

ELLINGTON RACQUET CLUB

CASE STUDY

USTA 

OUTSTANDING
FACILITY AWARD



BUILDING A DREAM FACILITY FOR TENNIS & PICKLEBALL IN ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT

Legacy partnered with Ellington Racquet Club to design and build a 44,880 sq ft state-of-the-art tennis and pickleball facility in Connecticut. This case study highlights how responsive collaboration and a custom-engineered fabric structure turned Tracy French's vision into reality.

When Tracy French envisioned the Ellington Racquet Club, she wasn't just thinking about courts—she was imagining a community. A lifelong racquet sports enthusiast with professional management experience, Tracy recognized a growing demand in Ellington, Connecticut for a facility where both tennis and pickleball players could come together. Her vision was bold: create a 44,880 sq ft state-of-the-art indoor facility that would not only deliver professional-grade courts but also foster a sense of belonging.

LOCATION

Ellington, CT

MARKET SECTOR

Sports

APPLICATION

Tennis & Pickleball Courts

SIZE

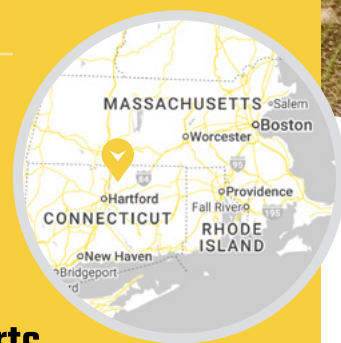
136 ft x 330 ft (44,880 sq ft)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Fully insulated for use year-round; non-traditional MEP system complemented by fans and a ventilation system

INSTALLATION

Legacy in-house crews





Bringing that dream to life, however, was not without its challenges. Tracy quickly discovered that coordinating contractors, managing costs, and navigating the countless details of facility design could be overwhelming. “You have to think through every little step—things you don’t always consider at the start. The small details, they all matter,” she explained. In her search for a building partner, Tracy explored traditional steel options but quickly realized they didn’t offer the flexibility, cost efficiency, or speed she needed.

PARTNERING WITH LEGACY

That’s when she found Legacy Building Solutions. From the start, the partnership was built on responsiveness and trust. Tracy recalls how Shannon, a Business Development Manager at Legacy Building Solutions, was always available: “Shannon always got back to me—if he didn’t know the answer, he found it. That made a huge difference.” This open communication gave Tracy confidence that Legacy could deliver not just a building, but the right building.

Legacy’s solution was a custom-engineered tension fabric structure designed specifically for Ellington’s needs. The facility combined durable steel framing and a high-tensile fabric cladding. For Tracy, it was the best of both worlds: “It’s very much like a steel building—without the steel. Strong, efficient, and perfect for what we needed.” The speed of construction also allowed the project to stay on schedule, with the club opening its doors in October 2024.

FROM VISION TO REALITY

The impact was immediate. Within its first year, ERC became a hub for racquet sports, hosting leagues,

events, and daily play that brought together beginners and experienced athletes alike. Members will be celebrating the facility’s one-year anniversary in October 2025, marking not just a milestone for the business, but for the community it serves.

Beyond ease of construction, Tracy also discovered advantages she hadn’t anticipated. The energy efficiency of the fabric building exceeded expectations, reducing the need for artificial lighting and lowering operational costs. “The only challenge we ran into was HVAC—the system was over-engineered because the contractors didn’t anticipate just how energy efficient the building would be,” she noted.

Looking back, Tracy is certain she made the right choice in partnering with Legacy. “The knowledge and responsiveness of the team is unmatched. They were always available, always ready to help. I absolutely recommend Legacy to anyone considering a new facility.”

Her advice to others? “Think through every step and every detail. And work with people who are open, communicative, and committed to your vision. That’s what Legacy gave me.”

MORE THAN A BUILDING

The Ellington Racquet Club stands today as more than a building—it’s a testament to what can be achieved when passion meets the right partnership. For Tracy, Legacy provided not just the walls and roof, but the foundation of a thriving, connected community.

Interested in exploring a custom tension fabric building for your sports facility? Contact Legacy Building Solutions to learn how we can bring your vision to life.