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Court Resurfacing Produces High-Quality Community Practice and Playing Venue

Two of the benefits of community tennis facilities are the opportunities they create to introduce players to the game and encourage life-long participation. By providing easy access to safe, functional tennis courts, community tennis assets strengthen community connections, support healthy lifestyle habits, promote lasting friendships and social bonds, and create constructive outlets for fun.

Communal tennis affords many social, physical, and psychological benefits and helps support the Shorewood School District Recreation and Community Services Department's mission of providing services and life-long learning opportunities to enhance the quality

of life for community residents.

A five-court community tennis facility located on the Shorewood Intermediate School campus supplies a practice and playing venue where Recreation and Community Services Department staff can educate the community about health and fitness, introduce youth and others to the game, and improve and expand District recreational programming. But declining facility conditions were impeding Department education and programming goals. The 16-year-old courts (reconstructed by Munson, Inc. in 1996) showed their age, had begun to hinder court functionality, and would soon pose serious issues for player safety.

Court repair and resurfacing were required to help the District mitigate risk, support programming goals and player safety, and get the most from its community tennis asset investments. Earlier this year, the District selected the Tennis & Track Division of Munson, Inc. to provide tennis court repair and resurfacing services. The selection was based in large part on the District's past experience (and positive results) with Munson, Inc.

Project Challenges

The Shorewood Intermediate School (SIS) tennis facility repair and resurfacing project included many challenges. Tennis court resurfacing

please see Shorewood, page 2 →



Court & Track Newsletter to Go 100% Green in 2013

This is the last printed issue of our **Court & Track** newsletter. To better leverage online technology and environmental efficiencies, Munson, Inc. will transform in 2013 this newsletter to a full-color, digital publication, distributed via email directly to your email inbox. Our first digital-only issue will come out early in the second quarter of 2013.

To ensure you receive it, we encourage you to sign up today by visiting our web site – <http://www.munsoninc.com/services/tennistrack> – clicking on the “Click here so you don’t miss an issue” link at the top of the page, and sharing your email address. **Don’t wait until next year.** Take initiative today by visiting our web site and opting in for the e-version of **Court & Track**.



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is an important preventative maintenance practice, typically required every 5-7 years to maintain court appearance and functionality and ensure player safety. The SIS courts had never been resurfaced. Due to the excellent court installation work done by Munson in 1996, there was very minimal court cracking. But court color had faded, which hampered player visibility when the ball was in play, and the court surface was no longer uniformly textured, which negatively affected both safe footing for players and ball bounce consistency. Court construction joints had widened greatly, creating potential trip hazards between courts, and asphalt had settled along a new retaining wall and was impeding water flow to court catch basins. Court fencing also showed the effects of age and the elements.

A wish list of project “nice-to-haves” included replacement for rusting net posts, new tennis nets, replacement of a worn-down plywood backboard, and the desire to create aesthetically pleasing, two-

color courts.

Actions Taken

Fortunately, the District was able to allocate sufficient funding to accommodate required repairs, two-color court resurfacing, and all the other items on the project wish list.

Facility preparation work included several steps. Step one was to patch the settled asphalt. The fence had to be opened up (fence fabric removed) to make this possible. Also during this step, the old backboard and net posts were removed (net post sleeves were left in-place), and fence post straightening and gate adjustments were made.

Step two involved power washing the entire facility court surface to remove loose debris and clean out dirt and other waste from the widened contraction joints and all surface cracks.

In step three, three sides of the existing fencing were electro-statically painted to return them to their original Ensor Green color. The fourth side was left undisturbed, due to the desirable, heavy vegetation hanging from it, which provides natural screening for neighboring homes. The fence was then closed up, and bottom fence railing was added to provide extra stability.

Step four of facility preparation work focused on court surface repairs. Open construction joints were prepared and filled to ¼-inch low with Quikrete®, to reduce future contraction joint movement. The remaining ¼-inch was topped off with court patch binder, which is a mixture of portland cement, Plexipave® court patch binder additive, and sand. The topping-off allowed for the final leveling of the joints, and also provided an effective bonding agent for the acrylic color-coating system used for the court resurfacing. After drying, the court patch binder was sanded, to create a smooth surface. Court patch binder was also used to correct court low spots.

Areas of shallow cracking/crazing were prepped in the same manner as the construction joint repair, with a membrane of fiberglass applied to minimize any future cracking or crazing.

The final preparation step was the installation of Armor Crack Repair System, a repair product designed for full-depth tennis court crack repairs. The system features a special knitted fabric that allows for absorption of any future crack movement or growth, without the fabric tearing or delaminating from the new color-coating system. Three small areas of the 29,900 square foot facility needed full-depth crack repair, requiring approximately 55-linear feet of the knitted fabric.

After the prep work was completed, two coats of acrylic resurfacer were installed on the courts.



The playing dimensions were then chalked out so the playing pads could be colored U.S. Open Blue and the out-of-bounds areas Dark Green. After two coatings of colored acrylic were installed, court lines were masked and striped and new nets were installed on new net posts. The final step in this tennis court project refreshment was to hang the new fiberglass backboard, which will well outlast its plywood backboard predecessor.

Results

The SIS courts were completed on time and within the estimated quote. According to Deb Stolz, Director for the Shorewood School District's Recreation and Community Services Department, “The courts turned out great. The staff, participants, and community really appreciate the courts!”

The repaired and newly-resurfaced courts are used for physical education instructional classes, athletic program for grades 7-12, rec department instructional programs, and resident-league programs. The completed project creates easy community access to safe, appealing, and highly functional tennis courts, and supports the rec department's mission. Adds Stolz, “With new resurfaced tennis courts, all the participants will benefit and appreciate the quality of the courts. It is always nice for everyone to use facilities that are ‘new.’ Everyone's game improves!”

Stolz also reports she would readily recommend the Tennis & Track Division of Munson, Inc. to other school districts and recreation department directors. Said Stolz, “Munson was very easy to work with for our Shorewood Intermediate School tennis court update. Munson provided quality work and met the project timeline.”

What About Your Tennis Facility?

Tennis court resurfacing is an important preventative maintenance practice, typically required every 5-7 years to maintain court appearance and functionality and ensure player safety. When was the last time you resurfaced your tennis facility?

If you are uncertain if it is time to resurface your tennis courts, contact us, and we will inspect your facility with you.

Note: Additional project pictures are featured on page 3, under the Q and A feature.

Court & Track

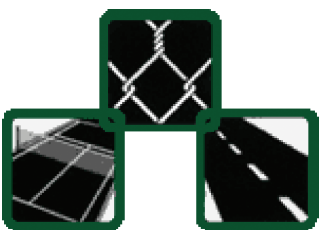
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Q and A

What online resources do you recommend for owners and others tasked with maintaining tennis courts and running tracks?

There are a number of reliable online resources available to help you maintain your track and tennis court facilities. Here are six web resources we highly recommend.

As proud and active members of the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA), we heartily endorse ASBA as the centralized online information resource on tennis courts, running tracks, sports fields, and indoor sports facilities. For access, visit <http://sportsbuilders.org> and explore their "FAQs," "Publications," "Press Room," "Newsletter," and "Online Store" sections. Note: Some of the hyperlinks in the archived newsletters are available only to ASAB members.

Racquet Sports Industry magazine provides relevant online information about court construction, maintenance, and repair, which is easily accessible via its site search application. Visit: <http://www.racquetsportsindustry.com/search.html> and type what you are researching in its "Find It!" note field.

The Tennis & Track section of our web site includes archived issues of this newsletter, dating back to the publication's debut issue, July 2005. Visit <http://www.munsoninc.com/services/tennistrack> and scroll down to the bottom of the page. You can also email us and request information on court and track issues: rob@munsoninc.com. If your question is of general interest, and you give permission, your question may be featured in the Q&A section of a future issue of **Court & Track**.

Good information about crack repair is available at <http://www.armorcrackrepair.com>.

If you are responsible for maintaining clay-court tennis facilities, great resources are available at <http://hartru.com/have-a-court/court-maintenance>.

A free Special Report provides excellent information on how to keep your tennis courts in playable condition. Download the free report at: <http://www.kolkmanncourtbuilder.com/resources/special-report>.

Remember: Beginning with the next issue our **Court & Track** newsletter will be available only as a full-color, digital publication, distributed via email directly to your email inbox. To ensure you receive it, we encourage you to sign up today by visiting <http://www.munsoninc.com/services/tennistrack> and clicking on the "Click here so you don't miss an issue" link at the top of the page. **Don't wait until next year.** Take initiative today by visiting our web site and signing up for the e-version of **Court & Track**.



ABOVE: The 16-year old facility started showing its age, with faded court color, areas of court crazing and low spots, and some structural cracking. LEFT: Armor Crack Repair System. RIGHT: The high-quality community practice and playing venue is improving everyone's game.



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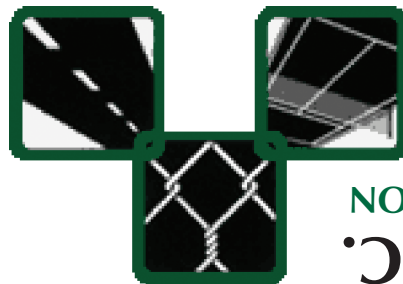
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Visitors to our digital community touchpoints can view our commercial and residential photo albums, including tennis courts, running tracks, fencing, and asphalt and concrete pavements, tour our Glendale, Wisconsin outdoor showroom, enjoy our decorative concrete video posts, read our Munson, Inc. blog entries, or keep up with the latest news and information about what is happening at Munson, Inc.

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