



Southwest Tennis Center Project

FAQs

Q: Why do we need an indoor tennis center in West Seattle?

A: The demand for indoor tennis courts in Seattle far exceeds the supply. The nearest indoor tennis facility is located in the Rainier Valley. The lack of an indoor tennis center in our community is a barrier for people of West Seattle who are interested in year-round tennis lessons, or league play.

Q: Why was the Southwest Athletic Complex chosen as the location for the proposed indoor tennis center?

A: An indoor tennis center at this location complements the other athletic uses of the Southwest Athletic Complex and is consistent with the Complex's mission to provide programs and activities for people of all ages in West Seattle. In addition, courts already exist at the Complex, and our study has demonstrated that it is feasible to cover the courts at this location with an indoor tennis structure.

Q: How much will the Southwest Tennis Center cost to construct?

A: The feasibility study estimates that the cost of designing, permitting, and constructing the Southwest Tennis Center is four million dollars. The actual cost of constructing the Southwest Tennis Center will be determined when building plans are finalized and permits are approved.

Q: Who will pay for constructing and operating the Southwest Tennis Center?

A: Financing the construction of the proposed indoor tennis center is yet to be determined but will likely come from multiple public and private sources (individual contributions, grant funding, corporate sponsorship, etc.). It is important to note that although the proposed Southwest Indoor Tennis Center will be on Seattle School District Property, no school district funds will be used in either the construction or operation of the proposed facility. Once operational, the proposed Southwest Tennis Center will be self-sustaining, generating revenue from lessons, court fees, and league play.

Q: How will the community benefit from the Tennis Center?

A: Creating an indoor tennis center in West Seattle will provide year-round access to tennis lessons, leagues, and playing time for people of all ages on rainy days and during the wet season (October – April) in Seattle. Providing additional recreational and athletic opportunities will benefit the overall health and wellness of our community.

Q: How much will it cost to play tennis at the Southwest Tennis Center? Will there be reduced rates for seniors and free playing time for young people?

A: Court rental rates will be determined by the upcoming market analysis. Similar facilities charge \$32-\$45 per court for 75 minutes of play. Rates are slightly lower for seniors. Juniors have access to courts on a walk-on basis for free during certain hours of the day. We anticipate that similar discounted rates for seniors and free playing time for juniors will be part of the Southwest Tennis Center's fee structure. Scholarship opportunities will also be considered for lesson programs and summer tennis camps for juniors.

Q: What programs will be at the Southwest Tennis Center?

A: We anticipate developing a comprehensive program schedule at the proposed Southwest Indoor Tennis Center that will include tennis lessons for all ages and skill levels from beginner to advanced, USTA league play, summer and after school tennis camps for juniors, and reservable court times for practices and other matches for all members of our community.

Q: Will the Southwest Tennis Center impact the surrounding neighborhood?

A: The tennis center will be located in a complex of existing athletic facilities with ample off-street parking and is consistent with existing uses of the site. All impacts of the project will be thoroughly studied as part of the permit process and the proposed project will meet all of the requirements of the Seattle School District, the City of Seattle, and the State of Washington.

Q: What if the Seattle School District wants to build a school on this site in the future?

A: Seattle School District staff has told Friends of Southwest Tennis that no school construction is planned for this site for at least the next 28 years.

Q: What will be the relationship between the Southwest Tennis Center and the Southwest Pool?

A: That relationship is yet to be determined, but we are hoping for a cooperative agreement that would, for example, make it possible that swimming lessons and tennis lessons could be offered consecutively for a full day of summer activities for youth.

Q: Who will operate the Southwest Tennis Center?

A: Responsibility for operations is yet to be determined, but possibilities include the Seattle Parks Department or a professional tennis management company.

Q: Why do you want to take away free outdoor tennis courts and make people pay to play indoors?

A: Enclosing the outdoor tennis courts at the Southwest Athletic Complex will be a significant improvement to the facility and will provide opportunities to learn and play tennis year-round for people of all ages in our community. In addition, West Seattle and White Center have 27 existing outdoor tennis courts that will remain free to the public.

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