

Sports, Business

Crowds Pour in at Sportsplex USA

A brand new \$20 million Santee sports complex offers team play, tournaments and fun for the fans.

By [Viridiana Pacheco Zonta](#) | [Email the author](#) | October 1, 2010



What's your favorite thing about the Sportsplex? [Tell us in the comments.](#)

Sport lovers in Santee now enjoy a new local spot to watch and join in local sports tournaments—[Sportsplex USA](#).

"There are anywhere from 800 to 1,000 people that go through our gates every night, Monday through Friday," said Chris Verteas, director of marketing and development for Sportsplex USA. "On the weekends we hold tournaments, drawing teams that are local and out of region."

The facility, which opened this summer, has been busy ever since its gates opened.

"We expected a good turn out, but not to be full so soon," said General Manager Eddie Vandiver, who added that Sportplex hosts league play for adult softball and [soccer leagues](#) Monday through Friday and tournaments that also include youth teams on the weekends.

"We are here so people can come and enjoy the surroundings, the great food, and have a fun night out in Santee," said Vandiver. "There is something for the everyday athlete as well as the once-a-week athlete."

Verteas said Sportsplex holds 50 [tournaments](#) a year, one each week with the exception of two weeks during the holidays, and added that its books for softball are full for the rest of the year and through 2011. The soccer teams are about a third full, he said.

The facility's counter service restaurant holds about 115 people and serves a variety of "ball park favorites," said Vandiver, including nachos, pretzels, candy and a variety of pizzas, burgers and salads, which run anywhere from \$1 to \$7. In addition, the restaurant offers eight different draught beers and is a place for residents to come and watch college football NFL or MBL games on the weekends, he said.

Verteas said the facility would not have been a possibility without the hard work of the city of Santee.

"The facility was built on efforts from the City Council to serve Santee and in order to impact its economy," said Verteas. "They had land that had gone undeveloped, and in 1985 they decided to do something with it."

Just because the City Council raised money to build the complex, he said, it does not necessarily mean the city is fully responsible for the site.

"What we do as a private entity is we work with the city once it is built, and we manage it," he said. "We are also responsible for capital improvement costs such as new bleachers and such. Once the facility has been completed the city hands us the keys."

Construction began in 2005 and the facility opened June 1 of this year. The \$20 million project contains three softball fields, two indoor soccer fields, batting cages and the 2500-square-foot restaurant. The Sportsplex facility takes up about 15 acres of the 55-acre park [Town Center Community Park](#).

The facility also has the capacity to host corporate events such as company picnics and retreats. The schedule of events and more information can be found on its [website](#) or on its [Facebook page](#).