

Little Creek Horse Farm 2017

a report from Little Creek Farm Conservancy



A Message from the President

2017 was a year of growth for Little Creek Farm Conservancy and improvements for Little Creek Horse Farm, thanks to our partnerships with DeKalb County and Park Pride, as well as our many volunteers and donors.

LCFC is dedicated to good stewardship of the Farm. This encompasses improvements to benefit horses and humans, working in partnership with DeKalb County to deliver best practices for our 45 horses and sharing this wonderful facility with the community in myriad ways.

Little Creek Farm Conservancy would like to thank its members, donors, and volunteers; DeKalb County Parks Department; DeKalb County Board of Commissioners; Park Pride; Atlanta Riding; Mark's Riding School; Stride Ahead Therapeutic Riding; and everyone who visited, for their support in 2017. We look forward to seeing you at the Park in 2018.

Jane Donofrio, President



Highlights of 2017

Little Creek Farm Conservancy, Inc. (LCFC) is a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Little Creek Horse Farm, a special DeKalb County park. In 2017, our 11th year, we:

- Hosted **8** events with over **1,798** participants, volunteers and visitors
- Raised **\$24,246** for Park improvements
- LCFC Friends of the Park was awarded a **\$2,500** grant from Park Pride
- DeKalb County Commission voted to invest **\$215,000** at Little Creek



Membership

Little Creek Farm Conservancy, Inc. is supported by **91** members including **32** boarders and lessees and **59** community members, riding students, staff and others.

LCFC holds quarterly meetings at the Farm that are open to members and the public.

We invite you to support Little Creek Farm by joining the Conservancy. Membership information is available at:

www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org



THANK YOU! to LCFC Volunteers

LCFC volunteers make the Farm work.

Members, friends, and supporters came out for two clean-up weeks in 2017, doing special deep-cleaning projects.

Daily, volunteers pull weeds, dust, scrub, sweep, wash, shovel, plant, and take care of the Farm. Volunteers donate carrots and brooms, baked goods, and other items.

Volunteers make Farm events possible: planning, budgeting, banking, fund-raising, membership building, pony ride-leading, concession selling, tour-guiding, recruiting, meeting, demonstrating, and more.

SPRING CLEAN UP		sign up - note with one person needed per check	Check done
Marking fences for repair		Jane D Callen Marie Lynn	Done 2 hrs / 2 hrs
Remove debris from creek <i>use buckets & plastic bags - bags in lounge</i>		Valerie Kym	1.5 hrs 4/10 = 1.5 hrs 4/10 1.5 hrs 4/10
Gardening Weeding, pull dirt away from building - see by Joe's etc. Remove tarp and tires from pasture	trim tea olive trees	Nancy S - Terrain will take this to dumpster / dump Elizabeth	1.5 hrs 1.5 hrs
Clean lounge vacuum seats, sweep, clean fridge, remove cob webs, tidy		Robin (Kym, Deborah) Jill Jenny	1.5 hrs 1.5 hrs 1.5 hrs
Remove cobwebs Pick an area - sweep, dust away			
Bathroom toilet, sinks, cobwebs, sweep, scrub trash cans			
Rake gum balls from paths to pastures			
ADD A JOB you would like to do:			
Clean the well above the lounge facing pictures		Peggy	1/2 hr
Tack Room Organizer		Margo	
Clean off tops of tack trunks in isles		Josie	

Financial Results

LCFC invested **\$9,956** in improvements to the barn, pastures and paddocks and farm supplies, in addition to volunteer contributions.

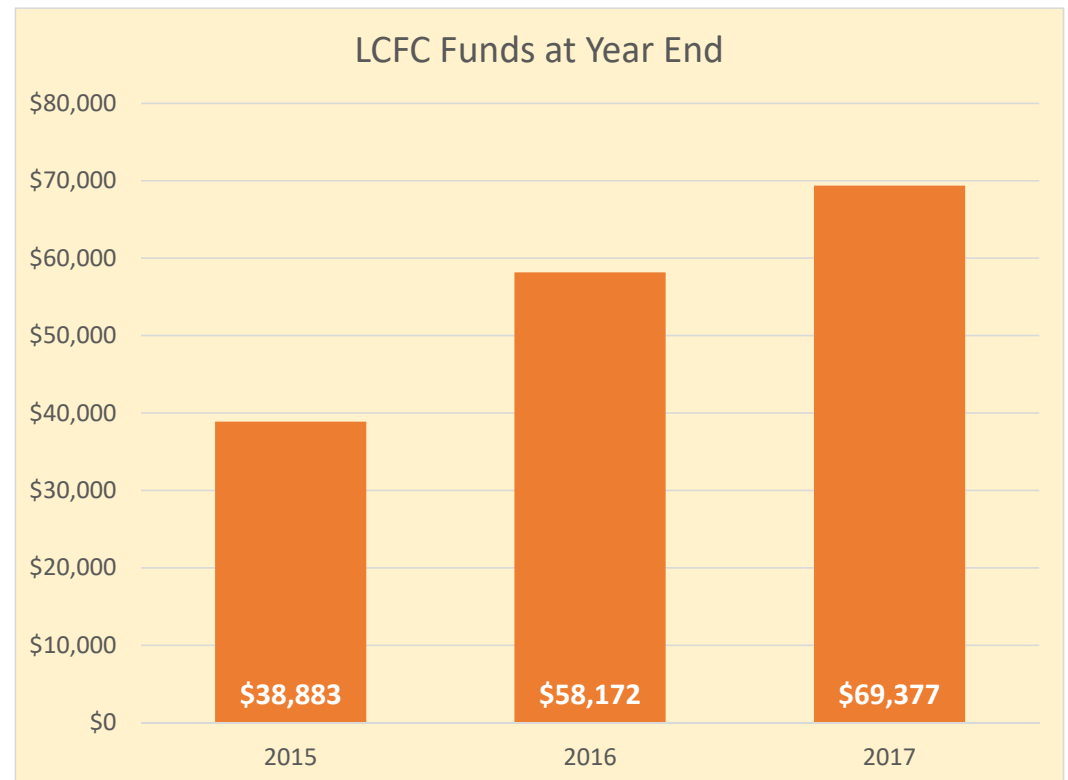
LCFC raised **\$24,246** to invest in DeKalb County's very special Little Creek Horse Farm park.

LCFC Revenue and Expense 2017	
Revenue	
Donations to LCFC	\$11,338.49
Fall Event (Horsefest)	\$7,071.23
Hands on Horses	\$90.00
Schooling Shows	\$2,094.00
Spring Event (Pony Rides)	\$2,005.80
Interest Income	\$118.95
Membership Income	\$4,110.01
Merchandise Sales	\$78.00
Salvage Sale	\$400.00
Total Revenue	\$27,306.48
Expense	
Administration, Insurance and Merchant Fees	\$2,904.05
Fall Event Expenses (Horsefest)	\$2,117.72
Other Events	\$100.00
Schooling Show Expenses	\$129.99
Spring Event Expenses (Pony Rides)	\$712.27
Barn Improvements	\$1,102.16
Pasture & Paddock Improvements	\$6,260.17
Supplies	\$2,594.01
Merchandise Purchases	\$74.95
Total Expense	\$15,995.32
Net Revenue to LCFC	\$11,311.16

Financial Position

LCFC has **\$69,377** in funds for projects and matching grants to support Little Creek Horse Farm as of December 31, 2017.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and contributions of our volunteer's time, we are in a good position to apply for grants and to re-invest in Little Creek Horse Farm Park.



Little Creek Farm Conservancy Leadership

BOARD

President - Jane Donofrio

Vice-President - Tamara Dillard

Treasurer - Peggy Berg

Secretary - Rene Iverson

At-Large - Bobbi Woolwine. Community
Affairs Liaison

COMMITTEES

Membership – Valerie Morvan &
Julie Bakken

Hands on Horses Outreach - Sherree
Wallace outgoing, Christa Gogstad,
incoming

Merchandise – Megan Low

Horsefest

Pony Rides – Rene Iverson

Communication – Valerie Morvan

Fly Predator Control Program –
Nancy Scott

Manure & Bedding – Tamara Dillard

LCFC Calendar 2018

LCFC Event	Date	Day of Week
Member Meeting #1	Jan 20th	Saturday
(Marks Fun Day Barn Day!	February	TENTATIVE!)
Spring Clean Up Week	March 11	Saturday
Spring Pony Rides	April 8-15th	
	April 21	Saturday
Membership Renewal Month	April	
Member Meeting #2 (& Officer Election)	May 5	Saturday
Amelia S. Cook In House Schooling	May 19th	Saturday
Member Meeting #3	August 11	Saturday
Fall Clean Up Week	Sept 1-7th	Saturday
Horsefest	Sept 8th?	Saturday
Community Pot Luck/Horse Costume Parade	Oct 27th	Saturday
Fall Schooling Show	Nov 10	Saturday
Member Meeting #4	Nov 3	Saturday
Quadrille / Holiday Bazaar	Dec 1	Saturday



LCFC Delivers
Events &
Programming
for the
Community



Spring Pony Rides

Pony Rides are one of the wonderful traditions at Little Creek Horse Farm. Many parents tell us that a pony ride at Little Creek was their first experience with a horse, or any sort of large animal. They bring their children, and grandchildren, to share the wonder.

- 232 Pony rides
- 762 Visitors
- 392 Human volunteer hours
- 60 Human volunteers
- 21 Horse volunteers
- \$2,006 Revenue

Each rider is assisted in mounting and dismounting and is led on horseback around the arena by volunteers. Riders from 4 to 74 had a wonderful time.



Horsefest 2017

By the numbers, Horsefest welcomed:

- **111** People volunteers
- **30** Horse volunteers
- **561** People volunteer hours
- **200** Pony rides/riders
- **1,156** Visitors
- **\$7,071** Revenue

Attendees enjoyed equine demonstrations on horse breeds, natural horsemanship, jumping and dressage skills, team riding and showmanship. There were also crafts and activities for children, artists' market, grill and concessions. It was a beautiful fall event.



Schooling Shows

Cohosted by LCFC and Atlanta Riding Academy

Competitive riders need schooling shows for training and practice. At Little Creek we have the benefit of skilled registered judges in the Farm community. Shows are judged and showcase riders practicing in proper attire to competitive standards. Little Creek hosts dressage and jumping events.

- 2 shows
- 60+ riders
- 30 volunteers
- Many observers



Hands on Horses

Hands on Horses tours showcase the Barn and pastures, a demonstration of natural horsemanship, and an equine art project. Led by volunteers, groups include Girl Scouts; women from Agnes Scott College; groups of seniors, families, friends, nursing home residents; school groups; and others from the local community.

On an informal basis, people with horses at Little Creek share the Farm with visitors virtually daily.



Halloween Costume Parade & Neighborhood Appreciation Picnic

A typically memorable moment at the Parade was when Believe, a horse dressed as Alice in Wonderland, tried to sniff out the identity of a horse named Dillon, who was painted like a giraffe.

After the parade, neighborhood residents and other Farm supporters shared a potluck in the Barn.

- **12** costumed horses, accompanied by costumed riders
- **90** visitors to enjoy the fun



Annual Holiday Bazaar and Quadrille Performance

Quadrille is a synchronized dance with teams of horses, set to music.

At Little Creek, over **20** riders practice on Thursday nights throughout the year, culminating with a dozen riders putting on a holiday performance in December.

Close to **80** visitors attended the 2017 show, and also enjoyed the annual holiday artists gift market at the Park.



Vendors & Merchandise

Artists, craftspeople and vendors from the local community are an important part of events at Little Creek Farm. Their booths offer unique gifts, delicious foods and create interest at HorseFest and the Holiday Bazaar and Quadrille Performance.

LCFC also sells branded merchandise to promote the Farm to the public and raise money for capital projects. Products include t-shirts, mugs, fleece vests, horse figurines and saddle blankets.



LCFC Works for the Environment



Bat Houses

Some of our naturalist neighbors got excited about bats and talked to the Conservancy about installing bat houses at the Farm. After all, bats eat mosquitos and keep flies away.

The Conservancy loved the idea. So neighbors researched, designed, sourced materials and constructed **6** bat houses.

The Conservancy and the neighborhood joined forces for a bat-house-raising supported by over **20** volunteers.



Manure Going Going Gone

Manure management is a challenge for all horse barns. Little Creek finally has the first phase of a manure solution.

After the Conservancy researched manure management solutions – in great depth this summer -- LCFC and the DeKalb County team designed a pilot study to test using roll off containers to remove the manure. LCFC funded and managed the **\$2,400** pilot.

DeKalb County then implemented roll off containers as a long term solution and waste is now properly handled. Next steps are improving the driveway and container pad to be strong enough for the trucks.

In December 2017, manure and shavings that had built up over the years were removed with funds allocated by the County Commissioners.



Home Depot Volunteer Day

Park Pride partnered with the Conservancy and Friends of the Park and Little Creek benefited from the generosity of Home Depot and its employee volunteers.

- 1 incredible day
- 80+ Home Depot volunteers
- 30+ Conservancy volunteers

What projects! Projects included a new raised picnic area at the Barn, a new information kiosk and picnic area at the Orion Drive trailhead, trail clearing, fences cleared of vines and repaired, pastures cleared of tree fall and outdoor benches built and installed. Talented labor and all materials donated by Home Depot.

After a day of work – Home Depot delivered a great picnic for all volunteers.

THANK YOU!



Conservancy Improves the Park



LCFC Little Library & Benches

Runners, walkers, drivers, bikers and other visitors love to turn off Orion Drive and watch the horses grazing in the pastures.

This year two benches and a Little Library were installed at the corner of Orion and Old Lawrenceville Highway enhancing this pastoral pastime. Home Depot donated the lumber for the benches, LCFC donated the labor and DeKalb County provided an unfinished library box for the project.

The library is registered in the national database of Little Libraries and is stocked and maintained by the Conservancy.

The Little Library and seating area is now a popular – safer and more comfortable - spot for horse-watching.



Visitors Center

The Conservancy wants visitors to feel welcomed, access information about the Farm, and safely watch activity in the arena.

We created a seating area with a horse-strong wood floor and custom benches adapted to the height of the arena wall. The new visitor area features a horse-themed mural, new credenza and framed magnetic white board to share information.

If you look closely, you can recognize resident horses in the mural. Toto and Milo, resident dog and cat, are pictured too.

The horses were quite curious about their likenesses.

The Conservancy also installed new safety and directional signs and information boards.



Jumps Jumps Jumps & Cavellettis

LCFC received a generous donation to replace the Farm's ancient jumps. So, the outdoor arena now sports colorful attractive new jumps and poles.

Cavellettis were also worn and close to the point of hazard. With LCFC funding for materials and many skilled volunteer carpentry hours, the Farm now has a complete set of new Cavellettis and the original Cavellettis have been repaired for use as pasture obstacles.



Viewing Area

Sometimes things are more complicated than we expect, but our third design was the winner. Shaded outdoor seating to view the arena has been on our agenda since the original seating was deemed worn out years ago.

We received two generous gifts and held fundraisers for seating. In addition, Little Creek's Friends of the Park group applied for a Park Pride Grant and was awarded **\$2,500**.

A custom design for a pavilion proved too expensive to build. A concept for shaded bleachers could not affordably meet ADA requirements. But, the pavilion underway meets all requirements.

Look for the new Pavilion in early 2018.

Thank you to our donors and

Thank you Park Pride!!!



Sunset Pavilion

Friends of Little Creek Horse Farm Park

With the support and encouragement of DeKalb County Parks and Recreation and Park Pride, LCFC formed a Friends of the Park Group.

We are proud to be affiliated with Park Pride. In 2017, we participated in 4 Park Pride workshops, enhancing our effectiveness for the Farm.

As a Friends group, we also qualified for a Park Pride Small Change Grant which was awarded for the viewing area and Sunset Pavilion.



Around the Farm

In addition to the Conservancy,
there are many valuable
contributors to Little Creek Horse
Farm life. Their activities are
highlighted on the following
pages.



Commissioner Bradshaw & Capital Improvements

Commissioner Bradshaw, with the support of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, allocated **\$215,000** in District 4 Parks Bonds for Little Creek Horse Farm improvements.

The improvements will include parking accessible to persons with disabilities, gutter and roof repairs, pasture and manure management.

THANK YOU for this investment in the quality of life in our DeKalb County community.



Stride Ahead

Stride Ahead served over **55** clients in 2017 supported by **2,800** volunteer hours. Stride Ahead provides about **30** lessons per week for students with various physical or mental challenges, supported by approximately **75** volunteer hours each week.

Stride Ahead begins its ninth year of providing Equine Assisted Therapies at Little Creek Horse Park in 2018!

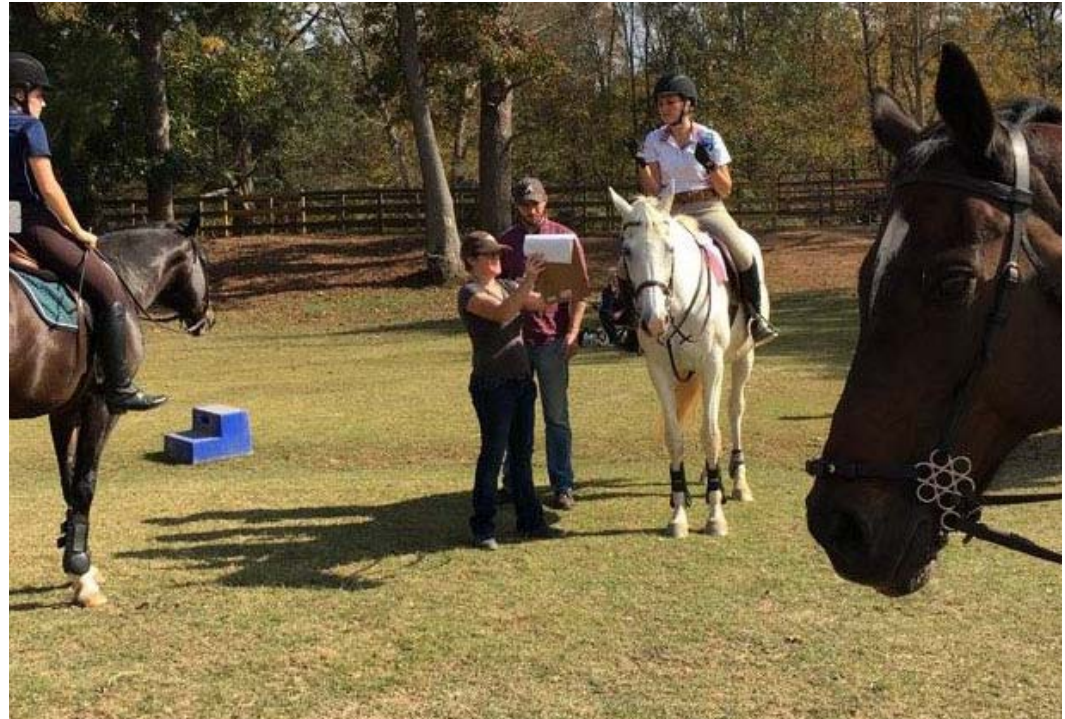
The DeKalb Board of Commissioners recognized Stride Ahead with a proclamation, honoring its work with veterans. Shepherd Center's veteran program, SHARE, will begin an ongoing program with Stride Ahead, using Equine Assisted Psychotherapy to help veterans heal.



Atlanta Riding Academy

Atlanta Riding Academy offers lessons to those seeking excellence in the art, sport and discipline of riding. Based at Little Creek, the Academy delivered:

- **\$47,360** to DeKalb County in 2017
- **1,450** riding and vaulting classes
- A new unmounted horsemanship class was a big success and will part of the curriculum
- Students and staff participated in Polocrosse, in the JH Fox Spring Horse Show, in the Hunter Derby, and Dressage Rally
- Atlanta Riding Academy human and equine volunteers support the Pony Club with education and events
- Atlanta Riding Academy co-hosted Little Creek Farm's Spring and Fall horse shows



Mark's Riding School

Mark Jaglarz, assisted by Donna Coshatt, teaches beginning riding, English pleasure, dressage and jumping at Little Creek.

School horses include: Sandy, Sweetheart, Silverado, Chino and Valor as well as several other horses that train students from time to time.

The Riding School teaches over **30** classes weekly including individual and group sessions.

Information about lessons is available at the Barn Visitors Center.



Saturday Kid's Program

Meeting every Saturday at the Barn, Little Creek teaches kid's ages 8 to 16 who take lessons at the Farm about horse care. There are currently **15** kids in the program. There is no charge to participate in the Program.

Students begin with mucking stalls for the lesson horses and replace with new shavings. There is grooming and tacking horses, sweeping wash stalls and aisles, cleaning tack and some assist other students with what they have learned about horsemanship.

When lessons and chores are done teachers escort the kids to the mares pasture or the Parell arena to visit the horses. The geldings play pretty rough with each other and are pretty comical and entertaining . This is what the students really look forward to doing.

With their passion of horses, they learn important skills they can use in other aspects of their lives. Confidence, leadership, patience, kindness and how important it is to be calm around horses. The horses are very sensitive and mirror our feelings.



Pony Club & Horsemasters

Pony Club is a volunteer led membership group affiliated with the US Pony Clubs, Inc. It teaches sportsmanship, stewardship and leadership through horsemanship.

Pony Club is for young riders and it's affiliate Horsemasters group at Little Creek is for adult riders.

Pony Club and Horsemasters meet monthly throughout the year at the Farm.



DeKalb County's Little Creek Team

The Farm is a 24-7-365 day a year operation, funded by board and other fees. Horses are fed 2 times daily, watered 3 times daily, given hay 2 times daily plus hay distributed in the pastures when there is no grass in the winter. There is nightly bed check and horses are blanketed when it's cold. Horses are taken in and out of the pastures daily and when vets and farriers come. Fences and buildings are maintained. Arenas are dragged with the tractor for level footing. Stalls are cleaned daily.

Joe, supervisor, and barn staff including Arlie, Brad, Nicole, Margot, Rhonda, Hannah, Dmitri, Edgar, Lupe, and Herson keep Little Creek Farm running and care for its equine residents.



Community Service Workers

5 Days a week, most weeks of the year, 2 community service workers contribute time to Little Creek Horse Farm. Over a year, community service workers contribute about **3,600 hours** at the Farm. They sweep and water and clean stalls and do other labor around the Farm.

For some, Little Creek Farm horses are the first they've met. Others grew up on family farms. Introducing community service workers to the horses are some of the warmest moments at the Farm.

THANK YOU to Little Creek's Community Service Workers!



Sign Me UP

LCFC welcomes volunteers.

Contact us to find out about volunteering at events and/or joining a committee. We'd love to have you.

info@LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org

www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org

(678) 590-1530

www.facebook.com/Little-Creek-Farm-523780917678473/

Member meetings (and all events) are open to the public. You are invited to come meet us and find out about current projects at our meetings, posted on the website, and at the Barn.

