

Date: October 7, 2010

To: Star Valley Ranch Board of Directors

**From; Robert Lujan
President Star Valley Ranch Tennis Association**

Subject: Tennis Facilities

It is our desire to enhance the tennis recreational facilities at the Ranch.

There have been discussions of relocating the tennis courts. We have the most beautiful tennis court setting at our current location and strongly recommend the courts be left where they are currently located.

It is also our concern our tennis court facilities will continue to deteriorate while we await the outcome of our "Long Term Planning" sessions. Our courts are in dire need of repair. We recommend decisions be made, by the Board, during the upcoming winter months. We will continue to lose players if the facilities are not improved

To assist with your planning, we propose the following scenarios and actions to be taken.

SCENARIO I

Leave the Tennis Courts where they are:

Minimum Improvements needed (by summer 2011)

- 1. Courts need immediate resurfacing (current bid in-process)**
- 2. Courts need base work support on south west corner (cost unknown)**
- 3. Back board needs to be replaced (or at minimum repainted)**

Additional needs (long term)

- 1. Tennis Instructor to be hired to develop youth and adult programs**
- 2. Old repaired fencing needs replacement**

SCENARIO II

Move Tennis Courts to a new location

*See attached
approx \$12-15,000
(not on bid)*

See attached

1. Old Tennis Courts should not be removed until new ones are build
- * 2. New facility should have a minimum of two courts
3. A pickle ball facility (minimum two courts) should be build adjacent to the new tennis courts
4. A Tennis Instructor should be hired to develop youth and adult tennis programs.

It is highly recommend an annual member's pass be sold which would include use of the golf, swim and tennis facilities at one price. We will continue to lose support if we nickel and dime members with a variety of fees.

* Estimated cost \$75,000 (see attached)

If no improvements are made,
there should be no charge for
use of the courts!

Windows Live™ Hotmail (3) Messenger Office Photos | MSN

ROBERT

New | Reply Reply all Forward | Delete Junk Sweep ▾ Mark as ▾ Move to ▾ |

FW: Tennis court proposal

[Back to messages](#) |

Julianne Le Baron [Add to contacts](#)
To najul@msn.com

12:36 PM

[Reply](#)

From: **Julianne Le Baron** (julianne@thetenniscompany.com)
Sent: Thu 10/07/10 12:36 PM
To: najul@msn.com

Always show content from julianne@thetenniscompany.com

5 attachments (total 7.5 MB)

[Hotmail Active View](#)



Star Vall...doc

[Download \(3.7 MB\)](#)



Star Vall...doc

[Download \(3.7 MB\)](#)

[Download all as zip](#)

From: Julianne Le Baron
[mailto:julianne@thetenniscompany.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 12:04 PM
To: 'managersvra@silverstar.com'
Cc: 'tetoncowboy@gmai.com'
Subject: Tennis court proposal

Kurt,

Miles asked me to send this email since his computer was stolen. Budget figures for the 4 court pickle ball complex would be around \$75,000 incorporating the same post tensioned concrete design as mentioned in the tennis court proposal. If you have any questions please contact Miles Minson at 801-910-7643.

Sincerely,

Julianne LeBaron



Julianne LeBaron
Account Manager

Junk (7)

Drafts

Sent

Deleted (4)

EBAY

Family Reunion

GEICO

Golf

IRS

July 4th

Medical Ins

MISC

Pictures

SVR Winter Golf

Tennis

Ticket Master

Verizon

Wells Fargo

New folder

Flagged

Photos

Office docs

Shipping updates

17 invitations

[Sign in to Messenger](#)

[Home](#)

[Contacts](#)

[Calendar](#)

[import contacts from AOL](#)



Proposal/Contract

Submitted to: Star Valley Ranches Attn: Kirk Sessions
Address: Star Valley Ranch
City: Thayne State: WY
Phone: 307-883-2669 Mobile, Fax or Work:
Job Address: same Zip:
Proposal Date: October 7, 2010 Expiration Date: 11/10

Work to include: ReConstruction of (2) Existing concrete tennis courts with
A post tensioned concrete overlay.

1. Remove existing fence and dispose of.
2. Saw cut and remove necessary perimeter concrete to prepare for pt beam area.
3. Supply and install necessary base material to achieve separation, laser grade and compact.
4. Pour (5") inches concrete, six (6) bag mix with fiber mesh, edges thickened to (12") inches, reinforced with 1/2" steel tendons placed as engineered.
5. Install Douglas net posts and center strap tie down.
6. Supply and install (10') foot high (galvanized) chain link fence around entire court perimeter. Top rail to be (galvanized) (1 5/8") "LG-40" pipe or equivalent, tension wire at the bottom. Corner Posts, Terminal Posts and Line Posts to be (2-7/8") inches "LG-40" pipe or equivalent. All fabric to be 1 3/4" 9 gauge galvanized.
7. After 30 day curing period, acid wash concrete then apply Ti-Coat epoxy bonding agent.
8. Apply one (1) coat of acrylic surfacer with silica sand.
9. Apply two (2) coats of acrylic color with silica sand. Colors to be chosen by owner, please specify choice,
Middle: _____, Outside: _____.
10. Paint playing lines.
11. Supply and install Douglas top quality nets and center straps.
12. Clean up job site.
13. Note: **irrigation and landscape repair by others. This contract is only valid if we have clear access to the courts with large equipment.**

Total Cost: \$115,870.00

Initials _____

Initials _____

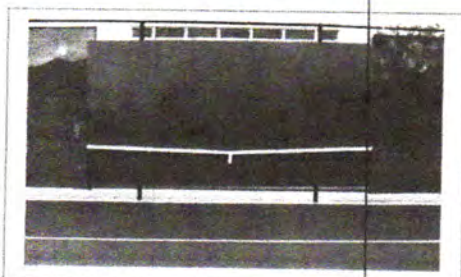
Alternates:

Substitute Black Vinyl Coated Chain Link Fence for galvanized fence.

Add Cost: \$7450.00

Contract Additions:

Backboards



Bakko Backboards

Supply and install your choice of backboards manufactured by Bakko. The sizes range from 8'-10' tall and each panel is 4' wide. These units are encased in fiberglass and coated with solar, impact resistant paint. The core is constructed of a sound deadening matrix to reduce noise. (Price is variable upon shipping & installation)

Slimline 8x16 Add: \$3699.00 YES ___ NO ___
Slimline 8x20 Add: \$4599.00 YES ___ NO ___

Basketball

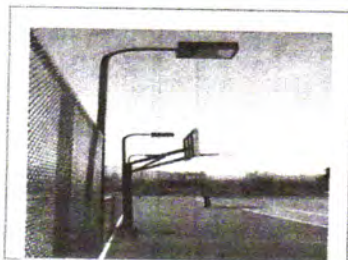


Some Serious Hoop

Supply and install complete basketball system manufactured by Some Serious Hoop. Each system includes a sturdy 6" column permanently installed at the base and suspends your choice of a 72"x42" adjustable or fixed backboard. The options are listed below. *(Custom units are available. Ask for details)*

Fixed Add: \$1850.00 YES _____ NO _____
Adjustable Add: \$2050.00 YES _____ NO _____

Lighting



LSI Courtsider Lighting System

This system provides six 1000 watt metal halide fixtures and poles powder coated to match the color of the fence. This includes the electrical conduit, wiring, and labor to complete the installation. **Providing power to the court is not included.**

Initials _____

Initials _____

Proposal/Contract

Submitted to: Star Valley Ranches Attn: Kirk Sessions
Address: Star Valley Ranch
City: Thayne State: WY
Phone: 307-883-2669 Mobile, **Fax** or Work:
Job Address: same Zip:
Proposal Date: October 7, 2010 Expiration Date: 11/10

Work to include: Construction of (2) Post Tension Concrete Tennis Courts

As per submitted plan

1. Supply and install (4") road base, laser grade and compact.
2. Pour (5") inches concrete, six (6) bag mix with fiber mesh, edges thickened to (12") inches, reinforced with 1/2" steel tendons placed as engineered.
3. Install Douglas net posts and center strap tie down.
4. Supply and install (10') foot and (4') high (galvanized) chain link fence. Top rail to be (galvanized) (1 5/8") "LG-40" pipe or equivalent, tension wire at the bottom. Corner Posts, Terminal Posts and Line Posts to be (2-7/8") inches "LG-40" pipe or equivalent. All fabric to be 1 3/4" 9 gauge galvanized as per specifications.
5. After 30 day curing period, acid wash concrete then apply Ti-Coat epoxy bonding agent.
6. Apply one (1) coat of acrylic surfacer with silica sand.
7. Apply two (2) coats of acrylic color with silica sand. Colors to be chosen by owner, please specify choice,
Middle: _____, Outside: _____.
8. Paint playing lines.
9. Supply and install Douglas top quality nets and center straps.
10. Clean up job site.
11. Note: **rough grade done by others.**

Total Cost: \$111,329.00

Initials _____

Initials _____

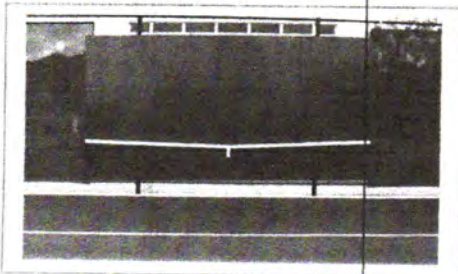
Alternates:

Substitute Black Vinyl Coated Chain Link Fence for galvanized fence.

Add Cost: \$6321.00

Contract Additions:

Backboards



Bakko Backboards

Supply and install your choice of backboards manufactured by Bakko. The sizes range from 8'-10' tall and each panel is 4' wide. These units are encased in fiberglass and coated with solar, impact resistant paint. The core is constructed of a sound deadening matrix to reduce noise. (Price is variable upon shipping & installation)

Slimline 8x16 Add: \$3699.00 YES ___ NO ___
Slimline 8x20 Add: \$4599.00 YES ___ NO ___

Basketball



Some Serious Hoop

Supply and install complete basketball system manufactured by Some Serious Hoop. Each system includes a sturdy 6" column permanently installed at the base and suspends your choice of a 72"x42" adjustable or fixed backboard. The options are listed below. *(Custom units are available. Ask for details)*

Fixed Add: \$1850.00 YES ___ NO ___
Adjustable Add: \$2050.00 YES ___ NO ___

Lighting



LSI Courtsider Lighting System

This system provides six 1000 watt metal halide fixtures and poles powder coated to match the color of the fence. This includes the electrical conduit, wiring, and labor to complete the installation. **Providing power to the court is not included.**

Initials _____

Initials _____

Tennis

The Tennis Club is a social organization similar in nature to the Men and Ladies Golf Associations with membership open to non-residents as well. The Tennis sponsors group play (doubles) on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9-11. Non-tennis club members are welcome during this time as guests for a limited time. Outside activities include various regional trips, parties as planned by the social committee. Advantages of membership in the club include use of the club-owned ball machine, scheduled play and fraternization. Current membership is \$10 for players and \$5 for social. Just as in golf, there are tennis players who do not belong to the tennis club just as there are golfers who are not members of the golf association.

Ranch-wide Tennis Program

We encourage the Association to consider developing a tennis program. Currently we have programs for swimming instruction and golf instruction. Components of the program should include:

Facilities Adequate playing courts as well as storage for equipment that is readily accessible to the court.

Instruction A qualified individual who would like to make some extra money during the summer should be hired. Classes on different levels should be provided (given interest). Emphasis should be on developing young players, but there are numerous adults who would like to learn. Group lessons should be supported by nominal fees paid by participants. A "tennis pro" could also offer private lessons.

Communication Information on classes, fees, etc. need to be advertised in winter newsletter and website and email.

A Board member should be assigned to represent tennis just as a Board member represents golf. This issue may have been addressed with the formation of the recreation committee and Board member representing recreation; however, the lines of communication have not been clarified. The representative should be aware of programs and needs of tennis and be prepared to speak to budgetary items. Members of the tennis club are willing to assist in yearly and future planning.

Current contacts

Kathy Dietz (Pres) 307-883-4003
Bob Lujan (Vice Pres) 307-883-4458
Frank Childs (Long Range Planning Rep) 307-883-2157
Hannah and Bob Wetherell (Recreation Reps) 307-883-7187

Long Range Planning

Plans for the development of the Aspen Hills recreation area were previously submitted by the tennis club and by Marilyn Haskell. John Daulton may have them. We are resubmitting the tennis contribution. Although this plan may seem like "pie in the sky", aspects of it may be considered as a down-the-road plan. For example, will we in the near future put in stadium seating? Likely not, but what we do in the near future perhaps should not preclude this possibility.

The priority for current tennis players is that whatever plan is established, one court should not be demolished until a new court is available for play.

Current tennis players prefer to have the court/courts on the current Aspen Hills site. A new double court would be built below the current court. Consideration could be made for pickle ball courts as well. Currently the RV park tapes their existing courts to accommodate pickle ball play. This may be the most practical solution for the time being. There is a lot of information on the Web site about courts, construction of courts, multi-purpose courts, materials, choosing a contractor.

The current court needs work...playing surface and reinforcement of the Southwest corner. The new court below would require some grading and leveling.

The tennis club will donate the \$26,000 toward construction of a new double court.

STAR VALLEY RANCH TENNIS COMPLEX

The Star Valley Ranch Tennis Club wishes to present a preliminary plan for tennis facilities to be constructed on the site and adjacent to the present tennis courts near the Aspen Hills Office.

It is our experience and belief that an attractive, first or second-tier tennis facility greatly enhances a community's lifestyle and adds immensely to its appeal and property value. Unlike a golf course, this type of tennis complex lends itself well to construction in stages when funds are limited. While initial costs are far from trivial, operating costs thereafter are a tiny fraction of those of golf facilities and should, within a few years, yield a very positive cash flow.

GOAL

Our goal is to substantially upgrade and expand the tennis facilities on the Ranch to provide more attractive and functional courts, centrally located, for a greatly enlarged tennis program. We would seek to attract far more players of all ages. There would be a formal children's/junior's program, enlarged casual play schedules for adults and seniors, men's and women's leagues and ladders, club championship competitions, and tournaments attracting non-ranch players.

The existing tennis club has begun to grow rapidly and expects to have significantly larger membership as greater numbers of people, particularly families and younger adults move to the Ranch. We are already seeing a much higher level of interest and skill among our membership. It is our expectation shortly to function very similarly to the existing Men's and Ladies' Golf Associations. As the only organized group now representing tennis players, we offer this preliminary plan for consideration. It seems to us that substantially more sports and leisure activities will be demanded and need to be provided here in the near future. It is important that these facilities be attractive, safe, and available as much as possible to our residents. It is highly desirable, but perhaps not necessary that these operations be carried on profitably from the start.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

The facility should include six courts, to accommodate the much greater usage we envision, and six courts are almost a requirement to hold even simple area tournaments. One court should have seating, the others, because of relative elevation, are fairly well viewed from the surrounds. The site of the existing courts poses serious elevation challenges and some significant retaining walls will be needed for any recreational development of the plot. There needs to be cart and pedestrian access to the courts.

Facilities should include a small pro-shop sort of building, staffed for safety and compliance reasons, and, if the courts are open to the public as our golf courses are, to collect fees and schedule play. For tournament purposes, the complex

needs to have some locker/shower facilities. A hot Jacuzzi attracts many more players, particularly older ones. If we are successful at making tennis a much greater part of SVR lifestyle, as we think we can, numbers of people at the facilities may justify a snack shop and overlook deck.

The non-stadium courts should be wind-screened on their East and West sides to provide maximum playable hours. The breath-taking North/South views should not be obscured. One court might be surfaced in the softer materials which are preferred by some older players.

The courts, now and in the future, should be made accessible via automatic flash card system, whereby players could use season passes or "punch card" passes to enter the courts when office personnel are not available. Some marshalling would be required from time-to-time to ensure all players had properly paid. We do not believe that the courts should be made fee-free. Because of the long periods of daylight hours here in the Valley, there is probably no serious need for court lights.

TENNIS X

<http://www.tennis-x.com/story/2009-03-19/i.php>

U.S. Tennis Growth Up 43% According to SGMA

Posted on March 19, 2009

According to data just released by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), tennis is the fastest growing sport in America among individual traditional sports with an increase in participation of 43% from 2000 to 2008.

According to the SGMA, tennis was one of only six sports to experience participation growth exceeding 40% from 2000 through 2008. Tennis is well ahead of other traditional sports like baseball, ice hockey, gymnastics and football, all of which suffered a decline in participation during the past eight years. In the last year alone (through December 31, 2008), Tennis experienced a 9.6% growth in participation.

The SGMA study is the latest in a series of reports and studies that have cited the extraordinary growth for tennis. In December, the Taylor Research Group (TRG) reported that tennis participation reached a record high of 27 million players in 2008, more than any other period in the past 15 years. Sales of tennis racquets and balls have both also increased significantly, most notably, an 88% increase in the sale of youth racquets from 2003 through 2008, according to the TRG report.

"The SGMA study is a clear validation of all the hard work and commitment that our industry has put into the sport," said Jon Muir, president of the Tennis Industry Association (TIA), and General Manager of Wilson Racquet Sports. "We've focused not only on reinforcing our already strong base, but at the same time, we've developed new, innovative programs to bring players, of all ages and skill levels, into the game."

"From programs like QuickStart Tennis that makes it easy for young players to get into the sport and begin a developmental pathway; to high school and college programs like USTA's No-Cut and Tennis on Campus, which keeps them in the game; to the innovative and fitness based Cardio Tennis, which combines tennis with a healthy and fun work-out curriculum, the tennis industry is at the forefront of engaging and retaining players," Muir added. "The TIA has also established more than 2600 Tennis Welcome Centers across the country, and provides an online GrowingTennis System that lets consumers find places to play, partners with comparable skill level and other programs that all serve to enhance their overall tennis experience."

The TIA, USTA and many other industry partners have been united since 1993 in a joint effort to support "Grow The Game" activities, a strategy to increase tennis participation on several levels.

"We are especially pleased that interest in tennis has been able to withstand this soft economy," added Jolyn de Boer, Executive Director, TIA. "We've charted the various economic indicators against industry shipments and participation numbers from 2003. We've clearly seen that tennis has experienced a level of growth unmatched among other major sports and participation doesn't seem as impacted by a down economy."

In addition to the rise in tennis participation, charting industry shipments over this same five year period showed shipments of adult racquets are up 30%, while shipments for youth racquets increased a remarkable 88% from 2003 thru 2008. Furthermore, tennis ball shipments for the same time period were up over 16%, continuing to demonstrate an increasing attraction to the sport.

Muir adds: "While no industry can escape the current impact of the nation's economic challenges, we will use the current report provided by the SGMA study and our own TIA/USTA Participation research to focus on creating even more players and consumers for our sport."

-- *Tennis-X.com*

Copyright 2003-2006 Tennis-X.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: SK Communications, 973-267-5605
Greg Sherry, gsherry@sherryllc.com
Kyle Kuhnel, kkuhnel@sherryllc.com
Melissa Hoistion, mhoistion@sherryllc.com

TENNIS GROWTH SKYROCKETS 43 PERCENT!
According to Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA)
2009 Sports & Fitness Participation Report

Hilton Head, SC., March 19, 2009 – According to data just released by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), Tennis is the fastest growing sport in America among individual traditional sports with an increase in participation of 43% from 2000 to 2008. According to the SGMA, tennis was one of only six sports to experience participation growth exceeding 40% from 2000 through 2008. Tennis is well ahead of other traditional sports like baseball, ice hockey, gymnastics and football, all of which suffered a decline in participation during the past eight years. In the last year alone (through December 31, 2008), Tennis experienced a 9.6% growth in participation.

The SGMA study is the latest in a series of reports and studies that have cited the extraordinary growth for tennis. In December, the Taylor Research Group (TRG) reported that tennis participation reached a record high of 27 million players in 2008, more than any other period in the past 15 years. Sales of tennis racquets and balls have both also increased significantly, most notably, an 88% increase in the sale of youth racquets from 2003 through 2008, according to the TRG report.

"The SGMA study is a clear validation of all the hard work and commitment that our industry has put into the sport," said Jon Muir, president of the Tennis Industry Association (TIA), and General Manager of Wilson Racquet Sports. "We've focused not only on reinforcing our already strong base, but at the same time, we've developed new, innovative programs to bring players, of all ages and skill levels, into the game."

"From programs like QuickStart Tennis that makes it easy for young players to get into the sport and begin a developmental pathway; to high school and college programs like USTA's No-Cut and Tennis on Campus, which keeps them in the game; to the innovative and fitness based Cardio Tennis, which combines tennis with a healthy and fun work-out curriculum, the tennis industry is at the forefront of engaging and retaining players," "We've tried to make tennis as accessible as possible at the grassroots levels, which we'll continue to do, by promoting initiatives to grow youth and adult participation in order to keep this momentum going," comments Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive, Community Tennis, USTA.

"Together with the USTA, the TIA has also established more than 2600 Tennis Welcome Centers across the country, and provides an online Growing Tennis System that lets consumers find places to play, partners with comparable skill level and other programs that all serve to enhance their overall tennis experience," adds Muir.

The TIA, USTA and many other industry partners have been united since 1993 in a joint effort to support "Grow The Game" activities, a strategy to increase tennis participation on several levels.

Tennis Participation vs. Economy

"We are especially pleased that interest in tennis has been able to withstand this soft economy," added Jolyn de Boer, TIA Executive Director. "We've charted the various economic indicators against industry shipments and participation numbers from 2003. We've clearly seen that tennis has experienced a level of growth unmatched among other major sports and participation doesn't seem as impacted by a down economy."

In addition to the rise in tennis participation, charting industry shipments over this same five year period showed shipments of adult racquets are up 30%, while shipments for youth racquets increased a remarkable 88% from 2003 thru 2008. Furthermore, tennis ball shipments for the same time period were up over 16%, continuing to demonstrate an increasing attraction to the sport. Muir adds: "While no industry can escape the current impact of the nation's economic challenges, we will use the current report provided by the SGMA study and our own TIA/USTA Participation research to focus on creating even more players and consumers for our sport."

###

About the TIA

The Tennis Industry Association, the not-for-profit trade association for tennis, is THE unifying force in the tennis industry bringing together competitive companies to work collectively to promote and grow the sport. The TIA works closely with the USTA and industry partners to develop and implement initiatives to increase tennis participation. Core TIA activities include Participation Research, Consumer and Trade Research and the Growing Tennis System. For more information, please visit TennisIndustry.org or GrowingTennis.com.

About the USTA

The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the U.S. and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level – from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. It owns and operates the US Open, the highest attended annual sporting event in the world, and launched the Olympus US Open Series linking 10 summer tournaments to the US Open. A not-for-profit organization with more than 725,000 members, it invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. In addition, it owns the 94 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games.

About the SGMA

SGMA, the trade association of leading industry sports and fitness brands, enhances industry vitality and fosters sports and fitness participation through research, thought leadership, product promotion and public policy. SGMA produces the industry leading National Health-through-Fitness Day on Capitol Hill as well as representing the industry on trade and consumer issues. More information about SGMA membership and SGMA's Sports Research Partnership can be found at www.sgma.com.

Current Tennis Industry Initiatives:

Tennis Welcome Centers: These public and private tennis facilities have led the charge in growing the sport by welcoming new players to the game the right way – through instruction. The facilities provide well-rounded programs to new and current players of all ages and abilities. On average, each Tennis Welcome Center, reports 39 new players, retains 34 players and 82 percent of the centers reported increased revenue from lessons. Visit <http://www.tenniswelcomecenter.com/> for more information.

Cardio Tennis: This program brings new players to tennis by demonstrating the exercise and fitness benefits of the sport. *Cardio Tennis* is a fun way to get in shape and lose weight, even for someone who has never played tennis. In just 4 years, *Cardio Tennis* is now offered in over 1,700 facilities nationwide. Find more information about Cardio Tennis at www.cardiotennis.com.

QuickStart Tennis for kids: This program is a great way to integrate children – primarily 10 years old and younger – into tennis by using a progressive format to teach basic skills on shorter courts, using smaller racquets, low pressure balls, and modified scoring. This method will train the next generation of tennis players as the *QuickStart* format is now being used in almost 1,000 locations across the country! For more information please visit: <http://consumers.quickstarttennis.com/>.

Tennis On Campus: Developed by the USTA to promote and support the expansion of recreational tennis on college campuses. Either through intramural tournaments and leagues or in a more structured sport club environment, teams compete interscholastically. *Tennis On Campus* focuses on providing opportunities for the entire campus community, and is currently run on more than 500 campuses across the country, providing organized play for 30,000 participants. For more information about Tennis On Campus please visit: <http://www.tennisoncampus.com/>.

No-Cut: This program was introduced to encourage and recognize high school coaches who make a commitment to their schools by not cutting any student who tries out for the team. Since its inception, the USTA's *No-Cut* program has been embraced by coaches across the country, nearly doubling each year since its inception. With almost 1,800 coaches now implementing a no-cut philosophy, thousands of students who may have otherwise dropped the sport are now part of a team and competing for their school. Find more information about the No-Cut program at: <http://www.usta.com/Coaches/HighSchool.aspx>.

GrowingTennis System / Online Enrollment: The national TIA database has more than 20,000 facility listings and contacts that can post their programs and events online at GrowingTennis.com. Every month, more than 2.4 million consumer queries are made to these informational postcards on consumer sites including usta.com, tennischannel.com, tennis.com, tenniswelcomecenter.com, cardiotennis.com, quickstart.com and others. Visitors and players can also automatically register for programs, events or reserve court time online, saving time and money. For more information please visit: www.growingtennis.com/.

Tennis Growth Aces the Competition

- [Comment](#)
- [Share](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Print](#)
-

Michael Cramton
Active.com

What's not to love about tennis?

* { Not only is it a challenging game that sharpens the mind as it shapes the body, it's also the fastest-growing sport in the U.S. }

There aren't many sports activities that test every part of your body. Basketball and soccer are good for your legs and your aerobic health. Weightlifting makes you stronger. Football, lacrosse and ice hockey test your strength and physical fitness.

* Tennis takes care of everything.

It requires quickness and agility to get to the ball, core strength to get power into your shots, stamina to be able to play at a high level for an extended period and mental toughness to stay one step ahead of your opponent.

And if these health benefits aren't enough to get your pulse racing, tennis has recently been rated as the fastest-growing sport in the U.S. among traditional sports.

According to data released by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA), tennis experienced an increase in participation of 43 percent from 2000 to 2008.

This puts tennis well ahead of other traditional sports like baseball, ice hockey, gymnastics and football, all of which suffered a decline in participation during the past eight years. In 2008 alone, tennis participation grew by 9.6 percent.

"Our goal is to make the game more accessible to all players by broadening our reach through parks and schools," said Kurt Kamperman, Chief Executive of Community Tennis for the USTA. "We are expanding the reach of the sport through a variety of programs to bring more tennis to more people in more ways than ever before."

The SGMA study is the latest in a series of reports and studies that have cited the extraordinary growth of tennis. In December of 2008, the Taylor Research Group reported that tennis participation reached a record high of 27 million players, higher than any other period in the past 15 years.

"There are very few sports where kids and adults can go anywhere in the country and meet other players and immediately begin playing in a league or other local program, build friendships and really

contribute to a lifestyle that includes ongoing sports activity," said Jon Muir, President of the Tennis Industry Association.

From programs like QuickStart and Cardio Tennis, to the USTA's No-Cut high school program, Tennis on Campus and Flex Leagues, "the tennis industry is at the forefront of engaging and retaining players," Muir added.

So what does this news mean for players? For those looking to get started or for experienced players who've been in the game for some time, there are more ways than ever to play tennis.

"As tennis grows, players benefit from more public tennis facilities being built and renovated to keep up with demand," said Kamperman. The growth of tennis also means "the development of new programs to bring tennis to more people including the development of USTA Flex Leagues to compliment our existing USTA Leagues program, and the launch of our Jr. Team Tennis for our younger players."

With more people playing tennis, the public demand for facilities will make way for industry initiatives to meet this demand, making it easier for players to find courts and opponents to test their skills.

"As tennis participation continues to increase, the awareness and accessibility of not just courts and programs, but other players at all levels also directly contributes to fueling the enjoyment and ongoing play options for all players," said Muir. Best of all, tennis is cheap. You don't have to be a member of an exclusive racquet club to enjoy the sport. Between the thousands of public schools, parks and community centers across the U.S., chances are there's a court in your neighborhood.

"There are low cost/no cost public courts in virtually every community," said Kamperman. "Other than a tennis racket and balls, very little is needed in the way of equipment in terms of expense."

So get involved in one of these current tennis industry initiatives and start reaping the benefits from the sport that offers so much:

Tennis Welcome Centers: These public and private tennis facilities have led the charge in growing the sport by welcoming new players to the game the right way – through instruction. The facilities provide well-rounded programs to new and current players of all ages and abilities. On average, each Tennis Welcome Center reports 39 new players, retains 34 players and 82 percent of the centers reported increased revenue from lessons. Visit TennisWelcomeCenter.com for more information.

USTA Flex Leagues: USTA's new alternative to traditional leagues group players of similar ability together in an organized season that allows players to schedule five to eight matches when it best fits their schedules and at a convenient location. Players sign up online for singles, doubles, or mixed doubles play using the TennisLink system. Players can also track standings, report scores and schedule their matches all on a convenient online interface. Visit USTAFlex.com to learn more.

Cardio Tennis: This program brings new players to tennis by demonstrating the exercise and fitness benefits of the sport. Cardio Tennis is a fun way to get in shape and lose weight, even for someone who has never played tennis. In just four years, Cardio Tennis is now offered in over 1,700 facilities nationwide. Find more information about Cardio Tennis at: CardioTennis.com.

QuickStart Tennis for kids: This program is a great way to integrate children – primarily 10 years old

and younger - into tennis by using a progressive format to teach basic skills on shorter courts, using smaller racquets, low pressure balls, and modified scoring. This method will train the next generation of tennis players as the QuickStart format is now being used in almost 1,000 locations across the country! For more information please visit the [QuickStart](#) website.

Tennis On Campus: Developed by the USTA to promote and support the expansion of recreational tennis on college campuses. Either through intramural tournaments and leagues or in a more structured sport club environment, teams compete interscholastically. Tennis On Campus focuses on providing opportunities for the entire campus community, and is currently run on more than 500 campuses across the country, providing organized play for 30,000 participants. For more information about Tennis On Campus please visit: [TennisonCampus.com](#).

No-Cut: This program was introduced to encourage and recognize high school coaches who make a commitment to their schools by not cutting any student who tries out for the team. Since its inception, the USTA's No-Cut program has been embraced by coaches across the country, nearly doubling each year since its inception. With almost 1,800 coaches now implementing a no-cut philosophy, thousands of students who may have otherwise dropped the sport are now part of a team and competing for their school. Find more information about the No-Cut program on [USTA.com](#).

GrowingTennis.com: The national TIA database has more than 20,000 facility listings and contacts that can post their programs and events online at [GrowingTennis.com](#). Every month, more than 2.4 million consumer queries are made to these informational postcards on consumer sites including [usta.com](#), [tennischannel.com](#), [tennis.com](#), [tenniswelcomecenter.com](#), [cardiotennis.com](#), [quickstart.com](#) and others. Visitors and players can also automatically register for programs, events or reserve court time online, saving time and money. For more information please visit: [GrowingTennis.com](#).

To get started playing tennis in a location near you visit the [USTA's Tennis Welcome Center](#). Find more tennis technique information at the [USTA Player Development Web site](#).