



Use Case - MT1 for Athletic Facility Cleaning

[Grand Rapids Racquet + Fitness](#) in Grand Rapids, MI, is a premier tennis club that develops champion level athletes while also supporting a growing community of pickleball enthusiasts, racquetball lovers, and body builders. At such a renowned destination for indoor racquet sports in southwest Michigan, keeping the center's 8 tennis courts, 4 pickleball courts, and 4 racquetball courts clean and ready for play is a top priority for Director of Tennis Operations, Tom Walker.

Long interested in ways that technology can improve game play and member experience, Walker has incorporated tech such as electronic line calling, match livestreaming, and state-of-the-art lighting into the facility in recent years. In fact, his facility was one of the first to try out an older generation of floor cleaning robots several years ago. At the time, he found the technology promising, but not quite up to the task, so he still had to hire overnight cleaners (who weren't always reliable).

A New Solution

Luckily, Walker's keen eye for useful tech led him straight to Pringle Robotics. He had watched our recent new model rollouts with interest, and quickly connected with a trusted consultant on our team to inquire about a high-tech unit that could suit his facility's needs. That unit was the [MT1—the world's first AI-powered autonomous sweeper](#).

Grand Rapids Racquet + Fitness needed an efficient, autonomous solution that could.

- Be trusted to reliably clean overnight without getting lost or tangled in court nets/curtains
- Clean quickly, so that ad hoc daytime cleaning runs could be completed with minimal disruption
- Clean to a very high standard, missing no debris whatsoever, to ensure player safety on the courts
- Be easily controlled and monitored remotely via mobile app

The MT1 delivered all of this and more. The AI-powered robot impressed Walker right away, starting with installation.

"We simply pushed it along the perimeter once and then it mapped itself using AI. Over 100,000 complex square feet and we got it mapped within 45 minutes. It was up and running in less than an hour and a half. It required no additional wiring, and its charging dock plugs into a standard outlet. Set up was very fast and very easy for a very complex floor plan."

Because the MT1 is equipped with the latest in Lidar SLAM + VSLAM integrated positioning, plus 3D depth perception and multi-sensor fusion to navigate complex environments, the robot can intelligently map its surroundings in just a few quick steps. It's also "smart" enough to both avoid obstacles and find safe ways around them. This robo-intelligence has really impressed Walker.

"Our old robot would get tangled up in the large curtains that line and separate the courts. It also chewed up electrical cords. Now, the MT1—the other day I forgot to pull the curtains open when I left for the night. I realized it the next morning and was worried about what I might find when I got to work. Well, it was amazing. The MT1 found its own way through the curtains, onto the courts and was halfway done with a cleaning run by the time I got there!"

Unbeatable Results and Value

Walker and the other staff at Grand Rapids Racquet + Fitness have been thrilled with not only the performance of the MT1, but the great value it provides to the facility day after day. According to him, the math is easy.

"With how efficient it is and not having to pay someone extra to do that overnight cleaning work, the MT1 easily pays for itself in a year."

And, according to Walker, the excellent cleaning results reinforce that value with each cleaning run. He notes that the MT1's level of suction and dirt pickup is much better than their previous generation robot and also much better at cleaning the courts than someone using a walk-behind machine. It's also easy to use and control on a daily basis, giving him reassurance that cleaning will always get done exactly the way it's supposed to.

"Knowing that I can customize it to clean exactly as I need it to...I can control the robot remotely and I have assurance that it will clean exactly as I've asked it to. It eliminates the issue of overnight cleaning staff not showing up."

Plus, not having to worry about how the floors will be cleaned every night has real benefits for the facility.

"Having the floor cleaning automated lets us focus on providing great service to our members and increasing membership."

A Tool Worth Showing Off

Walker's not sure if the novelty of the MT1's impressively quick and effective cleaning power will ever wear off. For now, he's enjoying demonstrating it to members, visiting players, and industry colleagues. And ultimately, Walker hopes that other facilities in the athletic space will consider automated floor cleaning units like the MT1, and he's eager to spread the word.

"This machine is a must-have for any indoor tennis or athletic company or enterprise. It is a must-have cleaning tool, period. It's going to save time and money and make their facility spotless. This extends to colleges and universities, clubs, or any indoor athletic venue."

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