Parks & Recreation Tennis Spotlight

NOVEMBER 2026

THE NEXT ERA OF TENNIS IN WASHINGTON DC: INSIDE SETLC'S WORLD-CLASS EXPANSION



The Southeast Tennis and Learning Center (SETLC) is a premier Ward 8 facility serving Washington, D.C., and the surrounding region with tennis programs for residents of all ages. The center is undergoing an $18 million expansion that will strengthen its role as a cornerstone of District tennis. Since 2001, SETLC has served more than 75,000 District youth through tennis instruction, tutoring, life-skills education, developmental chess, computer and library access, and academic and personal support. The project reflects the strength of the public-private partnership between the Recreation Wish List Committee (RWLC) and the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), advancing a 25-year vision for a world-class tennis facility in Southeast D.C.



The 4.5-acre expansion will broaden services for Ward 8 and other District residents while positioning SETLC as a leading venue for international junior tennis tournaments that promote excellence, cultural exchange, and youth development. The project will increase the number of tennis courts from 12 to 19 and pickleball courts from one to five.

SETLC partners with local public schools, colleges, universities, community tennis associations, and nonprofits to expand access to tennis and offer distinctive educational and recreational opportunities. Its nationally recognized programs include Coding, Sew N Know, Blacks in Wax, USTA Arthur Ashe Kids' Day, and SETLC Summer Camp: Empower Youth. The facility, which includes dedicated Tennis and Education Wings, is home to George Washington University's men's and women's tennis teams and hosts 20 USTA-sanctioned tournaments each year, as well as USTA Adult Winter Leagues. These partnerships and programs reflect DPR's commitment to public spaces that foster growth, education, and opportunity for all District residents.



The United States Tennis Association (USTA) has long supported SETLC, honoring both the center and its founder and CEO, Cora Masters Barry, for their contributions to tennis, youth development, and the well-being of young people across the Washington area. Among these honors is the USTA Facility of the Year Award. USTA also supports SETLC's expansion as part of its commitment to growing tennis and building healthier communities. Expanded court access encourages active lifestyles, develops future champions, and highlights the vital role local communities play in the sport's future.

© 2026 USTA. All rights reserved.

Parks & Recreation Tennis Spotlight

NOVEMBER 2026

Located at 701 Mississippi Ave. SE, SETLC currently offers six indoor and six outdoor tennis courts, along with a computer lab, library, and fitness room. The new expansion will complement these offerings with:

- Three additional indoor tennis hard courts, spectator seating, locker rooms, and multi-purpose rooms;
- Four new outdoor tennis hard courts, four pickleball courts, a pedestrian bridge linking the sites, and remodeled clay-tech courts for additional pickleball use;
- Community enhancements include a plaza, extensive landscaping, and expanded parking.

Scheduled for completion in 2026, the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center South will offer D.C. residents a world-class facility and valuable opportunities for generations to come.



All the folks who make tennis in DC happen!
From left to right: Associate Director of External Affairs - John Stokes, Department of General Services Director - Delano Hunter, DC Department of Parks and Recreation Director - Thennie Freeman, SETLC Founder and Former DC First Lady - Cora Masters Barry, SETLC Tennis Scholar - Tatum Primus, Mayor Muriel Bowser, SETLC Site Director - Marcia Brown and DC City Open Owner - Mark Ein

DPR Media Contact: *John Stokes: (202) 288-7275; john.stokes@dc.gov*

Do you know a park agency that exemplifies best practices and outstanding contributions to your community's tennis landscape? We want to hear about them! Click HERE to submit a nomination for our next Parks & Recreation Tennis Spotlight!

USTA

© 2026 USTA. All rights reserved.