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**Changing  
Lives  
Through  
Tennis  
Since 1952**

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# Our History

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- Founded in 1952 as a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization, the Columbus Tennis Patrons helped build 12 tennis courts at Cooper Creek Park
- In 1995, Columbus Tennis Patrons became the Columbus Regional Tennis Association, Inc.

# Awards & Recognition

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- 2001 USTA National Organization of the Year
- 2017 USTA Georgia Community Tennis Association of the Year
- 2017 USTA Southern Community Tennis Association of the Year
- 2017 USTA National Community Tennis Association of the Year
- Multiple awards from USTA Georgia and USTA Southern for Tournaments and Events
- USTA National Premier Tennis Center Designation (November 2022)

# Our Purpose

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## Mission Statement

- The mission of CORTA is to promote and develop the growth of tennis.

## Core Values

- CORTA is committed to the promotion, growth and development of tennis as an enjoyable lifetime sport that contributes to good health, character and responsible citizenship.
- CORTA invites all people to play, watch, support, or enjoy the game of tennis at its events, programs, and membership through participation, volunteerism, or leadership on a non-discriminatory basis.
- CORTA's mission can best be achieved through the efforts of volunteers, staff, City of Columbus, private and community partners committed to excellence and working as a team.
- CORTA is committed to maintaining fiscal responsibility, promoting the financial well-being of CORTA, and evaluating our progress towards achieving our strategic priorities, which is critical to the successful accomplishment our mission.

# Community Tennis Programs

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## Outreach:

- Junior Teen Council
- TennisWorks!
- Adaptive Tennis Programs
  - Ad In for Special Needs Athletes
  - Special Olympic Style Tennis Games
  - Wheelchair Tennis

## Programs/Leagues:

- Junior and Adult Clinics
- Junior and Adult Leagues
- Corporate Team Tennis
- Social Mixers
- Tournaments
  - Local - Junior and Adult
  - National - Junior
  - USTA League State Championships

# TennisWorks!

(underserved youth, ages 5-18)

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## **Locations:**

- Cooper Creek Tennis Facility
- Frank Chester/Benning Park
- Various MCSD schools

## **Schedule:**

- Two days per week year-round program

## **Benefits:**

- All tennis equipment provided
- Life skills are taught through tennis:
  - Team cooperation
  - Leadership
  - Positive self-expression
  - Positive self-esteem
- Academic instruction and tutoring provided by certified teachers
- Community mentors and volunteers participate
- Countless Hours of Love Included 

**Lives Impacted in 2022: 1,233 youth**

# TennisWorks!



# Tennis Programs for Special Needs Children and Adults

- Cooper Creek Tennis Facility
- Number Impacted in 2022: **53** (adults and children)
- Programs Include:
  - *Ad In* Tennis
  - Wheelchair Tennis
  - Special Olympic Style Tennis Games (Spring 2023)



# CORTA Tennis 2022: Keeping Score!

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<b>6,804</b>	<b>Adult Lives Impacted</b>
<b>2,785</b>	<b>Junior Lives Impacted</b>
<b>2,672</b>	<b>Tournament Participants Impacted</b>
<b>12,261</b>	<b>Total Lives Impacted</b>

## **How do we define Impact?**

**Active lifestyle through tennis. Our programs and events have a strong healthy effect on our participants and on our local economy.**

**CORTA changes lives through tennis!**

**Cooper Creek Tennis Center is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest generator of economic impact by venues in the City of Columbus with **\$1,055,653** generated last year.**

*Columbus Sports Council Annual Report*





# Our Facility Contributions

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- In 1993, the Columbus Tennis Patrons raised \$250,000 to help add 10 courts and a new clubhouse at Cooper Creek Tennis Center
- In 1999, CORTA partnered with the City of Columbus on a \$1.8 million project to expand Cooper Creek Tennis Center to 30 courts, including a stadium court (City \$600,000, CORTA \$1.2 million)
- In 2005, CORTA purchased 7.98 acres adjacent to Cooper Creek for future expansion (2015)
- In 2011, CORTA contributed funds to assist in the refurbishment of the clay courts at Cooper Creek Tennis Facility
- In 2017, CORTA partnered with the City of Columbus and Columbus State University (CSU) on a \$9.4 million project to further expand Cooper Creek Tennis Center, adding 12 post tension hard courts, 9 rubico hydro courts, 4 - 60' junior courts and a building to house the CORTA offices and CSU Tennis program.  
(City \$1.7 million, CSU \$3 million, CORTA \$4.7 million)
- Support continues annually, as we are able, to help address needs of the facility. Most recently we purchased scorekeepers for each court; 55 total.

# Our Future Enhancements (Phase II)

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- Improve entry way of Cooper Creek Park with professionally designed landscaping and signage
- Upgrade all courts to LED lighting system and install LED lighting system on junior courts
- Add street lighting throughout the facility and parking areas to improve sense of security
- Create a terrace viewing area on a raised walkway overlooking courts 5-16
- Add five shade sail structures for spectator viewing in hard court areas
- Provide digital scoreboard to connect players and spectators to live scoring at CSU matches
- Add landscape beautification and hardscape features throughout the facility
- Add and improve parking areas
- Reduce the cost of facility operations through updated and more efficient technology

*Total costs ~\$2.5 million. All projects subject to raising the needed funds.*

# Public/Private Partnership (Phase II)

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- Through another Public/Private Partnership we can address aging areas of the complex, add enhancements to other areas and complete some of the projects that were postponed from the Phase I campaign.
- City support is critical and meaningful as we discuss the project with potential donors.
- We respectfully ask for the City to continue our successful partnership by supporting these enhancements and pledging funds to the \$2.5M project.

*Thank you for your time and consideration!*