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[David Kennedy](#) photo The Jamestown Sports Complex on North Highway 67, a popular recreational complex for decades, is for sale. The facility's owner has approached youth groups and other organizations about buying or leasing the property.

No buyers emerge for Jamestown Sports Complex

By [Brian Flinchpaugh](#)

One of the largest private sports complexes in North County is for sale, and the owner is hoping for a buyer who will continue to use it for recreational venues.

But while potential buyers have some interest in the Jamestown Sports Complex, so far there are no takers, owner Thomas H. Twellman said last week.

"I'm not trying to turn it into a manufacturing plant," said Twellman, who opened the complex at 5105 N. Highway 67 in 1982. "It would be nice to see it still being used for recreation."

Nestled on 14 acres in unincorporated St. Louis County, the complex has a swimming pool, ball fields and a 50,000-square-foot gymnasium. For years, the complex has been the site of kickball, soccer and softball games, and other sports leagues and activities.

Twellman said he's approached youth groups, foundations and churches about a possible sale or lease agreement.

Nonprofit organizations and officials acknowledge there is a need for more recreational facilities for young people in North County.

"Jamestown would be an ideal location," said Rance Thomas, chairman of the North County Youth Task Force, part of North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice (NCCU).

The task force, formed after a series of community forums in 2007 on youth violence in North County, has been exploring more youth recreational opportunities. But its focus currently is on providing more after-school and youth activities in the unincorporated area near Spanish Lake.

Also, the \$1.8 million price tag on the complex may be too expensive for many organizations.

"Several times I've discussed this with him (Twellman)," Thomas said last week. "It's too much money."

And St. Louis County isn't a potential buyer.

"There is no interest from the county whatsoever," said Tom Ott, assistant director of the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Instead, the county is concentrating on a \$1.6 million renovation this year of its North County Recreational Complex at Veterans Memorial Park, 2577 Redman Road, Ott said.