



MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Sierra Davenport
Community Promotions and Marketing Manager
Parks and Recreation
520-837-8032
Sierra.Davenport@tucsonaz.gov

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TUCSON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FROM USTA FOR COURT RESURFACING AT THE REFFKIN TENNIS CENTER

The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce it was the recipient of a Facility Funding Grant from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) for a recent court resurfacing project at the Jim Reffkin Tennis Center.

The project was funded jointly by the USTA grant, the Parks and Recreation Department and revenues from the center. The project resurfaced 11 tennis courts and a practice area. The resurfacing allowed the center to provide a uniform surface treatment for all of its courts and included 'blended line' striping for youth tennis programs. The project greatly enhanced the playing experience for users of all ages and skill levels; from national competitors to local youths.

Virgil Christian, Director, Market Development & Collegiate Tennis, US Tennis Association wrote, "A goal of the grant is to provide communities access to safe, appealing and functional tennis environments, and we are happy to partner with the City of Tucson, Reffkin Tennis Center to help achieve this goal in Tucson, AZ. The essence of this initiative is to assist communities, leveraging their tennis facilities to promote lifelong healthy activity, and to improve their programming by advancing the latest tennis innovations for all program types."

The Reffkin Tennis Center has been heavily involved in USTA programming and has hosted numerous national tournaments. The center has been chosen to host seven USTA National Adult League Championships, which began September 26th and end November 24th. They will be hosting three major junior events over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays as well. These events will have a huge economic impact on our community, with thousands of players, family and friends visiting Tucson.

"Sports Tourism is very important to metro Tucson, last fiscal year that particular market segment generated approximately \$37 million in economic impact. Tennis has been identified as one of the four "marquee" sports

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for our metro area, the other three being baseball, soccer and softball. Events, such as the USTA National Adult League Championships, allows us to showcase our facilities and destination’s attributes to visiting athletes, their families and travel companions,” said Jessica Stephens, Director of Public Relations for Visit Tucson.

Meghan Houk, Assistant Director at the center said, “Keeping the 25 courts at the Reffkin Tennis Center up to USTA's standards is essential to maintain the 10-14 National events that they host each year. The 11 courts that were able to be resurfaced because of this grant had not been resurfaced for over 10 years, so it was a project that was long overdue.”

The Parks and Recreation Department, the Jim Reffkin Tennis Center and the City of Tucson would like to sincerely thank the United States Tennis Association for this wonderful opportunity to improve the facility and provide a better playing experience for our customers.

Remaining 2013 tournament schedule at the Jim Reffkin Tennis Center:

USTA National Adult League Championships:

November 14-17	2.5, 7.0 and 9.0 skill level
November 21-24	6.0, 8.0 and 10.0 skill level

Junior Events:

November 28-Dec 1	USTA National 12’s Junior Open
November 28-Dec 1	Western States Junior Open
December 26-Jan 1	USTA Winter National

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