

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) was founded on May 21, 1881, in New York City, to create rules and standards for the emerging game of tennis and is now the nonprofit national governing body for tennis in the United States, leading promotion and growth of the sport at every level of play, from beginners to professionals at the US Open; and

WHEREAS, the USTA proudly partners with local tennis programs such as the Springfield-Greene County Park Board to showcase health, social, and educational benefits of tennis and make the sport available to everyone, regardless of age, environment, or ability; and

WHEREAS, according to the Physical Activity Council, post-pandemic participation in the sport of tennis has increased an unprecedented 33 percent, with one in every five members of the Millennials and Gen Z playing some kind of a racket sport; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board's Cooper Tennis Complex has twice been named a USTA Outstanding Tennis Facility, and during the current 2023-2024 school year, has hosted 100 high school tennis matches; 45 collegiate tennis matches; 1,820 youth and 736 adults participating in Cooper Tennis Complex programs; 17 adult tennis leagues, totaling more than 500 hours on court; and 12 junior tennis tournaments, with more than 660 kids participating; and

WHEREAS, Cooper Tennis Complex is home to the Springfield Lasers Professional Tennis franchise, two-time champions of the World TeamTennis league; and

WHEREAS, by increasing the accessibility of tennis for Springfieldians of all ages and abilities, the USTA has contributed to making our community happier and healthier; and

WHEREAS, USTA has declared the month of May as National Tennis Month to promote local programs and activities at parks and facilities to showcase tennis, to spread the word about the sport and its benefits, and to help players and non-players alike find courts and play opportunities in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ken McClure, Mayor of the City of Springfield, Missouri, do hereby proclaim May 2024, to be

NATIONAL TENNIS MONTH

and encourage all citizens to join with me in recognizing the benefits of tennis and supporting National Tennis Month.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the official seal of the City of Springfield, Missouri, to be affixed this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-four.



Ken McClure
Ken McClure, Mayor