, Clark University which provided tennis for the Main South youth, and Crompton Park with the help of the Green Island Neighborhood Association. The Recreation Division had tennis at five sites; Tacoma Playground and Institute Park with the help from Worcester Housing Authority, South Worcester Park, with the help of the South Worcester Neighborhood Association, Bell Pond with the help from UMass Health Care, and the Boys and Girls Club of Worcester. The Recreation Division was staffed by a three person roving crew funded through a summer employment grant from the Worcester Youth Office. Six of the eight summer tennis sites were located near the Worcester School Department's and Friendly House Summer Feeding Program.

In conclusion, over twenty different partnerships were formed to offer a FREE youth tennis program at fourteen sites from January 2008 to August 2008, reaching over 400 Worcester youth.

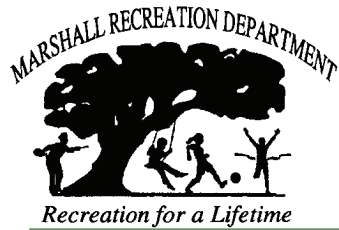
For more information on this event contact:

Sean Dwyer, Recreation Coordinator

City of Worcester

(508)-799-1190

dwyers@ci.worcester.ms.us



OFFICE: 900 S Marshall
MAIL: 323 W Michigan Ave., Marshall MI 49068
PHONE: 269/781-5166
WEBSITE: www.cityofmarshall.com

Category 14: Best Facility Renovation / Construction Project

The Marshall Tennis Association completed in May 2008 a project that renovated and expanded the tennis facility in Marshall, Michigan. The project repaired and resurfaced six existing courts, constructed four additional courts, and built a 1,000 square foot clubhouse housing restrooms, concession stand area, and meeting room.

The \$350,000 raised for the project came from:

- Grants – including one from USTA / Tennis in the Parks program
- Individual, corporate, and business donations
- Donations of in-kind services and materials

This community wide project has increased awareness and participation in tennis programs offered in the Marshall community.

For more information on the details of this project contact:

Mark Gilbert
269.789.1500
Mgilbert51@sbcglobal.net



**City of Edina
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, MN 55424**



**Junior Tennis Tournament
Category 15**

The City of Edina, Minnesota offered a small tournament for our beginner tennis player ages 7 – 10 years old on a Saturday morning. Registration fee was \$9. Tennis balls were provided. We provided staff to assist with scoring, and even help coach a bit. Small prizes were awarded to each player. The goal was to give the beginner player an opportunity to play in a tournament in a non threatening environment. We sent our registration forms for those only in our program. We wanted to keep the numbers small.

RULES:

1. Matches are 1 set, with no ad and 12-point tie-breakers at 6 - 6.
2. Guaranteed at least two matches.
3. Players are responsible to report scores and check match times with the Tournament Director at the Community Center courts.
4. Coaches will be roaming the courts assisting the players.

The parents and participants had a wonderful time and their confidence grew with their skills for tennis.

Donna Tilsner
City of Edina
Park and Recreation
952-826-0432
dtilsner@ci.edina.mn.us



City of Mendota Heights

Category #4. Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

In 2008 our youth program grew by offering Little's Tennis for 4 – 7 year olds. It was so popular we had to add two more classes for a total of about 50 kids! (10 to a class) The program was held once a week for 6 weeks for ½ hour Thursday mornings during June and July. We asked that a parent or guardian stay with the child to help and that also helped the parents to learn some fun tennis skills to work on with the child on their own time and to help keep the little ones on task.

We used mini nets, larger softball size foam balls and other teaching aids that made it easy and fun for them to learn and enjoy the game of tennis. We hope that this program will also become our feeder program so that they continue on to our youth tennis program when they reach 8 years old.

We contract out our teaching professional and also hire two High School staff (from school tennis team) to assist our head instructor. During the program we gave them little treats or stickers for doing such a good job each week! Each child received a t-shirt and we had a special ice cream treat on the last day.

For more info you may contact:

Teresa Gangelhoff
Recreation Programmer
City of Mendota Heights
teresag@mendota-heights.com
651-255-1354



City of Mendota Heights

Category #11. Best Tennis Block Party Idea

Each year we hold our **Tennis Block Party** with our City Celebration called “Mendota Heights Celebrates Parks” which is always the first Saturday in June. We set up an area in our city’s largest park where families can come and try out every type of sport you can do in the park. We also co-inside this event with a youth in-house baseball tournament and a 5K run.

We solicit area businesses to sponsor this free event. Many of them like come to the park and run an event and/or sponsor one. (They may give out a promo item or coupon for their business for a prize or some give out a treat.) We also bring in a petting zoo, moon walks, fire truck rides, entertainment and give out prizes at the end.

During the 3 hours of the event families can try the following: Soccer Kick, Free Throw, Football Toss, Putting game, Lacrosse toss, Baseball/softball throw, Bicycle obstacle course, Running races, **Tennis (Block Party)**

We draw about 1500 people in the 3 hours and our tennis staff all work at the **Tennis Block Party** where they get a chance to speak with all the families about our upcoming tennis program we offer for the summer.

For more info you may contact:

Teresa Gangelhoff
Recreation Programmer
City of Mendota Heights
teresag@mendota-heights.com
651-255-1354





501 East Elm Avenue
Waseca, MN 56093

www.waseca.k12.mn.us/ce/ce.htm

Fax: 507.835.1161

School, City, and Community...working together.

Category 15: Wildcard Category

In July 2008, the Waseca Community Tennis Association (WCTA) hosted a fun and free tennis promotional event at four of the tennis courts in a local park. This event was held in conjunction with the Waseca Community Education's end of the year summer carnival, which was held also at the park. Tennis racquets and balls were provided for the children, mostly under the age of 12, to try their best at the game of tennis. Not only did participants stop by to try their aim at hitting a few targets, but drawings were also held every 10 to 15 minutes in which participants could win a bottle of water or a tube of tennis balls. All contest participants signed up with their name, phone number and parent's email address. This information was put into a database for future contact of potential new tennis players. At the end of the evening, a tennis racquet that was donated by a local sporting goods store was given away. Not only was this good exposure for the sport of tennis in our community, but it also brought exposure to the poorly maintained tennis courts. A junior tennis net was put up, because the courts did not have regular nets installed, due to their poor condition. Thankfully, over 40 youth came to take a shot at hitting a tennis target and the courts are being reconstructed and will be ready to play in the summer of 2009!

**For more information on
this event contact:**

Kyle Collins
Tennis Instructor
Waseca Community Education

kcollins@hickorytech.net

or:
Mary Jo Knudson
Recreation Coordinator
knum@waseca.k12.mn.us



"We make lifelong learning fun!"



501 East Elm Avenue
Waseca, MN 56093

Phone: 507.835.5626

www.waseca.k12.mn.us/ce/ce.htm

Fax: 507.835.1161

*Category 1: Most Successful New Youth Program
Category 7: Best Parents Training Event*

"Play Tennis With Me"

In the spring of 2010, Waseca Community Education & Recreation created a new program called "Play Tennis With Me"...a program for youth grades 1 through 4 and their parents.

This class was taught using the QuickStart Format. It was designed for youth as well as adults of all skill levels to learn the game.

Parents were encouraged to attend the class with their child so they could become a better teacher at home, and to develop their own tennis skills.

In our small community we had 45 participants in the program. Parents & youth alike thoroughly enjoyed the program.

It was a four session program held in the early evening. Youth could register themselves (\$15) and a parent could join them for half-price, to encourage more parents to play.

Many parents are already asking when we will have the program this year.

For more information, you may contact Mary Jo Knudson, Recreation Coordinator at 507-837-5472 or via e-mail at knum@waseca.k12.mn.us



TENNIS IN THE PARKS IDEA HANDBOOK

CATEGORY 2: MOST SUCCESSFUL NEW ADULT PROGRAM -- CARDIO TENNIS

Des Peres Parks and Recreation added Cardio Tennis to their seasonal tennis programs. We had 23 participants go through the program this summer. The feedback was positive and we will continue to offer it in the future. The instructors used information from the USTA website to structure the class.

CARDIO TENNIS

Description: Cardio Tennis is a new, fun group activity featuring drills to give players of all abilities a high energy workout. Cardio Tennis includes warm-up, cardio workout & cool down phases. The drills & workouts are geared for players of all levels to get a great cardio workout while improving skills.

Minimum 6/Maximum 16.

Ages: 16 and Older

Instructor: Steve Carretto and Caleb Adams

Location: Des Peres Park, Tennis Court 3 - 4

Cost: \$44/Member; \$46/Resident; \$53/Non-Resident

Days: Thursday

Time: 7:10 – 8 p.m.

Session: **#6095** June 5 – July 17 (No class July 3) 16 Participants

#6841 July 31 – September 11 (No class August 28) 7 Participants

For more information on this program contact:

Nikki C. Thole
Sports Supervisor
City of Des Peres
1050 Des Peres Road
Des Peres, Missouri 63131
314-835-6160 Office
314-835-6151 Fax
nthole@desperesmo.org
www.desperesmo.org

City of Ferguson Parks and Recreation Department Ferguson, MO

2009 Tennis in the Park Idea Handbook

Category #15: Wild Card

Program: Special Event, "Tennis Roundup"

Sponsors: City of Ferguson Parks and Recreation Department and Net
Rushers Tennis Association, Ferguson, Mo.

The City of Ferguson and the Net Rushers Tennis Association combined our talents and sponsored the first ever "Tennis Roundup" on Saturday, May 10, 2008. This special event was from 10:00am – 1:00pm and was free of charge. The event purpose was to introduce four different tennis activities to anybody from age 5 through 100. The eight court facility was divided to accommodate four different activities. Activities included youth tennis lessons, adult tennis lessons, Cardio tennis and the Quick Start tennis program. Registration was free and all equipment, i.e. racquets and balls, was available at no charge for all participants. The event attracted 85 individuals. The "Round Up" far exceeded our expectations. Many of the participants were new to the sport and signed up for upcoming classes that were offered during the summer. We plan on offering another "Round Up" this upcoming year as we continue to promote the game of tennis in Ferguson, Mo.

For Information, Contact:

Stan Kreitler, Recreation Superintendent

City of Ferguson

(314)524-5072

skreitl@fergusoncity.com



111 EAST MAPLE • P.O. BOX 1019 • INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64051-0519

www.ci.independence.mo.us • (816) 325-7000



Category 3: Most Successful New Team Tennis Based Program

The Independence Parks & Recreation Department started a new program in the fall of 2007 called JITL (Junior Independence Tennis League.) Our instructor, the head coach of a local high school tennis program, was an essential part in developing and scheduling this program as it is scheduled in the same time frame as the high school tennis seasons.

This eight week league gives junior and intermediate tennis players an opportunity to improve their tennis skills through instruction and match play. The program also includes a chance for participants to be ball kids at local high school tennis matches.

Program includes:

- 25 hours of instruction and match play
- 10:1 student/teacher ratio maximum
- 5 – 10 opportunities to be a ball girl/boy
- Tennis balls and league t-shirt for each participant
- Wrap-up picnic

Ages: 8 – 15 (boys and girls)
Cost: \$150 per student
Spring Session: March – May
Fall Session: August - October

Recommendation: Allow extra time in the second half of the season for rescheduled practices due to poor weather conditions (if outside) and a changing high school match schedule.

Results: JITL introduces youth to team tennis and has even introduced a couple of parents to the sport as well. We hope as the program grows we may be able to establish a Jr. Team Tennis program in the future.

Thanks to USTA and NRPA for all the support and resources!

For more information on this event contact:

Rachel Smith, Recreation Specialist
City of Independence Parks & Recreation
(816) 325-7838
rsmith@indepmo.org



Kansas City, MO Parks & Recreation
4747 JC Nichols Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64112
www.kcmo.org/parks

Category 6: Best Coaches Training Event

The City of Kansas City Parks & Recreation Department conducted two USTA Recreational Coaches Workshops in 2009.

The first event hosted almost 50 folks indoors at one of our 11 community centers. The event was held in a gymnasium so that folks could truly realize they can teach large groups on limited facilities.

In order to really spread the word, we did the following:

- * Built/modified a database of high school coaches
- * Built/modified a database of PE teachers
- * Built/modified a database of area recreation departments (all the ones we didn't have, we looked up on line, looked for programmers on their "Contact Us" on their web site and sent e mails
- * Built a database of area colleges with PE/Rec programs and sent info to the professors

Just prior to and at the event, we did several things to make it a first-class event:

- Individualized pre-ordered box lunches to keep everyone on site during the break; sacks were colored coated by type of food, then we wrote everyone's name on them
- Offered on line registration for ease of payment (although some still did the old fashioned paper trail)
- Had juice, doughnuts, coffee donated so that at registration and during the AM break they had snacks, got the workshop off to a positive start
- Made equipment available for use
- Microphone system and speakers made it easier for all participants to hear the instructions in the large, noisy gymnasium
- E mail confirmations sent with directions for those who needed it
- Invited the USTA's local TSR to talk to the folks, and also had a representative of USTA Junior Team Tennis introduce himself and explain how to get involved in that program

Then we lucked out because of a member of the media drove by the Center, saw all the cars in the lot and one the streets, and came in to find out what was so newsworthy going on!

As a result, a number of new folks were trained on QuickStart and large group teaching. ... An RCW is well worth the time invested, and you make a lot of great new contacts.

For more information on this event contact:

Scott Hanover, Manager, Plaza Tennis Center
(816) 784-5100

Scott.Hanover@kcmo.org



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Category #1 Most Successful New Youth Program

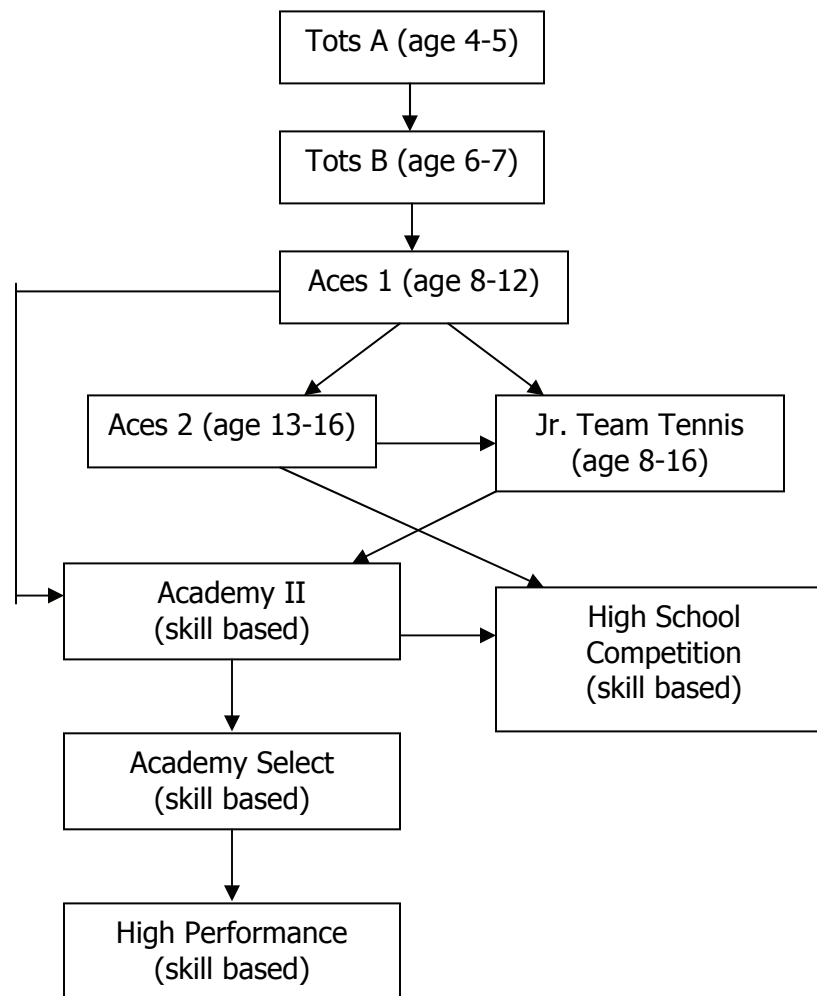
The Town of Cary has had high participation in introductory tennis programs. In 2005, staff implemented an Academy Pathway Program to give participants options once their skills met the requirements for the more advanced programs. As a result of this program, more juniors are participating year round; staffing has increased to meet the participant needs, and annual revenues for all youth programming have increased from \$100,000 to over \$350,000. Below is a brief program summary.

The Academy Program is designed for all junior players with an interest in playing tennis a minimum of 2-3 times per week, and has something for everyone from the player wishing to tryout for their high school team to the player wishing to have a state, sectional or national ranking. Academy Program goals include providing participants a complete training package encompassing on court training, health, fitness and conditioning, tournament scheduling advice, and tournament coaching.

Each program is tailored to the skill level and goals of the group for which it is designed. The underlying theme of the Academy Program is that participants gain the most from group instruction through live ball competitive drilling. Those wishing to work on stroke technique or other individual skills may choose to supplement their training with private lessons.

TOWN *of* CARY

316 North Academy Street • Cary, NC 27513 • PO Box 8005 • Cary, NC 27512-8005
tel 919-469-4061 • fax 919-460-4344 • www.townofcary.org



Category #2 Most Successful New Adult Program

The Cary Tennis Park implemented an Introductory Tennis League to help encourage recreational players to move into league play. Participation in beginner lessons and clinics is high at the Tennis Park, but many players were apprehensive about moving into USTA League play. The Introductory Tennis League has served as a bridge from beginner tennis instruction to league play. Over the course of a year, staff was able to form 6 new USTA teams. In addition, these new teams take a weekly coaching session and individuals from each team take private lessons from the teaching staff.

Introductory League Format:

- Each team consists of 4 players
- Each match is 1 singles and 1 doubles (3 players per team).
- Total games won by each player count towards the match result.
- Additional courts are set aside for the player sitting out from each team to come out and play for fun.

- End of season round robin is scheduled for all participants.

Category #13 Best Partnership Agreement

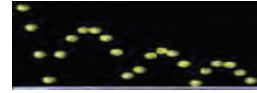
The Cary Tennis Park is a 30 court tennis facility that was built by the Town of Cary in two phases. The Town identified this project as an opportunity to maximize efficiency, facility usage and tax dollars by partnering with the Wake County Public School System to build a facility. Completed in 2000 at a cost of \$818,000, Phase I was built as a joint use venture with Wake County Public Schools and Green Hope High School. The Phase I courts and comfort station were constructed on Green Hope High School property, but were built and are maintained by the Town of Cary. School Physical Education classes and the varsity tennis teams (boys and girls) have first priority for use of these eight courts for official school programs.

Phase II included 22 courts, a clubhouse, two parking lots, hitting wall, and an additional comfort station at the north end of the facility. Construction of Phase II was completed in July 2002 at a cost of \$5,415,231, bringing the total project cost to \$6,233,231. The Town of Cary maintains and manages all aspects of the 30 court facility by taking court reservations, offering programs and organizing leagues and tournaments.

For more information please contact:

Sean Ferreira
Tennis Supervisor
(919)462-2064
sean.ferreira@townofcary.org

McCook Tennis Association – McCook, NE



October 29, 2008

McCook Tennis Association
McCook, NE
Contact: Greg Larson
Email: gatr96@yahoo.com
Phone: 308-345-2280

Category 1: New Youth Program

We had a six week training camp for kids (5-14) for three hours on Sunday afternoon. We broke the training down into three categories for the participants:

1. Technique, tennis rules and etiquette – we went over the various grips, types of strokes, positioning on the court, scoring (ad and no add) and tiebreaker, strategy for singles and doubles.
2. Drills – we worked heavily on drills for backhand, forehand, volley, overheads and serves. We had a USTA Tennis Teaching Pro come one week and put on a clinic emphasizing these points to the participants.
3. Competition – we grouped the kids according to ability and then they played each other and out this we developed a ranking for the players. Played both singles and doubles. While they were playing we had the volunteers helping go around the courts and take notes on the players then after the match we would bring out different points for them to consider. For the younger and beginner players we introduced them to the QuickStart Tennis program.

We had 30 kids participate in this first year program and we had five adult instructors.

Metro Omaha Tennis Alliance

The Omaha Tennis Association

and the City of Omaha

P. O. Box 8313

Omaha, NE 68108-0313

Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category: No. 8 – Best QuickStart Tennis Idea

Contact: Ed Hubbs

(402) 932-2027

hubbs6011@cox.net

Description of the Program:

QuickStart Preparation Camp

On August 9, 2008, a mini camp was held to go over the basics of QuickStart singles for any 10 and under player who had been enrolled in our traditional Tennis in the Parks Learn to Play Program or in our USTA QuickStart Team Tennis Program. The Team Tennis participants obviously had a head start, as they had been involved in a team format, but it was doubles only (previously our highly successful Rallyball Team Tennis). The Learn to Play participants came from the more traditional stroke production format that had been used forever.

The purpose of the camp was to get the students comfortable enough with playing and keeping score so they could participate in a full competition program that feeds into our Competition Training Center. Not so fast, you say. How can beginners be involved in a CTC, a program from USTA High Performance geared solely toward those players with district, sectional and national rankings? The answer is that we hold four to six spots for the highest finishers in the QuickStart Program and set aside one or two courts plus instructors when the CTC begins in November. Now the new players show up and train alongside, but not together with, the ranked players. We hope this will motivate them to seek a higher level of play, thus accomplishing our pathway from beginning instructional programming to the highly competitive player seeking rankings and championships.

For those who like numbers and statistics, the final breakdown is this: 152 total participants during the weekends in August and September played over 1,500 matches. (A match for this program is one set, with a tie-breaker at five-all.) All results were loaded into the old “Star” ranking system, and a final ladder was produced without regard to age or gender, thus all players became a part of a system and are on our local radar for invitations to future programs and events.



"To strengthen character and enhance lives by providing opportunities through tennis, education and nutrition!"

2009 Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

1) Most Successful New Youth Program- NJ After 3,

NJ After 3 is a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding after-school opportunities for New Jersey's kids. The NJTL of Trenton (NJTLT) teamed up with NJ After 3 and introduced tennis to individuals in four elementary schools throughout the city of Trenton during the 07-08 school year. Tennis lessons were given twice a week from the NJTLT staff using portable nets, foam balls and junior racquets. Empty parking lots, cafeterias and gymnasiums were utilized and transformed into tennis courts for the children to enjoy tennis after school. Participants had a blast, and as a result a number of them attended various summer camps that were provided courtesy of the NJTLT.



4) Best Growth of Existing Youth Program- N.E.T.S. (Nutrition Education Tennis and Support)

The NJTL of Trenton (NJTLT) has successfully implemented a program called N.E.T.S. in the Trenton school district. N.E.T.S. is an acronym for Nutrition, Education, and Tennis Support and gives children opportunities to not only grow as tennis players but academically as well. The N.E.T.S. program was

offered three days a week in two schools in the Trenton district. The N.E.T.S program setup is as follows:

- One day of academic enrichment. The enrichment is given by a licensed teacher in the subjects of Math, Science, and/or Language Arts/Critical Thinking.

- One day of tennis. The children are bused from their schools to local indoor tennis facilities in area. While at the site NJTLT certified instructors provide a 2hr lesson to the children on full-length tennis courts.

- One day of tennis and academics. The children are divided into two groups. One group goes with the NJTLT instructor and enjoys 1 hr of tennis in the gymnasium, while the other group stays with the teacher and receives academic instruction. The groups then swap activities for the remaining hour.

N.E.T.S. was a success throughout the school year! On the last day of the program, the NJTLT bused the children to the NJ Governor's Mansion in Princeton, NJ and had a great time showcasing their new skills on the governor's personal court!



8) Best QuickStart Tennis Idea- Play Sports TV.com, Take it to the Streets

The NJTL of Trenton (NJTLT) linked up in a partnership with Trenton to bring tennis to challenging areas of the city. On three separate occasions, during the summer of 2008, traffic was redirected and streets were closed off to introduce various sports, including tennis in an effort to "Take it to the Streets." The USTA's QuickStart initiative was utilized to educate and entertain tennis participants during this event. Information about free NJTLT programs was passed out to all of the children who participated.

The NJTL of Trenton, USTA and PlaySportsTV.Com partnered together to formalize instructional DVD's to be used for future QuickStart Trainings. The NJTLT participants had a blast playing tennis using new, fun and exciting ideas from the USTA's QuickStart initiative! The film will be available shortly at PlaySportsTV.com.



12) Best Charity/ Fundraiser Event- 2008 Fundraiser: "Building a Future for Our Youth"

On Friday April 11, 2008 the NJTLT presented its fundraiser; "Building a Future for Our Youth." Through the hard work of Executive Director, Dan Faber, NJTLT staff and NJTLT board members, the NJTLT partnered with more than 40 local businesses and corporations to donate money and/or services for the event. As a result of all the hard work and numerous hours put in by Dan and his team, the NJTLT was able to raise over \$400,000 dollars to sustain continued growth of this national award winning organization.

For more information please contact:

Robert Howland,

Development Coordinator
NJTL of Trenton, Inc.

***"Enhancing Lives by Providing Opportunities
through Tennis, Education and Nutrition!"***

***439 South Broad Street, STE 108
Trenton, New Jersey 08611
Office Phone/Fax: 609-341-1698
Mobile: 609-558-5870/609-847-5204***

www.njtloftrenton.com



TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN

Recreation Department

50 Railroad Avenue, Waretown, New Jersey 08758 • (609) 693-5407 • Fax: (609) 693-2106

Category 1: Most Successful New Youth Program:

The Township of Ocean Recreation Department's most successful new youth program is Quick Start Tennis. We demonstrated the new tennis format at our Tennis Block Party and had such a positive feedback from the parents and children on the concept of the that we offered it as an after school program as well as a component of our summer program. Setup was inexpensive and simple - We used caution tape to set up our quick start courts and purchased the rubber line markers to establish the boundaries.

In 2009, we will partner with the Township's Elementary School P.E. teacher and support her plan to introduce quick start into her curriculum for students in grades 2-3. Through this support we hope to see a rippling effect in the registration numbers for our after school classes.

For more information on this event contact:

Jeanne Broadbent, Recreation Coordinator, Township of Ocean
(609) 693-5407

recreation@townshipofocean.org

CHARLES H. JURVA CITY OF CARLSBAD, NM TENNIS PRO

700 Park Drive
Carlsbad, NM 88220

(575) 887-1980
cjurva@valornet.com

November 30, 2008

Category: 15. Wildcard Community involvement with high school tennis team

Gentlemen,

Each year we kick-off our spring high school tennis team season with a one day Oldtimers versus Upstarts tournament. This event pits the youngsters against the townsfolk in a fun-filled, but competitive venue. Many a cocky 14 year old junior varsity player has had his/her comeuppance against some frazzled, decrepit 70 year old. In over 30 years of competition, the boys have yet to best the men, while the girls have been victorious only 3 times, this in spite of having 8 state championship teams in the last 15 years! This yearly action brings community support to our young netters, plus exposes them to another dimension in the winning tradition.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Jurva

Council-manager
Government since 1963



City of Mentor

8500 Civic Center Blvd.
Mentor, Ohio 44060-2499
440-255-1100
www.cityofmentor.com

Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook **Category #1: Most Successful New Youth Program**

The City of Mentor has a run successful youth and adult tennis program for more than 25 years. A twice-weekly lesson format was the primary delivery method for youth instruction. Declining youth registrations however forced us to look at offering our tennis program in a different format.

In 2008, we developed our first Tennis Camp. Camp was held Monday - Friday, 1 - 3:30 p.m. for one week. The camp filled and we had to expand our maximum registration numbers several times to accommodate all interested players.

The camp format, parents reported, was more conducive to their busy schedules and condensed the standard three-week, twice-weekly lesson format into just one week.

In all, Tennis Camp brought 40 youth players to our program, 31 of which had never participated in our youth tennis lessons.

In looking to 2009, we will offer Tennis Camp three times with the ability to accommodate more than 100 players. We will also offer a youth tournament so that camp and youth lesson participants can test their skills and compete against others.

City of Mentor Tennis Camp 2008



Contact for information:
Jill Korsok, CPRP
Recreation Coordinator
City of Mentor Recreation
(440) 974-5720
korsok@cityofmentor.com

Al's Clinics – Sandusky, Ohio

Do you have youth in your community who cannot afford quality tennis equipment, lessons from a tennis professional, and/or indoor court time? The mission of Al's Clinics is to provide financial support for youth in the lifetime sports of tennis and golf. Our website (which needs to be updated!) is: **www.alsclinics.org** – Al's Clinics is a 501(c) 3 and a volunteer based organization. Perhaps one of your area service organizations could add this type of activity to their mission.

Area youth, through the help of their coaches/parents, can apply for grants and financial assistance. We originally ran clinics, but found this to be a duplication of existing services and we now have collaborated with the area indoor club and provide the money for youth to receive training, court time, league fees, and equipment. We do ask the recipients to give back by helping with camps and other youth activities.

Brochures and information available upon request: e-mail: **[www.alsclinics.@aol.com](mailto:www.alsclinics@aol.com)**

Contact: John Schlessman
419 366-1543



Al's Clinics, Inc. • P.O. Box 102 • Sandusky, OH 44871-0102
Phone: 419.625.1589 • www.alsclinics.org

FACILITY RENOVATION/CONSRUCTION PROJECT

Perkins Community Courts – Sandusky, Ohio

The community of Perkins Township in Sandusky, Ohio has collaborated to build a wonderful outdoor tennis complex, which has dramatically increased tennis play for young and old in Sandusky! Originally, the Perkins Schools had seven crack-infested courts; three were just an old parking lot with lines. The dilemma was to reconstruct the facility while being fiscally responsible to the schools and township.

The keys to a successful project:

- Although on school property, we collaborated with the township and made these community courts – we sold the idea of cooperation.
- We recognized all donors at the entrance to the facility with an attractive sign/planting arrangement.
- A local paving contractor generously bid the project and we subcontracted a company that specializes in tennis courts to provide expertise and to complete the final stage. Do not cut corners on quality!
- Collaborated with local construction and landscaping companies for sidewalk and greenery needs.
- Wrote numerous local grants
- Wrote a USTA/NRPA Facility grant
- Asked for a three year financial commitment from the township
- Involved our Perkins Athletic Boosters for a two year financial boost
- Our schools provided the balance of the money

This fall tennis season we hosted the Pirate Invite Doubles tournament and our conference championships with many USTA and community functions planned for the spring and summer – all on a property that only a year early was an eyesore with very little play.

For more information contact: John Schlessman @ www.AlsClinics@aol.com



2007 USTA Outstanding Facility of the Year
2420 Westport Drive
Norman, Oklahoma 73069
405-366-8859
www.westwoodtennis.com

Category 14

Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

Recently, we just completed construction on expanding our municipal tennis building. Our existing building was just over 1,000 square feet of which only had 300 square feet of gathering area. With averaging 100 students a week in junior programs and hosting sectional and national tournaments, needless to say we needed to expand.

After meeting with one of my lessons father, he agreed that our tennis community needed a larger and more functional tennis clubhouse. He kicked off the campaign by donating \$40,000. With that kind donation we then went to our city and asked them to fund the remainder of the project which they were able to come up with the majority. Because of their support, we were then able to apply for a NRPA Tennis in the Parks grant which we were awarded just under \$30,000. To complete the project, various fundraisers were put on through the year which raised an additional \$18,000. We now have doubled the size of our clubhouse thanks to the generous support of our tennis community, city council and the NRPA.

David Minihan, USPTA Master Professional





Category 4: Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

After School Team Tennis Program

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation had been offering an after school tennis program at two of the four middle schools in the Hillsboro School District for several years. However, we wanted to see the program expand.

The goals for the program were:

- Expand to all four middle schools in the district
- Each middle school team coached by their respective high school coach
- End the season with a jamboree for all schools to come together
- Attract the “non-tennis player” to the game

We were able to do all of the above after putting in some work. Participation more than doubled, all teams were coached by a high school coach, and the season ending jamboree was a huge success by both parents and participants.

A 7th grader said, “I want to make the Varsity Team – that’s why I’m out here.” A mother told me she was amazed at how athletic her daughter is at tennis. She’s had never done sports previously and joined the tennis team because of a friend.

Keys to success:

- Our instructors set up mini tennis courts during student’s lunches to recruit.
- Convenient for students and parents – right after school with bussing provided home.
- Students play on an actual tennis court. Bus transportation is lined up to take them there.
- By-in and support from the high school coaches.
- Provided racquets to any participant that didn’t have their own.
- Introduced tennis in a fun and social atmosphere. (ex. The jamboree was not competitive but a chance for all teams to mix it up, be social, and play games with each other. Raffle prizes, ice cream, and team photos were other highlights.)
- Good, working relationship with the Hillsboro School District.
- Not turning away students that couldn’t afford this program. We awarded up to 75% scholarships to those that needed it.

Program Information:

This is a developmental tennis program for both beginners and advanced players. An Introduction to basic tennis skills including volley, forehand, backhand, and serves through games and drills with a team emphasis. Participants will develop skills and strategies to become more confident in match play. Wear comfortable clothes to be active in and tennis shoes (no sandals!). (You may not have time to change after school.) There will be an end-of-the-season jamboree on June 5th at Century High School. An activity bus is provided. Bring a racquet or we’ll provide one.

Date: 5/20 - 6/5 (3 wks)

Time: 3:25 – 4:45 p.m.

Day: Tuesday & Thursday

Fee: \$35

For more information, contact:

Maegan Jossy, Recreation Program Supervisor

maeganj@ci.hillsboro.or.us

503-681-5382

www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/parksrec



Bucks County Tennis Association, Inc.

11 Bellwood Drive, Langhorne, PA 19053 Phone and fax: (215) 322-6802

www.buckscounty.usta.com

2009 TENNIS IN THE PARKS IDEA HANDBOOK

Category 13: Best Partnership Agreement

The Bucks County Tennis Association, Inc. (BCTA) has modeled its tennis programming based on the community partnerships that soccer and Little League implement to promote their respective sport, i.e., the sports organization provides the program, coaches and equipment, while the recreation agency provides the facilities.

Currently, the BCTA partners with more than a dozen recreation agencies—mostly township and borough municipalities—to offer tennis programming at 16 different sites, most of which have just two tennis courts. In 2008, more than 800 participants (500 youth and 300 adult) registered for BCTA Learn, Practice and Play programs as well as two Flex-Time Leagues, a women's doubles league and a mixed doubles league.

The BCTA and community agency agree on a program fee—usually \$55 for 5 one-hour Learn Practice and Play sessions (a \$5 discount is typically offered to township residents). Each session provides tennis instruction and play for a minimum of 4 participants and a maximum of 16–18, with 6–10 students per coach. The tennis programs implement the BCTA curriculum, which emphasizes the fun and the social aspects of tennis as well as the "game-based" teaching method recommended by the United States Tennis Association. Most sites offer community residents five series of Learn, Practice and Play programs, starting in late April and ending in early November. The April–November scheduling allows flexibility for busy lifestyles and for participants of other sports such as baseball and soccer to enjoy tennis.

Program offerings are diverse, ranging from Pee-Wee (4–6) through "Zoomers" (50+), and novice through intermediate levels. In addition, by networking the 12-plus recreation agencies, the BCTA is able to network communities and offer additional programming that they would not be able to provide to residents on their own; e.g., One-Up-One Down tournaments, youth team tennis, Flex-Time Leagues, and other competitive match play.

The split of program fees is negotiable; however, most agencies receive 20 percent of the student registration fee while the BCTA receives 80 percent. In most cases, recreation agencies are responsible for some or all of the registration tasks, providing tennis courts and advertising in their brochures.

The BCTA provides registration assistance, including on-line registration (this varies by program); participant rosters; personable coaches (who have completed workshop training in the games-approach to teaching and have undergone background checks); tennis curriculum; tennis equipment; and supplemental insurance. The BCTA also advertises separately from the agency, using newspaper promotions (listing all communities), flyers and its Web site at www.buckscounty.usta.com as well as listings on the Tennis Industry Association's Web site at www.TennisWelcomeCenters.com.

For more information contact BCTA President Barbara Long at balong11@verizon.net or 215-322-6802.

The BCTA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit community tennis association and a registered member of the United States Tennis Association, Inc.

Its mission is: "To promote healthy, social, and educational opportunities within the Bucks County community through the lifetime sport of tennis."

Chestnut Ridge Community Tennis Association
2588 Quaker Valley Road
New Paris, PA 15554

Category 14 – Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

The Chestnut Ridge High School Girls tennis program began in the fall of 2001 at the urging of parents wanting their daughters to play competitive tennis. The nearest courts, which were in serious disrepair, were a 20 minute ride away from the school. In the 4th season, the team was undefeated in the regular season and won our District 5 singles, doubles, and team competitions. In the 8 year history our team has had a District singles winner for 6 years, doubles and team winners for 3 years. The accomplishments of our team, under the leadership of two different dedicated coaches, have come in spite of the lack of tennis courts at our school or in our rural community.

Over the past seven years, interested community individuals have been advocating for tennis court construction with the Chestnut Ridge School Board. In 2007, the School Board committed \$100,000 toward tennis court construction at the high school. This was about half of the total cost of 4 proposed tennis courts.

The Chestnut Ridge Community Tennis Association was officially formed in the fall of 2005 and became a registered CTA with the USTA Middle States District in 2007. This dedicated group of individuals has been actively seeking other funding sources to help with the construction of our courts. Individuals, local companies and civic organizations have offered financial support. Grants were received from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, Chestnut Ridge Christian Foundation, and the Chestnut Ridge Lion's Club. A successful silent auction/dinner event was held in the fall of 2007. In the spring of 2008, the USTA generously awarded nearly \$30,000 through the USTA Public Facility Funding grant. With momentum building, the school district agreed to act a guarantor for the remaining construction costs so the project could move forward.

In August of 2008, four beautiful tennis courts were completed! Stephen Parks, Landscape Architect completed the plans for the project, R & T Contracting did the site preparation, and New Enterprise Stone and Lime did the final construction. The Chestnut Ridge High School Girls tennis team and community members have been enjoying our brand new courts with a spectacular view. The Chestnut Ridge CTA has been working closely with our USTA Middle States representative, Amanda Faris-Denis, to expand our tennis programming in the schools and community. We are looking forward to many years of enjoyment and use from the Chestnut Ridge tennis courts!



Contact Name: Karen Everhart

Phone: 814-623-7772

E.mail: 1stchoicehome@earthlink.net

Bobcat Public Tennis Center

Robert E. Brown, Activities Director, Local League Coordinator Junior Team Tennis
JTT Administered by Public Tennis Inc. of Hilton Head, a CTA
c/o 58 Rose Hill Dr.
Bluffton, SC 29910
843.290.2833

Blufftontennis.com

#4 Best Growth of Existing Youth Program – Junior Team Tennis

USTA's Junior Team Tennis (JTT), bar none, is the primo program for age graded co-ed team competition for ages 5 – 18. As Local League Coordinator, I have seen growth from 3 to 14 teams (150 plus participants) in a year's time. In order to accomplish growth it is essential to:

1. Involve local pros. Show them how this team seasonal stuff can be a perfect augmented fit to existing programs.
2. Stalk the media. Get local coverage by submitting scores/pics. Follow-up with calls asking why not covered?
3. Convince the High School Coach that he needs to have this to keep his players playing year-round especially up and comers!
4. Throw a tennis party! At seasons end with prizes, awards, and food.
5. Seek sponsors. Just like soccer and little league, get the local hardware store to back the team(s).
6. Enlist parents as volunteer assistants, snack providers, etc.
7. Budget for and make a big thing about going to the State Championship.
8. Work closely with your local USTA office. They are your partners for success, rich in resources.

We are from a little tennis market you might have heard of called Hilton Head Island known for serious professionalism. Our USTA JTT Program is every bit the quality of that for the adults.

PUBLIC TENNIS, INC.

DEDICATED TO BRINGING PUBLIC TENNIS TO HILTON HEAD ISLAND

PLAY TENNIS IN THE PARKS – IDEA HANDBOOK

KINDERGARTEN TENNIS is the most successful new youth program in this area. Jacque Houck contacts the school and takes the equipment to the school during school hours and spends thirty minutes with the Kindergarten Children and forty minutes with the First Graders. Their attentions span determines the amount of time the classes are taught.

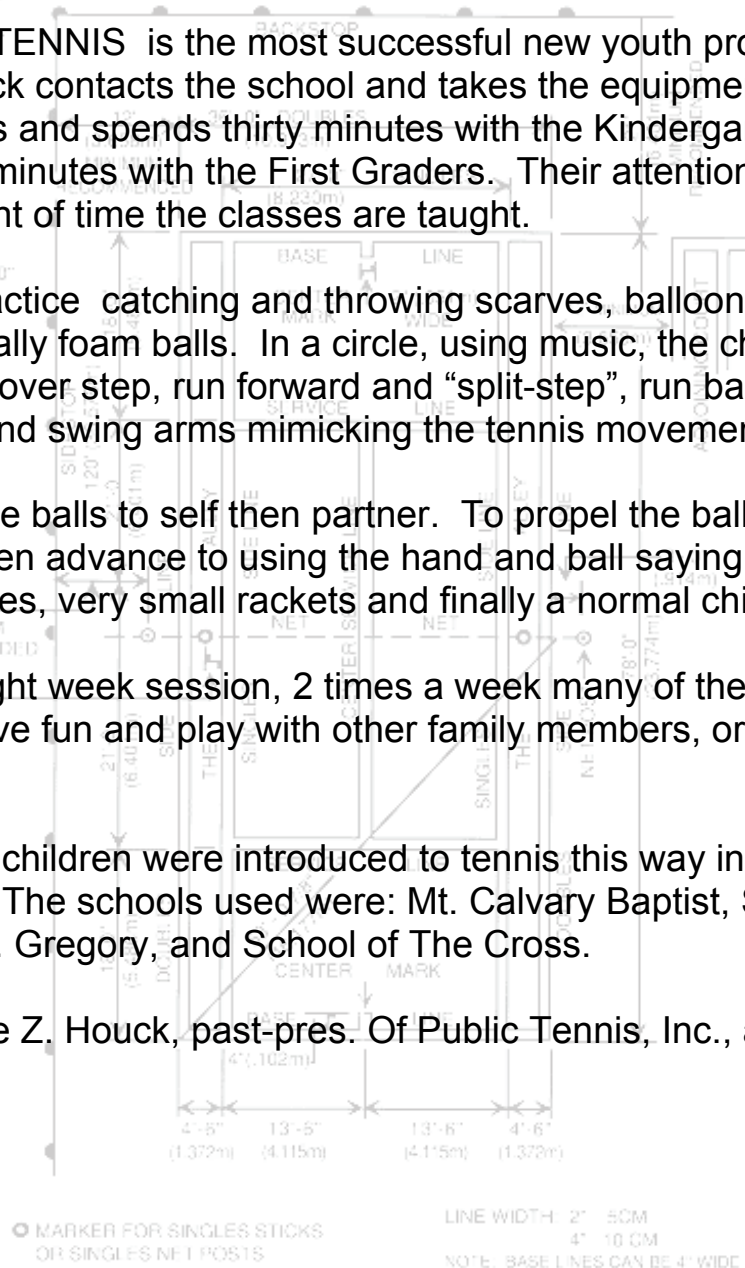
The very young practice catching and throwing scarves, balloons, Beanie Babies and eventually foam balls. In a circle, using music, the children learn to side-step, cross-over step, run forward and “split-step”, run backward, etc. We stretch, bend and swing arms mimicking the tennis movements.

Later we bounce the balls to self then partner. To propel the balloon we use a foam “hand”, we then advance to using the hand and ball saying, “Bounce, Hit!” Then we use paddles, very small rackets and finally a normal child’s racket.

At the end of an eight week session, 2 times a week many of the youngsters have learned to have fun and play with other family members, or take lessons with our pros.

Approximately 100 children were introduced to tennis this way in our Hilton Head Island Area. The schools used were: Mt. Calvary Baptist, St. Francis, Christ Lutheran, St. Gregory, and School of The Cross.

Contact: Jacqueline Z. Houck, past-pres. Of Public Tennis, Inc., a CTA with the USTA





Concho Valley Tennis Association • Box 1147 • San Angelo, Texas 76902 • www.conchovalleytennis.net

Category 13 – Best Partnership: Concho Valley Tennis Association & the City of San Angelo

In 2002 Concho Valley Tennis Association (CVTA) began offering a USTA National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) after-school program as a Partner with the San Angelo Independent School District. Until 2002 the two local country clubs and a private swim and racquet club provided the only tennis instructional programs in San Angelo, Texas. Organized in 1993, CVTA's program included junior tournaments and USTA adult leagues until 2002 when CVTA began offering instructional programs

Since 2002, CVTA has averaged 200 juniors who participate in multiple sessions at the Central High School tennis courts from March to November that includes June and July Summer Tennis Day Camps. The NJTL program provides nine hours of instruction during a six-week program. Two 90-minute sessions are scheduled Monday-Wednesday, including beginners that evolved into QuickStart Tennis in 2008, intermediate, and advanced classes. A new Junior Development program began in 2008 that provides two hours of supervised match play with USTA adults at the cost of a can of balls each Thursday night. While CVTA's goal has been to provide affordable instructional programs, the cost of a six-week session has increased from \$20 in 1993 to \$35 per session in 2008. Instructors are paid \$12 to \$15 per hour.

While the San Angelo Central High School varsity tennis team members are primarily trained at the local country clubs, CVTA has provided the training program for the smaller high school that has a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged and minority population. However, as a result of the NJTL program that began in 2002, Lake View High School's tennis team finished the fall 2008 season with one of the best seasons in a decade. Several of the top players at this school have been taking classes from CVTA for the past seven years.

The culmination of this partnership with SAISD represents another step of a three-year process with another partner, the City of San Angelo, to construct a public tennis facility on school property at SAISD's football stadium. In August 2008 the City Council approved hiring an architect to design the 8-court lighted facility as a "joint-venture effort" with the City of San Angelo where CVTA will continue to offer lessons when the new courts open in 2009. (In the photo below the NJTL Rally team from CVTA represents four SAISD schools.)

For more information, contact :
Patsy Rainwater-Maddux
CVTA President
325-942-9938
prmaddux@conchovalleytennis.net
www.conchovalleytennis.net





Concho Valley Tennis Association • Box 1147 • San Angelo, Texas 76902 • www.conchovalleytennis.net

Category 14 - Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

When Concho Valley Tennis Association organized in 1993, the group set a five-year goal to construct a public tennis facility. Although the City designated 12 acres for a tennis complex, the group failed to raise the funds for the tennis center. While the group set aside the goal to construct a public tennis facility, CVTA formed a partnership with the San Angelo Independent School District (SAISD) in 2002. The school agreed to designate Central High School tennis courts as the interim public tennis facility site, and CVTA agreed to offer affordable after-school tennis. For the past seven years CVTA's participation in the USTA National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) program has been approximately 200 juniors who take multiple sessions from March-November as the only public tennis program in San Angelo.

When the City of San Angelo developed a Master Plan for Recreation in 2004, the need for a public tennis facility rose to the top of the improvements list, according to the report of two consultants hired by the City. To fund the tennis center and other community projects, the citizens of San Angelo approved a half-cent sales tax election in 2005 that will result in \$93 million for public improvements over a 20-year period. A partnership between CVTA, the City, and SAISD was formed to find the best solution to spend City money that would impact area students and public recreation. A committee of representatives from each group determined that renovation of six tennis courts at a junior high school in the center of the City near restaurants and hotels would be the best solution. The cost to construct parking would be eliminated since parking is available at the school district's football field next to the tennis courts.

As a result of an interlocal agreement approved on January 23, 2007, the responsibilities for the City and SAISD include: SAISD (provide land, existing six tennis courts for renovation, and parking for the facility; maintenance of nets, wind screens, resurfacing, fencing, gates, and other court maintenance; landscaping, mowing, cleaning yards and courts; janitorial services from vending machines to offset costs for janitorial services; water; trash and litter removal during construction) and the City (funds to construct the facility to include lights, building for restrooms, office, concessions, storage, and seating with shades.) During the school hours of 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., six courts will be reserved for SAISD use while the remaining courts will be designated for public use. From 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., the courts will be reserved for public use to include programs offered by "a third party" that will pay for lighting during instructional programs. Weekends will be reserved for public use except when SAISD and a third party reserves the courts for tournaments. During the evening and weekend recreational play, participants will pay for lighting by a coin-operated device.

Although the initial plan included 12 courts, current funding of \$674,000 by the City and \$132,00 from a local foundation for lighting will allow construction of the facility in 2009 to renovate the existing six courts and build two new courts. School property next to the stadium has been reserved for Phase II to construct six additional courts.

Fifteen years after CVTA organized, the group will take the next and final step: to officially ask the City of San Angelo to allow CVTA to be the "third party" to continue to operate instructional programs as a partner with SAISD.

For more information, contact:

Patsy Rainwater-Maddux, CVTA President
325-942-9938; www.conchovalleytennis.net
prmaddux@conchovalleytennis.net



Concho Valley Tennis Association • Box 1147 • San Angelo, Texas 76902 • www.conchovalleytennis.net

Category 15 - Wild Card: Finally...“It CAN Happen” by getting involved in the Community

When the Concho Valley Tennis Association organized in 1993, the new Board of Directors set a long-term goal: to construct a public tennis facility within five years. Although the City of San Angelo set aside a site for the public tennis, the group was unable to raise the funds from private donors. Therefore, in 2002 the CVGA board asked the San Angelo Independent School District to designate the Central Tennis Courts as the interim site of the public facility. In return, CVTA offered to operate an after-school USTA National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) program at no cost to the school district. Since the partnership was formed, CVTA has taught beginner, intermediate, and advanced tennis lessons to approximately 200 members who take multiple sessions from March-November. CVTA also hosts several junior tournaments annually and has recently added a Junior Development program in 2008 that combines juniors and USTA adult players in 20-minute timed matches for two hours a week on Thursday evenings.

Since 2002, the board has promoted the idea “It CAN Happen” at CVTA by offering instructional programs and continuing to find a way to fund the public tennis facility. Ironically, two years later an avenue for funding developed when the City of San Angelo hired two consultants to identify improvements for public recreation. A need for a public tennis facility rose to the top of the “needs improvement” list in the Master Plan for Recreation project. In an effort to construct other civic projects, a new group was formed called Citizens for San Angelo to prepare for an attempt to pass a half-cent sales tax. Two previous election campaigns had failed until the third time proved successful when voters approved the tax for five years to provide funds to dredge the city’s lake and improve the coliseum. In 2005 the Citizens group, including representation from the CVTA board, organized an effort to promote another half-cent sales tax election. CVTA led other youth sports groups to participate in the Citizens marketing committee by donating \$500 for election promotional materials that listed potential sports facilities improvements. CVTA also organized other youth sports groups to place their members at strategic locations throughout the city on election day with posters: “Invest in Our Future.” Voters narrowly approved the tax increase that will result in approximately \$93 million over a 20-year period. One City Council member recently gave the “tennis group” credit for the success of the half-cent sales tax by involving parents, family members, and friends from youth sports groups to vote to improve community projects. The successful election will result in approximately \$15 million for sports improvements, including the city’s first tennis complex and new baseball, softball, and soccer fields.

As a result of patience and persistence, CVTA helped to make “IT HAPPEN,” teaching their junior members a valuable lesson about community involvement. In August 2008 another step was taken to construct an 8-court lighted facility with approval by the City Council for \$674,000 in half-cent sales tax funds that led to a local grant of \$132,000. Fifteen years since the organization of CVTA...construction for a public tennis center is scheduled to begin in January 2009.

For more information, contact :
Patsy Rainwater-Maddux
CVTA President
325-942-9938
prmaddux@conchovalleytennis.net
www.conchovalleytennis.net



WCTA



Wimberley Community Tennis Association

7 Overbrook Court, Wimberley TX 78676

wimberleytennis.com

Hennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 4: Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

WCTA started a "Little Aces" league program during the summer, 2008, which was based around the idea of providing our many local junior beginner players, some of which we sponsor in our "Kids to Camp Program", a bi-weekly, organized afternoon tennis tournament. This event provided a structured mini-tournament with matches for kids ages 8 thru 14. We started with 8 kids, and tried to limit the event to 2 hours. However, by the end of the summer, we usually had 14-16 kids and the event lasted 4 hours, as the kids were having such a good time. We solicited sponsors, who generously provided snacks and drinks for the kids during the event. Prizes were awarded for 1st & 2nd place in each category. The kids and parents have asked that it be continued next summer. This program will be included in the Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness.



WCTA's first "Little Aces League" participants.

Contact Bob Kerrigan, WCTA President, 512/847-5161 or dkbk@austin.rr.com

Category 5: Best Growth of Existing Adult Program - CTA Team Tennis

WCTA started the Community Tennis Association "CTA Team Tennis Program" in 2007. It grew out of the need to create more challenging doubles matches within our association, by introducing new players into our regular monthly tennis schedule. This program also allowed us to grow socially, after the matches, with the hosting team arranging a BBQ or trying new restaurants in the community.

The idea worked, and the concept has grown. We now have small community tennis groups, associations, and tennis clubs in the area (Horseshoe Bay, San Marcos CTA, Dripping Springs-Polo Club, San Antonio-Windcrest, San Marcos-Texas State Tennis Club), that we meet with on a regular basis for evening or Saturday morning matches. We all exchange emails, pictures and the good times we've experienced meeting folks through playing tennis. Pictures of the events are available on our web-site, wimberleytennis.com, and click on Photo Album.



CTA Team Tennis – Wimberley CTA vs. Dripping Springs Polo Club

Contact Bob Kerrigan, WCTA President, 512/847-5161 or dkbk@austin.rr.com

Category 8: Best QuickStart Tennis Idea – QuickStart Kids Helping Kids

WCTA started the QST Clinics in the middle of summer, 2008. We quickly outgrew the standard QST format due to some beginner students that were very quick learners, more kids attending each clinic, and parents wanting to help out with the lower level groups. To help solve this problem and to keep the QST event growing, we expanded the clinics to include "Kids Helping Kids". We have very experienced 10 to 11 year old "volunteers" who wanted to help out, but were more advanced than the QST program. After participating in the "Children Helping Children" benefit tournament for Children of Fallen Soldiers, the idea of using the more advanced junior players began to develop. We are using these junior players in a one-on-one situation with more advanced drills and some of the better QST participants, thus expanding our tennis development programs. "Kids Helping Kids" has been successful using tennis as a medium that encourages the less experienced players, and often younger players, to look up to and learn from their peers. This program is being added to the Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness in Wimberley. The QuickStart Tennis lessons will be promoted for kids "themed" birthday parties, with the foam balls being the "party favor" for the kids to take home.



Sam Dharmarsiri and Daniel Barrett – "Kids Helping Kids" volunteer instructors.



“Kids Helping Kids” volunteer teaching the backhand.



“Kids Helping Kids” volunteer teaching the serve.



QuickStart Tennis Clinic Volunteers and Players



QuickStart beginner drill using larger, foam balls.



QuickStart drill using smaller net.

Contact Bob Kerrigan, WCTA President, 512/847-5161 or dkbk@austin.rr.com

COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS PARKS AND RECREATION

7500 South 2700 East, Cottonwood Heights City, Utah 84121

Category #8 Utah's Very 1st QUICKSTART Tennis Tournament!!!



www.quickstarttennis.com



Over 460 youth participated in the QuickStart Program for 2008 at North Canyon Racquet Club and Cottonwood Heights Parks and Recreation. A qualifying tournament was played with the winning teams competing in the final QuickStart Tournament.



THE TOURNAMENT

- The kids were 10 & Under Beginners
- 36' courts were used, using either 18' nets or Tennis Tape
- Low-Compression balls were used
- Teams were comprised of 4 players each
- Each team created and designed their own "Team Name", on poster board
- Each team played 2 games per match, singles only, no-ad scoring (5 flat cones were placed behind each court, labeled LOVE, 15, 30, 40, GAME. After each point, the kids would place an extra ball in the appropriate scoring cone, visually helping them learn to score)
- Everyone played and participated
- Each court had either a parent or a staff person monitoring play and helping the kids score correctly
- Parental involvement was huge; they cheered and brought drinks and snacks for the players
- The Team scoring the most games won a medal
- The top 3 players with the most games won medals as well
- The Tournament lasted approximately 3 hours and was a HUGE SUCCESS!!!

Suggestions for future tournaments: Have an all day event where parents bring picnic lunches or perhaps lunch is provided. Offer a short parent/adult friendly competition using the QuickStart format, equipment, and 36' courts.
Have additional prizes for various awards such as sportsmanship, most points, best attitude, etc.

For more info contact: Charlene Peterson, 801 943-3190
or tennis@cottonwoodheights.com, or Pati Adamson, 801 671-8490



Teams deciding on their
"TEAM NAME"



Kids learning the rules of play



"Is it my turn to
play"????



Can we do this again
next year?



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,
RECREATION AND
CULTURAL RESOURCES

Category #4. Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

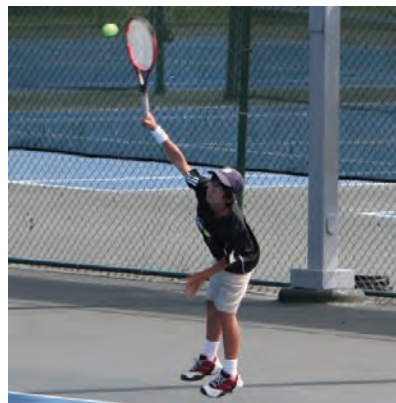
Arlington County Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Fall Junior Tennis Tournament

In 2007, Arlington County offered a junior tennis tournament for the first time in approximately a decade. Through the years, the adult program in Arlington grew tremendously through the work and advocacy of a local adult tennis association. However, the youth program represented only a small fraction of public tennis programs in Arlington. The 2007 junior tennis tournament attracted only 16 youth.

In 2008, Arlington took the following steps to expand its youth program and ensure a more successful youth tournament.

- Capitalize on a public/private relationship by contracting out the class instructor to a local provider. This step increased the quality of instruction and allowed Arlington to increase the number of junior class offerings
- Build relationships with other youth providers including the Catholic Youth Organization which already offered a junior tennis league
- Build relationships with local school coaches and officials
- Increase marketing efforts

As a result of these efforts, 59 youth participated in the 2008 Fall Junior Tennis Tournament, representing an almost 400% increase. Comments were overwhelmingly positive with parents repeatedly asking “when is the next one?” Arlington plans to follow up the success of this tournament by rolling out a junior tennis house league in the spring of 09.



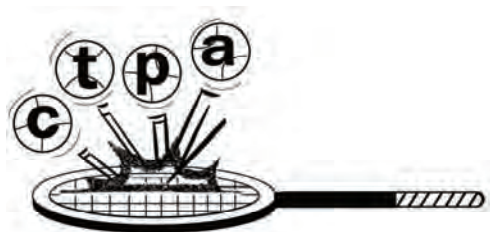
For more information on this event, contact:

Eric Legg

Sports Programmer

703-228-1835

elegg@arlingtonva.us



Charlottesville Tennis Patrons Association

Officers

Ron Manilla
President
Christine Shaw
Vice President
Roy Harrill
Treasurer
Lynda Harrill
Secretary

Directors

Scott Elliff
Jason Grigg
Lynda Harrill
Roy Harrill
Christine Holley
Nancy Holt
Ron Manilla
Jim McVay
John Morris
Christine Shaw

Trustees

Kim Armstrong
Bill Irwin
Patrick Kearns
Danny Manilla

Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook Submission

Category 8: Best QuickStart Tennis Idea

Hold an Annual QuickStart Tennis Day at a Public Park

The Charlottesville Tennis Patrons Association (CTPA) partnered with the Albemarle County Parks & Rec Department and USTA-Virginia to present the inaugural **QuickStart Tennis Day at Darden Towe Park** in May 2008. The event, which ran on a Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., kicked off Albemarle County Parks & Rec's summer tennis programs and introduced the community to the new USTA tennis format for kids, ages 5 to 10.

The event was publicized on CTPA's website, on local radio (WINA) on "Plug-Away-Monday" and via email to elementary school PE teachers and teaching professionals at private clubs. Press releases and phone calls to print and TV media produced little interest. (After they were sent pictures of this event, they did however pay attention and give coverage to the second QuickStart Day which was held about six weeks later for elementary summer school students.)

Almost 50 kids participated, and at least 50 parents and other siblings watched. A teaching professional from USTA-Virginia, was on hand to lead the tennis instruction and was assisted by a dozen local tennis volunteers, including high school varsity players who are great on-court role models for young tennis players.



The kids (and even some parents) did QuickStart Tennis drills and played tennis until noon when Radio Disney and Papa John's Pizza arrived. Then we ate pizza and danced in the parking lot for prizes to the sounds of the Jonas Brothers and Hannah Montana . . . then more tennis. It was a rather high-energy day.



Due to the generosity of seven sponsors solicited by CTPA, each kid received a Wilson tennis racquet and a foam practice ball to take home. Everyone had a wonderful time! We're looking forward to doing this event again next year.



"... the kids had a wonderful time at the Quick Start event ... they wanted to know when they could do it again! We thank you and all your volunteers for hosting such a great tennis experience."

"My girls had a great time and they really enjoyed themselves. Both of them keep talking about playing tennis ..."

Event Essentials

1. Partnership of local Community Tennis Association, USTA District Office and local Parks & Rec. Dept.
2. Sponsorships to purchase racquets and balls to give to kids
3. Sponsorships to provide food, water, entertainment and prizes
4. Plenty of bottled water
5. Press releases should include pictures of other QuickStart Tennis events
6. Ask each participant to write one sponsor a thank-you note. Provide list of names and addresses.

For more information on this event contact:

Charlottesville Tennis Patrons Association
Communications@CharlottesvilleTennis.org^{OK}



quickstart tennis of central virginia

Officers

Tessa Pehanick
President

Stevia Anda
Vice President -
Communications

Lynda Harrill
Founder
Vice President -
QuickStart
Coordinator

Patricia Severson
Vice President -
Operations

John Oliver
Secretary

Roy Harrill
Treasurer

Directors

Stevia Anda
Jonathan Amos
George Fitz-Hugh
Melodie Hagspiel
Lynda Harrill
Roy Harrill
Ron Manilla
Joseph Miller
John Oliver
Tessa Pehanick
Patricia Severson

2010 Tennis in the Park Idea Handbook Submission Best QuickStart Tennis Idea – QuickStart Tennis Birthday Celebration in February

Celebrate QuickStart's "Birthday" every year (in February) with an event. It's a great way for kids to spend a morning or afternoon during the winter, and it shows kids the upcoming FUN QuickStart will offer in the spring tennis season.

This year we held a party to celebrate QuickStart's second birthday. About 35 kids, 2-1/2 to 10 years old, marked this special day with lots of QuickStart Tennis, "tennis ball" cupcakes, bananas and pretzels. The pictures tell the story. Everyone had a GREAT time!



A racquet in every hand! A smile on every face!





quickstart tennis of central virginia



Someone went Bananas for QuickStart!



Tennis ball cupcakes were a BIG hit!



The Kirk-O-Rama hit the floor! Try bouncing the ball with a racquet while lying down sometime.





quickstart tennis of central virginia

Next February, we are having the **QuickStart Family Classic** – a parent/child round-robin, non-elimination format tournament to reinforce our “family-friendly tennis” approach.



Family-Friendly QuickStart -- We want to get kids, siblings, cousins, parents and grandparents playing QuickStart together. QuickStart is something FUN everyone can do together just about anywhere, even at home in the driveway!

Plan your QuickStart Tennis Birthday Celebration today!

Want to be a great adult? Be a QuickStart kid!

Submitted by: Lynda Harrill
VP & QuickStart Tennis Coordinator
QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia
quickstartcentral@comcast.net
(434) 244-9644



A.V. Symington Tennis Center
60 Ida Lee Park Drive
Moses Gittens
Head Tennis Professional
703- 737-6043

**USTA FACILITY AWARDS PROGRAM
IDA LEE PARK TENNIS CENTER
LEESBURG, VA.**

OVERVIEW



The Ida Lee Park Tennis Center was originally opened in April, 2002 by the Town of Leesburg Department of Parks and Recreation as a 7 court outdoor facility and expanded in January 2008, with the opening of a new four court indoor air structure. The outdoor facility includes six oversized lighted Deco Turf courts and one traditional hard court with practice backboards at both ends. The indoor air structure contains a brick entry lobby with seating area, check-in desk, court viewing area, storage space, and four oversized Deco Turf courts with 12 dedicated lights per court. To service the facility, there is a centrally located clubhouse with restroom facilities, the Head Tennis Professional's office, information desk, storage space, and a player lounge area. The facility is accented with landscaping throughout promoting player enjoyment. There are a series of decoratively lit walkways that link the Tennis Center to a variety of adjacent community resources, including a park, recreation center, library, and town trails.

THE NEED

The Town of Leesburg is located within Loudoun County, one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. As a result the town has also experienced a tremendous increase in its population.

While population levels increased, the available tennis court space did not, the only courts available for public use were those located at the local high school. Those courts however were not illuminated, unavailable for any type of programmed activity, and only available for weekend play when not in use by the school.



The Department of Parks and Recreation assessed the situation in 2001 and determined that a town tennis center would meet the demand for public court space.

With the closing of the only indoor tennis facility within the Town in 2005, the Town recognized a unique opportunity to provide additional services to the public. The result was the addition of a four court indoor air structure to provide year round indoor play.



THE FACILITY

The Ida Lee Park Tennis Center is situated within the 138 acre Ida Lee Park,

adjacent to an existing recreation center. This convenient central location allows the facility to utilize the existing parking and access roads. The facility was designed with the idea of having programmed activities, public match play, and individual practice all taking place at the same time. This goal was achieved through a separate three-court "pod" system and a stand-alone practice court. The "pods" are separated by fencing and a landscaped area which provides sound and sight buffering. The practice court has fencing for privacy along with curved practice backboards at each end. The two "pods" were constructed with functionality and player comfort in mind.



Each "pod" has an oversized area that separates each of the three courts creating a feeling of openness, especially when playing on the center court. Each court has angled "California Corners" to allow for easy ball retrieval. Players can enjoy

shaded redwood cabanas located within the transition areas. The Deco Turf court surfaces provide not only the speed of a traditional hard court surface, but also cushioning to make play more comfortable. The six Deco Turf courts are serviced by state of the art lighting designed to reduce shadows. This system minimizes the impact on the surrounding neighborhood. The lights are turned on at dusk and are off at 10:00pm. The courts are surrounded on all sides by windscreens to provide optimum playing conditions.

The individual practice court has a traditional hard court surface and backboards at each end for individual use. The backboards are curved to bring high shots back down

and bring low shots up. The practice court is also surrounded by wind screening for optimum playing conditions and has lighting for play at night.

Indoor play was made possible by a generous donation from Leesburg resident A.V. Symington. Through her good will and with additional funding from the Town, we are able to provide the public with four indoor Dec Turf courts. Each court has 12 dedicated lights with a layout specifically designed to eliminate shadows. A carpeted center viewing area with teak furniture provides a place for spectators to sit and watch the on court action. The center is climate controlled year round, ensuring a comfortable playing atmosphere no matter what the weather.

The Tennis Center's courts are serviced by the Peal Family Pavilion, named for the Peal family who made a substantial donation towards the original facility. The clubhouse provides restroom facilities, office and storage space, player lounge



area, picnic tables, and an awards area. All signage and amenities at the facility are ADA compliant, allowing the Center to be used by the entire community. The clubhouse's



green metal roof and red brick walls were designed to compliment the adjacent recreation center. The Tennis Center is linked via sidewalks to existing parking areas at both the recreation center and a public library.

The facility was designed to allow for future growth. Two clay courts will be added in the future along with the enclosing of one of the three-court “pods” to provide even more indoor play during the winter months.

MEETING THE NEED

Since it's opening the Ida Lee Park Tennis Center has been the site of continuous activity.



The Department of Parks and Recreation has developed a USTA sanctioned program for juniors through adults. The center plays host to the ECHO Tournament and is the site of the annual Leesburg Cup tournament as well as several USTA

events for every age range. Participation in our tennis programs has increased almost 400% from 370 participants our initial year to over 1,400 this year. Reservations are accepted for public play and administered by court attendants to keep things running smoothly. In response to requests, childcare is provided at the adjacent recreation center to meet the needs of players with little ones. The Department of Parks and Recreation has received nothing but



positive comments regarding the addition of the courts and the overall quality of the tennis center. The outdoor facility has two courts open for public use at no charge and five courts available for reservation for a fee ranging from \$10-\$14. The four indoor courts are available for rental on a daily or contractual basis with prices ranging from \$20 per court out to \$34 per court hour, depending on the time of day and time of year. The courts are available Monday – Saturday, 7:00am to 10:00pm and Sunday 8:00am to 8:00pm. Court reservations are taken 3 days in advance for Town of Leesburg residents and 7 days in advance for non-residents.

For More Information:

Moses Gittens
Head Tennis Professional
A.V. Symington Tennis Center
Town of Leesburg
703-737-6043
mgittens@leesburgva.gov



A.V. Symington Tennis Center
60 Ida Lee Park Drive
Moses Gittens
Head Tennis Professional
703- 737-6043

Category 1: Most Successful New Youth Program

Ida Lee Park Tennis Center has put together a junior match play day, where the kids would come and play for 2 hours, supervised by one of the instructors, who provides tips during their matches. This program is designed to help the junior player with singles and doubles strategy in addition to managing a match. This class is for kids ages 11-18.

The Northern Virginia area is heavily populated with young tennis players aspiring to play on their school tennis leagues. The competition is severe and serious players are constantly seeking professional guidance to enhance their game skills. Having our instructors on court to critique is very beneficial, it allows the student to see and correct a mistake right there and then. The student is more likely to stay focused on the match and is less distracted when there is an instructor on court. Student, seem to look and feel more confident after each class. Ida Lee Park Tennis Center has received numerous positive comments such as:

I felt that my game improved physically and mentally after each class.
The tips were invaluable in correcting real time errors on the courts.
I have gained a strong level of confidence as a result of this class.

As a result of this positive response, the tennis center has moved to implement additional classes to meet the growing demand.

Category 2: Most Successful New Adult Program

The implementation of a Singles' Clinic has become very popular. This class runs once a week for one and half hours, and focuses on stroke improvement along with singles' strategy. This class allows the student to get confident with their shot selection and manage the game under competitive pressure. Our instructors break the class down in two parts to help the student have the best opportunity to succeed in singles match play. The first part of the clinic focuses on the proper fundamental for forehand, backhand, serves and return of serve. Each attendee receives individual attention based on their skills and abilities.

In the second parts of the clinic, the students are separated by skill level and are actively critiqued during their single's match. The emphasis shifts from stroke production to strategies needed to win a single's match.

We also encourage the students to improve their fitness by going to a professional trainer. The instructors teach the students on how to prepare for matches and the steps they need to take to be successful.

Many of the adult tennis players attending this drop-in clinic have expressed an appreciation for the format. Consequently, the clinic is enjoying a capacity filled session each week as word of mouth has spread throughout the tennis community.

Category 5: Best Growth Existing Adult Program

Ida Lee Park Tennis Center's Adult Advanced Beginner class is always fully enrolled. Most of the players who come to this class are past high school or college players who have not picked up a racquet in while and want to relearn the game at a faster pace. The Adult Advanced Beginner class is for the more serious tennis player who has made the commitment to better their game and play with more consistency and ball control along with some match play. These players are not only seeking an enhancement to their fundamentals but also looking for winning strategies to incorporate in their single's and double's matches. Our tennis instructors take a game based approach, because it helps get the players involved right from the start. As a result, they will understand how to play the game more quickly and be more highly motivated to improve their rally skills. We offer this class twice a week.

Category 14: Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

Ida Lee Park Tennis Center was pleased to announce the opening of the A. V. Symington Indoor Tennis Center on January 12, 2008. The facility is an all weather dome with four courts finished with the US Open Deco-turf green coating. This facility is used for classes, lessons, tournaments, and court rental. During the cooler seasons, the dome enjoys a near capacity of players from 6:00am to closing at 10:00pm. Seven days a week.

Category 4: Best Growth of Existing Youth Program

Our Rising Star program is the most popular and has seen the greatest amount of growth. This class is now offered two or three times a week. We also have added more courts to help with the over- flow of kids that participate in this class. This class is for kids ages 5-7.

The Rising Stars program covers the basic forehand and backhand grips. The instructor works on the fundamentals of ground strokes through fun games to help the students with consistency and concentration. Racquet handling is the focus of this class with the students working on forehand and backhand racquet swinging techniques. Our Instructor also focuses on motor skill games and activities such as toss and catch drills and mini tennis. Through this style of teaching, the instructor is able to get the student to learn and have fun in the process.

Category 3: Best Successful New Team Base Program

Leesburg Parks and Recreation hosted its first annual Leesburg Cup Team Tournament. The Leesburg Cup is a team event featuring the top seniors (50 & over) tennis players from Ida Lee (host club), Middleburg Tennis Club and Chestnut forks Athletic Club. Each team fields one men & women's singles & two men & women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles team. Each club plays 16 matches against the two other clubs over a three-day period. The Loudoun indoor tennis center hosted this event for well over 15 years. The tournament, which is held every September at Ida Lee Park, has brought back excitement to the tennis community, but most importantly, it has allow for a great camaraderie between the three-clubs. It gives each club the opportunity to have its players play at each club through out the year and it makes for a healthy tennis community in Loudoun county. The tournament is sponsored by our local business.

For More Information:

Moses Gittens
Head Tennis Professional
A.V. Symington Tennis Center
Town of Leesburg
703-737-6043
mgittens@leesburgva.gov

ROCKBRIDGE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
50 COLD SPRINGS LANE
LEXINGTON, VA 24450
February 5, 2009

Category 8: Best Quick Start Tennis Idea

We are a rural county in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and we are blessed with a beautiful place to live, but it is a challenging place to play tennis! Like many areas with low population density, we lack adequate public courts. This has forced our CTA to rely on Washington and Lee University courts in Lexington for all of our tennis programs. One of our most successful activities has been an introduction to tennis for children 6-18 that we offer during the university's summer break (a time when we have courts available). This eight year old program attracts over 100 enthusiastic kids each summer, but most come from within close proximity of the university. Because of the distance involved, it has not been practical for kids in the far reaches of our county to participate.

Quick Start is the solution— now we can take tennis to the kids! We started an after-school program in one elementary school this past September and over 60 kids signed up in a school with total enrollment of 300. This school did not have tennis courts (none of our elementary schools have courts) but it had a gymnasium and that worked great for Quick Start. Using the same model, we can expand the program to our other county schools and introduce more kids to our great sport.

Contact: Jerry McCoy, President
rtatennis@ntelos.net
540-261-2483

Nelson County Parks & Recreation Department

**P.O. Box 442
Lovington, VA 22949
Phone: 434-263-7130
Fax: 434-263-6022**

**Emily Harper
Director**

eharper@nelsoncounty.org

**Dustin Johnston
Recreation Technician**

djohnston@nelsoncounty.org

CATEGORY: Most Successful New Youth Program

DESCRIPTION: The Nelson County Parks and Recreation Department coordinated with the YMCA of Central Virginia - Child Care in Nelson County to offer Quick Start Tennis to their Summer Camp participants. NCPRD instructors taught approximately 50 boys and girls twice a week for 9 weeks.

The YMCA Program benefitted by having this fun, active program included in their schedule at no additional cost. NCPRD had 50 "captive" participants that didn't have to be registered in advance or transported by already busy parents. The children hopefully got the most benefit by being introduced to a fun, lifetime sport.

CONTACT: see above

*Staunton/Waynesboro/Augusta County Tennis Association
S.W.A.T.
A USTA Member
A Tennis In the Parks Community Organization
P.O. Box 2082
Staunton, VA 24402*



NRPA TIP IDEA HANDBOOK

Category #13: BEST PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT:

THE FORMATION OF A COMMUNITY TENNIS ORGANIZATION / CITY GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP

AND

Category #14: BEST FACILITY RENOVATION / CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA RIDGEVIEW PARK COURTS

Submitted by: Bill Rodgers, S.W.A.T. Board of Directors

THE HISTORY: For several years, the Staunton/Waynesboro/Augusta Tennis Association, based in Virginia, wanted to grow the sport of tennis and to assist the City of Waynesboro, Virginia to do so. Waynesboro had (6) High School Courts, but needed Public Courts to allow for programming new tournament play, for NJTL, clinics and league play. The beautiful Ridgeview Park, located alongside the South River, was home to (5) 40-year old courts in complete disrepair.

FIRST STEPS: In 2006, the S.W.A.T. Board of Directors established a committee of three Board members to look at ways to assist the City (options included-lighting on existing courts, new courts, new nets, etc.). The volunteering Committee members had a vested interest in the Project, as each had a long history of residing in Waynesboro and playing on the Ridgeview Park and the Waynesboro High School Courts.

THE COMMITTEE DECISION: The Project Committee decided that financial assistance to the City for Renovation/Reconstruction of the City's (5) Ridgeview Park Courts to USTA specs was the best way to directly help. Since initial guesses for new courts reached \$160-180,000, the key question was: how could so much money be raised? Waynesboro's City Council had said many times over the years that, although new courts were in their thinking, there were infrastructure projects, a new firehouse, and other public needs, which had higher financial priority.

THE ANSWER: "A COMMUNITY TENNIS ORGANIZATION / CITY GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP" - with the goal of raising the approximate \$180,000 TOGETHER by convincing the Public and the City of the importance and to succeed at the Mission.

THE PARTNERSHIP FORMATION: SWAT Committee Members Bill Rodgers, Webber Payne, and Danny Leech set a meeting with the Mayor, City Council Members, the City Manager, and the Director of Parks and Recreation to discuss how best to approach this new Partnership. Since the City's Parks and Recreation Department was already a member of the NRPA, the first step would be for S.W.A.T. to become a member of the Tennis in the Parks Partnership of the USTA / NRPA. Becoming a TIP Community Organization was followed by joining closely with Dave Van Covern, Director of Parks and Rec, and diligent efforts to persuade the citizens of Waynesboro and the City Council to finance the courts.

DUE DILIGENCE AND PROCESS: The S.W.A.T. Committee approached the public through local news media, letters, TV, and directly presented their case and their Partnership to the City Government, at several of the Council meetings. Through mid-2007, public hearings on many facets of the Budget were argued and discussed, and a decision was made to have a Public Referendum on all Of the projects for 2008 expenditures. Because the \$180,000 for tennis courts was considered a smaller project by comparison, Council Members found moneys from existing funds to keep the Court Project afloat.

THE AGREEMENT: Council agreed to finance a formal set of USTA-spec construction drawings(roughly \$12,000), obtain the necessary construction bids, and to re-construct the courts in the 2008 Budget and

Financial Plan, in return for S.W.A.T. agreeing to apply for a USTA/NRPA GRANT WHICH WOULD FUND 20% OF THE TOTAL COSTS. The S.W.A.T. Committee and Department of Parks and Rec joined hands to complete the application and met the September '07 deadline.

SUCCESS AT LAST: The USTA/NRPA awarded SWAT A Facility Construction Grant of \$36,000, and USTA/Virginia Tennis granted an additional \$5,000, nearly 25% of the total costs! The City obtained construction bids in January 2008, Court construction began in March 2008, and new courts opened for play on June 1, 2008 !!! Programs like NJTL and a Cancer Benefit Tournament were successfully programmed in summer-2008 and October by SWAT. City League Play, Cardio-Tennis classes, an "old-fogies" tennis group, and private instruction and clinics are all a part of the scene now at the Ridgeview Park Courts. The courts are successfully becoming part of tennis growth in Waynesboro and the region. The recent Cancer Benefit Tournament raised \$3000 for Cancer Research. See photos below.

THE FUTURE: This Partnership and the process used for accomplishing this Mission will be used for future joint efforts by S.W.A.T. and the City to accomplish projects for courts lighting, new nets, additional facilities, bleachers, and many other worthwhile goals.

Bill Rodgers

Email: billrcg@ntelos.net

Telephone: 540-256-8667

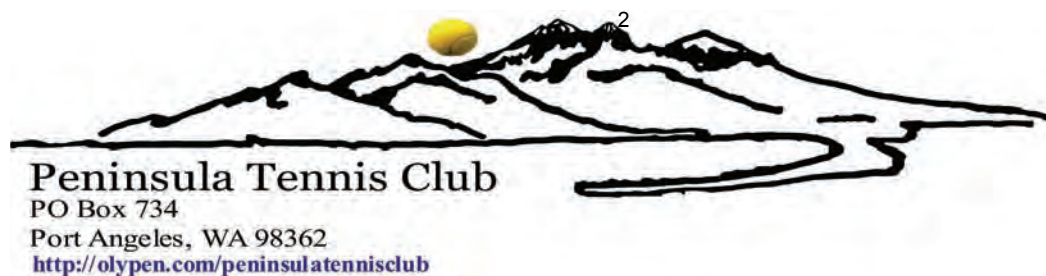
S.W.A.T. Board of Directors

Staunton/Waynesboro/Augusta County Tennis Association

Photo 1---The Partnership!!- City Government / S.W.A.T. / USTA & NRPA/ and USTA/ VirginiaTennis

Photo 2--- Finished Courts with Cardio-Tennis in Progress!





Category 14. Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

Erickson Park, City of Port Angeles, Washington:

The Peninsula Tennis Club (PTC), a non-profit Community Tennis Association, partnered with the City of Port Angeles to rebuild 5 decrepit and seldom used tennis courts in our central city park. The 5 derelict courts became 4 tournament-quality courts that are drawing new players into the game.



The seed of the project was planted in 2005 when a community member suggested turning the 5 “derelict” courts into a parking lot for a proposed new community pool. The local tennis players responded with a proposal to the city to fundraise for a portion of the cost of rebuilding the courts, and to apply for a TIP Court Improvement Grant. Due to the city budget process, money needed to be allocated in 2006 for construction in 2007. Because both the City of Port Angeles and the Peninsula Tennis Club had a history of working with the USTA, the PTC was confident that they could win a 20% TIP grant if they could secure the other 80% funding locally.

Through advocacy with the city government, support from the city recreation staff, and a contribution of \$20,000 from the PTC towards the estimated \$157,000 construction cost, the city council allocated \$100,000 to the city courts, provided the city received a 20% grant from the USTA/TIP. The USTA funding was critical in the city budget process, moving the tennis courts ahead of other recreation projects that had no “free money” coming in. In fall of 2006, the Peninsula Tennis Club and City of Port Angeles were awarded a \$5000 Court Improvement grant from USTA PNW, and a \$31,400 grant from TIP. In exchange for the Peninsula Tennis Club’s financial contribution to the project, the club was given second priority, after the city tennis programs, in scheduling events on the courts at no cost to the club, provided the events were open to the public.

When the project was put out to bid in spring 2007, the low bid was \$220,000, exceeding secured funding by \$68,000. The Peninsula Tennis Club increased its contribution by \$6500 to keep its total contribution to 10% of the project, the USTA PNW awarded another \$10,000 grant to the project, and with this additional funding, the city council approved another \$50,000 in city funds to the project.

Construction of the new courts took place from August to September of 2007. The USTA grant requirements ensured that the new courts were built to recommended standards for size, slope, and access. A base of crushed rock was laid on the old courts to correct the grade and extend the length to the required 120’, new asphalt was poured, and 4 courts were laid out on the new surface. Conduit and bases for future lighting was laid under the court surface. Fir trees which had dropped debris on the old courts were also removed.

The new courts are in a high traffic area, and have drawn new players out from the community. In 2008, the first summer of use of the new courts, the City of Port Angeles youth tennis participation grew by 69%, and the adult classes grew by 20%. In addition the new courts have been the site of several successful tournaments, bringing the competition and fun of tennis into high visibility in the community. Local players are thrilled with the quality of the courts, and area residents comment on how attractive the courts are, and how much they enjoy watching the players.

For more information on this project contact:

Laurel Cripe

President, Peninsula Tennis Club

ljcripe@hotmail.com

**City of Clintonville, Wisconsin
Parks and Recreation
55 E. 12th Street
Clintonville, WI 54929
(715) 823-7660
(715) 823-7674 fax**

Category 9: Best Fundraising Idea

Several years ago we were faced with a serious need to resurface one of our sets of double tennis courts. The City's budget was unusually tight that year and it appeared that the project would not be included.

An informal group of tennis enthusiasts put their heads together and came up with the activity described below to accomplish two purposes:

They were:

1. To raise funds to donate to the city for the purpose of resurfacing the tennis courts as needed, and
2. More importantly, to make a statement to the community just exactly how many local people were involved in the tennis program

A 24 hour tennis playing marathon was organized. With approval of the city matches were set up for 24 consecutive hours at the tennis court site funds were being raised for. At least one match was going on the entire 24 hrs. Local celebrities, such as the mayor, several city aldermen, various business leaders, public school administrators, and local clergymen volunteered for some of the matches. Each person playing during the 24hrs solicited monetary pledges for their match.

A large clock was made and at the start of each match a Polaroid picture was taken of the players and placed on the clock.

Donations of fruit, beverages (juice, water soda) and other snacks were received from several local vendors and made available to all the players as well as the public attending the event.

The public was invited to show up and take part in the event throughout the 24hrs. The last two hours of the event included a variety of tennis related games and activities focused on the youth present and the day ended with a potluck barbecue picnic for everyone involved.

For our small community (pop. 4600) this event was extremely successful as more than 70 players actually took part in the 24 hrs of playing, with the overall attendance for the 24hrs in the neighborhood of 250 people.

Several thousand dollars was raised during the event, which was given to the city and later used toward the cost of refurbishing the tennis court surface. But the most important outcome of the event was showing the community how "big" tennis was in the community.

For more information, contact:

Dick Writt, Director
Parks and Recreation
Office: 715-823-7660
Email: dwright@dotnet.com



Most Successful New Adult Program

The Oconomowoc Community Tennis Association under the supervision of the Oconomowoc Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department organized a local women's late summer/early fall league in order to provide a transition for state league teams not advancing in USTA team competition to seasonal indoor leagues for fall. We designed the league using USTA flex and multiple level concepts.

121 S. Silver Lake Street, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Phone: 262-569-2199

Information: 262-569-6864

Fax: 262-569-3221



Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

The City of Oconomowoc Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, the Oconomowoc Area School District and the Oconomowoc Community Tennis Association have created a very cooperative partnership to provide the community of approximately eleven thousand citizens, growing and improved tennis facilities and programming.

The Oconomowoc Tennis Center, created and constructed by the partnership four years ago recently installed a sun shade roof over the center court interior bleacher viewing area. This was accomplished as community members continue to purchase personalized bricks leading to the complex, providing for a steady stream of income and the school district provided the installation labor. Through the threads of partnership this twenty three thousand dollar project became an eleven thousand dollar material purchase by the community tennis association and school district in house labor for installation.

121 S. Silver Lake Street, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Phone: 262-569-2199

Information: 262-569-6864

Fax: 262-569-3221

**Oshkosh Tennis Association
Oshkosh Wisconsin**

Category 1: Most successful New youth Program

The Oshkosh Tennis Association(OTA) successfully implemented the **Quick Start 10 & under Tennis Program**. This was a great example of cooperation between, USTA, local school district, community tennis association, YMCA and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

USTA officials organized a town hall meeting at Merrill School in November 2007 to lay out the program, and help form a local CTA(communit tennis association). A group was formed, meetings were held throughout the winter. While the local USTA TSR(tennis service representative) Erica Wentz, helped parents organize things, the school gymnasium was used for recreational play in the Quick Start format.

10,000 flyers were distributed to twenty elementary schools advertising the first Block Party held in Oshkosh. It was promoted on local radio and even made the Fox television news out of Green Bay. 75 children attended the event held at the YMCA Indoor Tennis Center. It was a huge success!!

The OTA assigned the children to 20 teams of 6-8 players, all with a volunteer coach. An added bonus was middle /high school players who volunteered to give back to the game by feeding balls and being great role models. The USTA again helped out by providing a 3 hour coaches workshop to educate parents and coaches.

148 players signed up for Quick Start. There were two divisions, 5-8 met for one hour, 9-10 met for 1 ½ hour, for 7 weeks at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh tennis courts. The positive feedback and enthusiasm of parents and students was overwhelming. Everyone was a winner for coming out. We look forward to a bigger and better year in 2009.

For more information on this program contact:

Amy Buege, OTA program coordinator
B8151@aol.com

Shelia Counts, OTA program coordinator
wcounts@new.rr.com

Oshkosh Tennis Association Category 1



**Oshkosh Tennis Association
Oshkosh Wisconsin**

Category 3: Most successful New Team Tennis

The Oshkosh junior team tennis players raised a racket!! Oshkosh fielded for the first time three teams, in USTA junior team tennis, 12 & under, 14 & under, at the intermediate level, and 18 & under at the advanced level. The league was organized by the USTA, with a district meet held at Fox Cities Racquet club in Appleton, WI. The sectional meets were held at Carmel High School and North Central High School in Indianapolis, IN. The 12's advanced to district and sectional level, placing 9th at the sectional championship in Indianapolis. The 14's placed 3rd at district. The 18's placed second in the league but could not field enough players to advance to districts.

These young teams will compete again this fall and summer. The philosophy is simple, the more you play, the better you get, the more friends you make.

For more information on this program contact:

Amy Buege, coach
B8151@aol.com

Shelia Counts, coach
wcounts@new.rr.com

Joe Sagen
madbail@northnet.net

**Oshkosh Tennis Association
Oshkosh Wisconsin**

Category 8: Best Quick Start Tennis Idea

The Oshkosh Tennis Association(OTA) successfully implemented the **Quick Start 10 & under Tennis Program**. This was a great example of cooperation between, USTA, local school district, community tennis association, YMCA and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

USTA officials organized a town hall meeting at Merrill School in November 2007 to lay out the program, and help form a local CTA(communit tennis association). A group was formed, meetings were held throughout the winter. While the local USTA TSR(tennis service representative) Erica Wentz, helped parents organize things, the school gymnasium was used for recreational play in the Quick Start format.

10,000 flyers were distributed to twenty elementary schools advertising the first Block Party held in Oshkosh. It was promoted on local radio and even made the Fox television news out of Green Bay. 75 children attended the event held at the YMCA Indoor Tennis Center. It was a huge success!!

The OTA assigned the children to 20 teams of 6-8 players, all with a volunteer coach. An added bonus was middle /high school players who volunteered to give back to the game by feeding balls and being great role models. The USTA again helped out by providing a 3 hour coaches workshop to educate parents and coaches.

148 players signed up for Quick Start. There were two divisions, 5-8 met for one hour, 9-10 met for 1 ½ hour, for 7 weeks at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh tennis courts. The positive feedback and enthusiasm of parents and students was overwhelming. Everyone was a winner for coming out. We look forward to a bigger and better year in 2009.

For more information on this program contact:

Amy Buege, OTA program coordinator
B8151@aol.com

Shelia Counts, OTA program coordinator
wcounts@new.rr.com

Oshkosh Tennis Association Category 8



Category 13: Best Partnership Agreement

Oshkosh North High School, Oshkosh, WI

Friends of Oshkosh North High School Tennis, located in Oshkosh, WI have just completed a \$370,000.00 project involving total reconstruction of the high school tennis complex. The School District, Recreation Department, Booster Club, USTA, private donations and in kind offers of service from many local companies made this massive undertaking possible. **This was a great example of the public and private sector working together to accomplish a major undertaking.**

The old facility, built in 1980, had six courts that suffered from structural problems which caused annual cracking. Because the cracks came back year after year, something more had to be done. Concerned tennis supporters set a goal to demolish the old courts, build 8 new ones, and add lights. Our timetable was ten months.

A fund raising campaign was started in November 2007. We started with a meeting highlighted by a motivational speech from ESPN tennis analyst and Syracuse University women's tennis coach, Luke Jensen. Letters were then sent out to former high school players and community tennis players asking for financial support. A USTA public facility grant was applied for. Local companies were asked for donations of services and materials. Tennis contractors were consulted.

Two hundred citizens and companies sent in cash donations totaling \$90,000. A USTA grant of \$50,000 was awarded in April of 2008. The Oshkosh Recreation Department contributed \$40,000, Oshkosh North Booster Club \$20,000 the Oshkosh Area School District \$108,000, local businesses added \$70,000 of in kind donations. The response from the community was overwhelming!

Demolition began July 1, 2008. The courts were pulverized and drain tile along with stone was added to build up the base 18 inches. Eight courts were built, back to back in three sections, 3, 3, 2. The new facility has California Corners, black vinyl fences, walk ways between the banks, concrete walkways to the courts, a concrete area with a small building, and is prepped for lighting. Each court its own gate, one does not have to walk through a court to get to a court. The perimeter of the courts was landscaped. September 20, 2008 marked the first time the new courts were used.

Having eight courts will allow the school to host tournaments and increase its tennis programming. Players no longer have to worry about tripping or a crazy ball bounce from the cracks. The courts are next to the main entrance to the building and have created an impressive gateway to anyone visiting the school.

For more information on this project contact:

William F. VanLieshout, Oshkosh North Tennis Coach
(920)424-0177 ext 123

William.vanlieshout@oshkosh.k12.wi.us

Oshkosh North High School, Oshkosh WI



Tennis in the Parks Idea Handbook

Category 14: Best Facility Renovation/Construction Project

Oshkosh North High School, Oshkosh, WI

Friends of Oshkosh North High School Tennis, located in Oshkosh, WI have just completed a \$370,000.00 project involving total reconstruction of the high school tennis complex. The School District, Recreation Department, Booster Club, USTA, private donations and in kind offers of service from many local companies made this massive undertaking possible. This was a great example of the public and private sector working together to accomplish a major undertaking.

The old facility, built in 1980, had six courts that suffered from structural problems which caused annual cracking. Because the cracks came back year after year, something more had to be done. Concerned tennis supporters set a goal to demolish the old courts, build 8 new ones, and add lights. Our timetable was ten months.

A fund raising campaign was started in November 2007. We started with a meeting highlighted by a motivational speech from ESPN tennis analyst and Syracuse University women's tennis coach, Luke Jensen. Letters were then sent out to former high school players and community tennis players asking for financial support. A USTA public facility grant was applied for. Local companies were asked for donations of services and materials. Tennis contractors were consulted.

Two hundred citizens and companies sent in cash donations totaling \$90,000. A USTA grant of \$50,000 was awarded in April of 2008. The Oshkosh Recreation Department contributed \$40,000, Oshkosh North Booster Club \$20,000 the Oshkosh Area School District \$108,000, local businesses added \$70,000 of in kind donations. The response from the community was overwhelming!

Demolition began July 1, 2008. The courts were pulverized and drain tile along with stone was added to build up the base 18 inches. Eight courts were built, back to back in three sections, 3, 3, 2. The new facility has California Corners, black vinyl fences, walk ways between the banks, concrete walkways to the courts, a concrete area with a small building, and is prepped for lighting. Each court its own gate, one does not have to walk through a court to get to a court. The perimeter of the courts was landscaped. September 20, 2008 marked the first time the new courts were used.

Having eight courts will allow the school to host tournaments and increase its tennis programming. Players no longer have to worry about tripping or a crazy ball bounce from the cracks. The courts are next to the main entrance to the building and have created an impressive gateway to anyone visiting the school.

For more information on this project contact:

William F. VanLieshout, Oshkosh North Tennis Coach
(920)424-0177 ext 123

William.vanlieshout@oshkosh.k12.wi.us



Category 15: Wildcard Category

Pinedale is a town with little tennis history. The tennis courts are often vacant and few locals know the basics about tennis in this ranching community. However, this past summer the Pinedale Aquatic Center strived to change history by offering the first ever youth tennis camp to the Pinedale community. The summer camp was held over the course of a week and offered two half-day sections, split by ages, ranging from 6 to 15. To make the camp as beneficial as possible, a registered USTA member and high school coach was brought in to run the camp. The coach, with the help of employees of the Pinedale Aquatic Center and an USTA member volunteer, filled the time focusing on the rules, scoring, and basic fundamentals of the game. Because of the limited tennis exposure to the youth of the community, nearly all of the youth participants were beginner players. After a very successful and well received camp, our hope is to continue to engage the community, especially youth, in this lifetime sport. We plan to offer another youth tennis camp next summer with the goal of eventually developing a full-range youth program as well as helping to build a competition team with the schools.

For more information on this event contact:

Michael Peters, Recreation Coordinator
(307)367-2832
mpeters@pinedaleaquatic.com





National Recreation
and Park Association

www.usta.com
www.nrpa.org

Contact us at: TennisInTheParks@usta.com

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

