



NATIONAL
Gold Medal Winner

WAUKESHA TENNIS PARTNERSHIP PLAN

**City of Waukesha Parks,
Recreation & Forestry Department**

Reviewed 1/7/13
Reviewed 4/13/2018

Waukesha Tennis Partnership Plan 2018 – 2023

Collaboration of Waukesha Tennis Association and City of Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

1. History

The City of Waukesha Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department (WPRF) and the Waukesha Tennis Association (WTA) have had an outstanding community partnership for the past 35+ years. The missions of both organizations focus on providing essential park and recreation services to our community and by working together we have been able to provide exceptional tennis programs and facilities to the City of Waukesha.

The Waukesha Tennis Association was formed in 1975 by a group of individuals interested in promoting and expanding tennis in Waukesha. The WTA promotes both competitive and recreational tennis programs, and the development of public facilities. Early on, the WTA realized the importance of partnering with the City of Waukesha in order to develop more public tennis courts. They determined to first focus on court development and secondly, tennis programming. In the late 1970's the WTA worked with the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department in determining possible sites for a tennis complex in the City of Waukesha.

After considering several sites, Heyer Park was proposed as a location for a future tennis complex. This 49.6 acre park, a relatively new addition to the Waukesha Park system in the 1970's, had the open space needed to accommodate additional tennis courts. The park is adjacent to an elementary school, has easy highway access, and has few neighbors directly adjacent to the park. All of these factors assisted in the site determination. The City Park and Open Space Plan identified a park shelter and four tennis courts as original amenities to Heyer Park.

The Waukesha Tennis Association and the Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry partnership began in earnest in 1976 when the WTA began raising funds to help offset the Heyer Park shelter costs. Through a generous donation to WTA from a local industry, RTE Corporation, \$40,000 was given to the City of Waukesha for the park shelter. Four original tennis courts were built at the same time as the park shelter, providing a neighborhood park setting. Following the shelter donation, the Waukesha Tennis Association began a major fund raising campaign to raise money for an additional eight tennis courts to be built adjacent to the original four courts. Through contacts with tennis enthusiasts, community businesses, and other interested parties, over 10 years the WTA raised \$135,000 which was given to the City to complete the eight new tennis courts.

Heyer Park and the Reverend Henry Woyahn Tennis Complex was now becoming a site of additional tennis programming, tennis tournaments, and high school leagues, but the Waukesha Tennis Association saw additional facility needs and potential for the site. A total of sixteen tennis courts would turn Heyer Park into a true public tennis complex, able to accommodate large local, district and statewide tournaments. Fund raising began for the four additional courts. By 1997, WTA raised over \$60,000 to make the four new courts a reality. These courts were

named for Mr. Dick Arnold, a life long tennis enthusiast who has donated significant time and effort towards the promotion of quality tennis in Waukesha.

Since 1996, Waukesha has had one of the premier, public outdoor tennis complexes in the State of Wisconsin. The WTA/WPRF partnership has continued past the initial complex development. The Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department is responsible for maintaining the tennis courts, with funding for this coming from the City of Waukesha general fund. Over the past 30 years, the WTA has assisted with funding for court maintenance. In 2005, four of the Heyer Tennis Complex courts needed total reconstruction. WTA has donated 25% of the reconstruction costs, approximately \$18,000.

In 2012, resurfacing of tennis courts 1-6 was greatly needed at Heyer/Woyahn Tennis Complex. WTA contributed \$19,000 to the project and the WPRF contributed \$5000 to complete the resurfacing prior to the summer tennis season.

The Waukesha Tennis Association has donated more than \$272,000 to the City of Waukesha over the past 35 years, but the partnership is more than just the donation of funds. The development of an outstanding community tennis program would not be possible without both groups working together towards the common goal of providing exceptional tennis programming and facilities in the City of Waukesha. In 2012, Waukesha Tennis Association was awarded the WPRF Partnership of the Year Award, recognizing the exceptional contributions they have made to the Waukesha community. To continue this successful partnership, a plan for the future is needed. This 5-year Tennis Plan is our road map for the future of tennis in Waukesha.

2. Goals/Benefits of Community Tennis Partnership

Waukesha Tennis Association and the Waukesha Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department strive to grow tennis at the community level with the goal of making the game accessible to everyone. We support a wide range of programs and facility development designed to help youth and people of all ages learn the game, play the game, and benefit from its many health/fitness and social benefits.

Goals:

1. To develop a 5-year Waukesha Tennis Plan to focus on facility maintenance, facility development and program development. (by 4/16/18)
2. To identify funding sources related to facility maintenance, facility development and program development. (by 12/31/18)
3. To provide high quality, skill based, tennis lessons to youth and adults in the Waukesha community while encouraging lifelong tennis play. (3-year MOU, 2018-2021)
4. To provide the Waukesha Drill Program for area youth, with emphasis on competitive training from intermediate to state qualified players. (ongoing)

3. Facilities Maintenance – Following are industry standards for the maintenance of public tennis courts, based on recommendations from the USTA (United States Tennis Association).

Court Resurfacing - Resurfacing a tennis court involves the replacement of a color-coated surface over the court sub-surface, and is typically completed every four to five years.

Court Reconstruction – Reconstruction a tennis court involves complete replacement of both the color-coated playing surface and the court sub-surface, and is typically completed every twenty to twenty-five years.

Fencing – Chain-link fencing around the tennis courts needs to be replaced every thirty to thirty-five years.

4. History of Tennis Court Maintenance (1998 – present)

Heyer Park/Woyahn Tennis Complex

- 2002 – Resurfacing of 16 courts (1 – 16)
- 2005 – Reconstruction of 4 courts (7 - 10)
- 2012 – Resurfacing of 6 courts (1 - 6)
- 2015 – Construction of 2 new courts (A & B)

Lowell

- 1998 – Resurfacing of 8 courts (Michigan Ave. courts 1 - 8)
- 2003 – Resurfacing of 10 courts (Michigan Ave. courts 1 – 8 and Madison Ave. courts 1-2)
- 2016 – Resurfacing of 8 courts (Michigan Ave. courts 1 - 8)

Buchner

- 2003 – Resurfacing of 6 courts and Backboard added
- 2016 – Resurfacing of 6 courts

Prairie

- 2005 – Reconstruction of 4 tennis courts
- 2017 – Resurfacing of 4 tennis courts

Banting

- 2006 – Reconstruction of 3 tennis courts
- 2017 – Resurfacing of courts, converted 2 tennis courts to 8 pickleball courts, and kept 1 tennis court

Grandview

- 2007 – Reconstruction of 2 tennis courts

Bethesda

- 2016 – Replacement of fencing
- 2017 – Power washing to prep for re-stripping in 2018



5. Future Plans for Tennis Court Maintenance

Heyer Park / Woyahn Tennis Complex – 18 court complex utilized for WTA Drill Program for youth, State League and Tournament Play for youth and adults, home courts for Waukesha South and Catholic Memorial High Schools practice, league and tournament play.

2019 – Courts 11 & 12, Total Reconstruction; Courts 1–6 Resurface (crack repair & paint)

2020 – Courts 13 & 14, Total Reconstruction

2022 – Courts 7 – 10, A & B, Resurface (crack repair & paint)

2023 – Courts 15 & 16, Total Reconstruction

Lowell Park – 8 court complex and a separate 2 court complex located in Lowell Park. The 8-court complex is utilized for WTA/WPRF youth lesson program and is the home courts for Waukesha North High School practice, league and tournament play. These courts are also lighted. We are currently in negotiations with University of Wisconsin – Waukesha for use of Lowell courts for their student teams. The two separate tennis courts are utilized for recreational play.

2018 – Courts 9 & 10, Total Reconstruction and Conversion to Pickleball

2021 – Courts 1 – 8, Total Reconstruction including lighting and fencing

Buchner Park – 6 court complex located in Buchner Park. These courts are used for WTA/WPRF youth lesson program and also for Waukesha South and Catholic Memorial High Schools practice, league and tournament play. Buchner Park is a highly-used community park and the tennis courts are used heavily for recreational use by all ages. These are also lighted courts used for evening play.

2019 – Courts 1 – 6, New Lights

2021 – Courts 1 – 6, Total Reconstruction

Prairie Park – 4 courts located in Prairie Park. These courts are used for WTA/WPRF youth lesson program and recreational use. These are also lighted courts used for evening play

2023 - Courts 1 – 4, Resurface (crack repair and paint)

Banting Park – 3 courts located in Banting Park. These courts are used for both tennis and pickleball. Both sports can utilize the courts and have made these courts highly used throughout the year. These are also lighted courts used for recreational evening play. Evaluate permanent posts/nets for pickleball.

2022 – Courts 1 – 3, Resurface (crack repair and paint)

Grandview Park – 2 courts are located in Grandview Park. These courts are used for recreational use at this time.

2022 – Courts 1 – 2, Total Reconstruction

Bethesda Park – 1 recreational tennis court is located in Bethesda Park. This appears to be the oldest tennis court in the park system, it is constructed with concrete.

2018 – Repaint lines

6. Tennis Programming/Usage

WTA & WPRF Partnership – The goal of this partnership is to provide high quality, skill based, tennis lessons to youth and adults in the Waukesha community while encouraging lifelong tennis play. All levels of tennis instruction is provided from pee wee, beginner, intermediate lessons and the advanced drill program at Heyer Park.

Local High Schools – Waukesha South High School, Waukesha North High School and Catholic Memorial High School all utilize WPRF public courts for Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association games, tournaments and practice.

University – University of Wisconsin – Waukesha Campus is looking to utilize Lowell Park courts as their home site for practice and competition.

State League and Tournament Usage – The Heyer/Woyahn Tennis Complex is utilized for an average of 5 State League and/or WTA tournaments per year. These courts are also rented by approximately 3-5 state league teams each summer.

General Public Usage – While there has been no “official” study of tennis court usage in the city, park staff have observed usage patterns of the tennis courts throughout the years. Evenings appear to be the highest usage time for general public to use the courts for recreational play. Tennis staff also reports at Buchner Park, they often have to ask recreational tennis players to move from courts that are used for lessons.

Customer Satisfaction Survey – In the WPRF 2010 Customer Satisfaction Survey, tennis courts ranked 18th of 49 of the facilities/programs listed as “Very Important” to the customers responding to the survey.

7. Funding

Public tennis courts are part of the City’s park system infrastructure. These facilities need to be maintained on a regular basis to allow for safe and enjoyable use of the tennis courts. We feel a collaborative approach to funding is most appropriate. A certain level of City funding is needed to maintain the courts, but alternative revenue should always be looked to as an additional revenue source.

The Waukesha Tennis Association is a willing partner to assist financially for improvements and development at the Heyer/Woyahn Tennis Complex.

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) is also a resource for both financial assistance and facility assistance when completing tennis court improvements and development.

Sponsorships or other grant opportunities should also be explored as alternative revenue sources.

The City of Waukesha should strive to provide sufficient funding in the Parks Maintenance budget to properly maintain the City-owned tennis courts, with the assistance of alternative revenue sources. Ongoing maintenance is a cost-effective method to avoid larger, more costly reconstruction.

Specific costs for court maintenance and development will vary with each site location and current pricing available. In 2015, the average cost for court resurfacing is approximately \$10,000 - \$12,500 per court. Total court reconstruction is approximately \$75,000 - \$100,000 per court.

This plan is to be reviewed by staff, WTA Board members and WPRF Board.

