

Little Creek Farm Conservancy Projects & Programming Updates, 1/2022

www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org

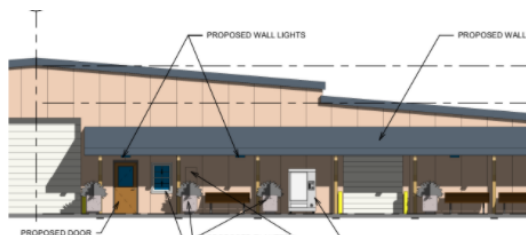
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Projects and Administrative

→ 2020 Community Access Grant from Park Pride

1. Security Gate - Important for safety of humans and equines.
 - a. awaiting power hook up; David Flaherty, Division Manager, has been responsible for getting this project done. Thank you!
 - b. Once power hook up is complete, everyone will receive training and information on how to operate.
2. Signage - this has been slowly coming together with much to complete.
 - a. Perimeter safety signs on fencing - complete
 - b. Gate Numbering signs - installation will be completed by the end of January; next step is to publish a map of the gates, for easy reference for locating and maintaining gates, and for safety issues.
 - c. Coming soon - Visiting Hours posted, with ability to say “open to public” or “closed to public” as needs of barn may dictate (at the County’s discretion)
3. Welcome Center - Transitioning the office closer to the Feed Room has already started, to free up the larger room for Community needs. Details...
 - a. Volunteers cleaned, sanded and painted the current break room over MLK weekend. It has been put back together so that staff and students can continue to use it for getting warm, or making a cup of tea or coffee.
 - b. The current office is being cleaned out of excess items....and soon, the break room and office will be swapped.
 - c. Conservancy Secretary, Nick Thompson, is the liaison for this project as the County and Conservancy work together on plans to beautify the front of the barn, and enable the larger room to be useful to the community as: break room for staff and students/parents and others in the barn, gathering room for meetings or training, home base for LCFC Docents to handle visitors. This picture is representative of the current plan. Many thanks to Dekalb County for their A&E assistance in this planning process.



INTERIOR RENDERING 1

As part of this overall Welcome Center project, the two mini horses will soon move to a modified stall at the front of the barn. Sprinkles and Boone are already an exciting and important part of welcoming the public into the Park and having them near the Welcome Center will delight visitors.

Finally, soon the Conservancy will stake out the area for the Park's future "Gathering Corral". This area will allow turn out space for the two minis, as well as provide a fenced picnic area for visitors (only open during Visitor Hours, of course) and program participants (birthdays or other groups) - safer for everyone. More on this project as it crystallizes.

All of these grant projects are made possible through [Park Pride's](#) grant program, and the Conservancy is thankful the Park was selected to benefit.

→**Conservancy [website](#)**: We've been actively updating and reorganizing portions of the website - we've a long way to go! The Board did take the important step of hiring a helper in the fall...as maintenance was proving more than volunteers could handle, timewise.

→**Fundraising** - You may know LCFC just completed a very successful match campaign to close out 2021. Still working on thank you notes - what a wonderful task! The Board is dedicated to using each dollar wisely and we are all humbled by the support that came in the form of every size donation. Thank you to each and every donor. Truly. Total raised: \$14,000 - we were hoping for \$12k!

→**Annual report**: It's that time of year again. We hope to have a draft of the 2021 Annual Report ready by the end of January, and then it will be sent digitally to our mailchimp list, as well as digital/hard copies provided to the County.

→**Safety Committee** reboot: The Safety Committee is back in action to update and recheck many areas of the barn. Please respond quickly if they ask for your help!

→**Indoor Arena**: You may have heard that the footing will be replaced this Spring. This is a County project, although LCFC volunteers will be ready as always to step in and help communicate, coordinate and assist.

Special events for 2022

In the hopes of an ever increasing return to normalcy, these are the special events the Conservancy is already planning. Let us know if you'd like to help organize - and of course, if we need event volunteers, you'll hear from us closer to the event.

Pony Rides - we are planning three over the course of the year. We'd like to bring in contracted pony ride vendors, and possibly a petting zoo. Pre-selling limited tickets is the plan for managing crowds, as our parking and space are limited. (A percentage of tickets will be set aside for those that may not otherwise be able to participate.)

April Clinic - Conservancy Board member, Bobbi Woolwine, has worked with Nancy Scott to put together an exciting clinic on Centered Riding in early April. Look for more information soon - you'll want to reserve a spot! LCFC will handle the booking, fees and other details of the clinic for the community.

Ribbon Cutting on Welcome Center and other Grant projects - Cross fingers and toes that by August or September, the new space is ready for social media and a party to throw the doors open!

Halloween Costume Parade - this Community favorite was the first thing we put on our calendars (Tentative date: Oct 29th).

Programming

Volunteer Group opportunities are still rare due to Covid- one December work group and one January work group were quick to cancel what with Omicron going around. We're increasing service opportunity advertising on the home page of the website, and hope to have time to contact groups that may want to serve to get special projects done. Know of a group that would like to volunteer? We'd love it if you'd send them our way. info@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org

Covenant House has been visiting us sporadically, once or twice a month, since 2021. We've enjoyed helping them get to know Tanner, and learn about grooming and otherwise caring for horses. It is a very popular program with their clients! We're so happy to be a part of introducing these young people to Mr. Tanner, Sprinkles and Boone. *(They run an amazing program - check them out at the website link above.)*

Hands on Horses - Conservancy Vice President, Lynn Leonard, has introduced a new style Hands on Horses program that combines the introduction of horses with a mounted demonstration of gaits. Visitors are loving it and she's been busy...details of the program are on our website [HERE](#). Let friends know - it's a great way to visit the Park.

Birthday Parties - Conservancy Treasurer, Peggy Berg, and Valerie Morvan (tireless volunteer) have been coordinating successful birthday parties and learning a lot since Fall 2021. The website roll out of the program is coming soon with a goal of hosting two per month as an average. They have trained excellent volunteer helpers and the reviews have been terrific. The cost is a donation to LCFC - and often, volunteers are receiving tips! - and it all stays right here in the Park for projects. Details soon on our website!

Pony Crew - Conservancy board member, Bobbi Woolwine, is the liaison for this excellent program run by Nancy Cornish, with several helpers. Plans are in the works to further structure the program to add value and streamline the curriculum for the leaders - but for now, it is running well, bringing so much education and joy to those attending. Details will be on the website very soon - about how to join, who can join, etc.

Docent Program - Under Construction! We have one volunteer ready to docent twice a month starting in February - she will help us refine our "script" and recruit others! Interested?

For pictures of our projects as we go along, follow us:

Instagram **instalcf**

Facebook **@littlecreekfarmconservancy**

A special note: Many know that Dekalb County Barn Supervisor, Jamie Hodges' last day was December 31, 2021. She brought a special something to Little Creek Horse Farm & Park, and we are so happy that she is staying on as a boarder and volunteering with the Conservancy through our Hands on Horses program. Thank you, Jamie, for your hard work and being a part of the community here.

A new Barn Supervisor has not yet been announced by the County. Rosemary Crump-Sims has been acting as Interim Supervisor, and we are grateful for her work to keep things running as smoothly as possible. We appreciate all of the Dekalb staff members here so much.

There are so many of you who give quietly and constantly to the Conservancy and the Park. You are amazing!

Please reach out for questions or comments - we love to hear from you.

Happy 2022 from the Board of Directors!

Rene Iverson, President

Lynn Leonard, Vice President

Peggy Berg, Treasurer

Nick Thompson, Secretary

Bobbi Woolwine, At Large