

# Little Creek Farm Conservancy Annual Report 2022



Sprinkles & Keegan escorted by Jamie: Dinosaur party at Little Creek

# From the President...

What a year! In May, I became leader of a talented and dedicated group of people (our Board and countless other volunteers)...and we've been busy.

Introducing folks safely to the Park and its happy equine residents is a top priority, and we are thankful that a return to programming was possible this past year. Hands on Horses, Pony Parties, special groups and barn chore volunteer management have been running successfully since mid-2021. Facilitating someone's first touch with a horse fills our souls and keeps us working hard on fundraising and assisting with Park improvements that keep the horses safe, healthy and happy.

2021 was the 17th year of Conservancy support for this Dekalb County Park. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the County and the public good by directly impacting special projects and programming here. This Park is truly a gem - come see us in 2022!

Rene Iverson, President



Rene Iverson, LCFC President with Sprinkles, Program mini

# Little Creek Farm Conservancy Leadership

Partnering with [DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs](#), the mission of Little Creek Farm Conservancy, Inc. is to promote stewardship of Little Creek Horse Farm and Park for equine activities, including educational and recreational outreach programs for the general public.

## BOARD

President, Rene Iverson

[president@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:president@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org)

Vice President, Lynn Leonard

[vicepresident@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:vicepresident@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org)

Treasurer, Peggy Berg

[treasurer@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:treasurer@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org)

Secretary, Nick Thompson

[secretary@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:secretary@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org)

At-Large Community Liaison, Bobbi Woolwine

[outreach@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](mailto:outreach@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org)

## COMMITTEE LEADERS

Membership:	Jane Donofrio
Volunteers:	Karen Maloney
Hands on Horses:	Lynn Leonard
Pony Crew:	Nancy Cornish
Communications:	Karen Maloney
Safety & Security:	Peggy Berg
Environmental:	Bobbi Woolwine
Trees:	Dana McDaniel
Recycling:	Jenny McQuiston
Fly Control:	Nancy Scott
Birthdays/Celebrations:	Valerie Morvan

# Membership

Our membership fell to **68** in the aftermath of park closures and the pandemic. The coming year will be a time of rebuilding because member support is vital to the Farm.

To join and learn about the many ways to enjoy Little Creek visit: [www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org](http://www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org)

Member Meetings (virtual and live) are open to the public; dates announced at: [www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org](http://www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org)



Cooper & Janey Kate as Velma and Scooby Doo



# Friends of Little Creek Horse Farm & Park

Little Creek Farm Conservancy is an established Friends of the Park (FOP) group through Park Pride.

We are the proud recipient of a Community Building Grant from Park Pride in partnership with Dekalb County Recreations, Parks and Cultural Affairs.

With this matching grant, LCFC funds will match Park Pride funds to install a visitors' center, add a new security gate, and implement a signage program throughout the park.



Trees Atlanta planting Spring 2021

# Volunteer Program

Our big volunteer days couldn't happen in 2021, but smaller groups and individual volunteers painted fences, maintained creeks and trails, planted and supported the Park.

Horses don't know about the pandemic, they just need clean stalls, time in the pasture and care. So, when staffing became a challenge, LCFC volunteers stepped up virtually every day to clean stalls, throw hay, bring horses in and generally help-out.



Volunteer workday



# Environmental Committee

The Park is home to diverse flora and fauna – wild as well as domesticated. There were other sightings this year, hawks and owls, fish and frogs, and many others.

Over **75** species observed at Little Creek

<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L7492764>

The Environmental Committee brings together people from the community who are interested in supporting our local ecosystem. This year, Georgia Audubon habitat restoration work is complete.

Little Creek joined a network of certified wildlife sanctuaries across Georgia to counter the loss and degradation of wildlife habitat.



Newly certified Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary restoration

# Hands on Horses

Updated in November 2021, Hand-on-Horses brings smiles to the faces of families.

- *Our first visit was arranged by a daughter as a surprise for her Mom, who rode in younger years. It was a joy to see her delight as she encountered Al and Nancy in front of the barn.*
- *A family with twins was mesmerized by Jamie's riding demonstration on Volare.*
- *Reba, Moxie, Sprinkles and Boone starred for a family's Level 2 Hands on Horses.*

Thank you to our volunteers for sharing their time and equine knowledge to introduce the public to our horses at Little Creek!

You can book Level 1 or Level 2 Hands on Horses at:

[www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org/handsonhorses](http://www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org/handsonhorses)



Al shares the love



# Pony Crew

Pony Crew meets Saturdays from 9 - 11 am. It is open to ages 7+ (yes, adults, too!), who want to learn about horses and the barn.

Since Pony Crew started in October 2021:

## **Volunteers logged 168.5 hours**

Mucking stalls, sweeping the aisles, raking the arena, cleaning tack, and grooming and tacking horses. They've learned about hoof care with a farrier, braided manes and tails for a show, talked about horse nutrition and homemade horse treats, engaged in Horse Speak training which teaches horse behavior and how to communicate with horses, had Masterson method horse massage training, and played all sorts of horse inspired games.

Pony Crew is currently full! Look for information coming soon on about joining the crew in the future.



Pony Crew at work and play

# Birthday Parties at Little Creek

Birthday parties and other celebrations are now available at the Farm through Little Creek Farm Conservancy.

Children visit with the ponies up close, engage with a big horse demonstration, play at the Park and enjoy horsey cupcakes to celebrate their special day with their friends.

Information and booking at  
[www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org](http://www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org).



He had "the best birthday party ever"

# Halloween Costume Party and Parade

The most colorful annual event at Little Creek is the annual Halloween Costume Party, when horses and their humans dress up and strut in the Little Creek Parade.

The event this year was kept in-house and small because of COVID.

Horses and humans were paired in costume as the Scooby Doo Crew, Bride and Groom, Dinosaurs and more. 2021's winner was the Pink Panther (Starlight).

Thank you to all participants!



Believe in her bride's costume



# Stall Windows

Our biggest capital project in 2021 was purchasing and installing stall windows. Horses are social creatures and only feel safe when they have the comfort of other horses – their herd – watching over them. The new windows let them socialize and give them the comfort of the herd.

Windows were funded through boarder donations to the Conservancy. Installation was a team effort including DeKalb County workers and lots of Conservancy volunteer labor.



Al checks out his new view

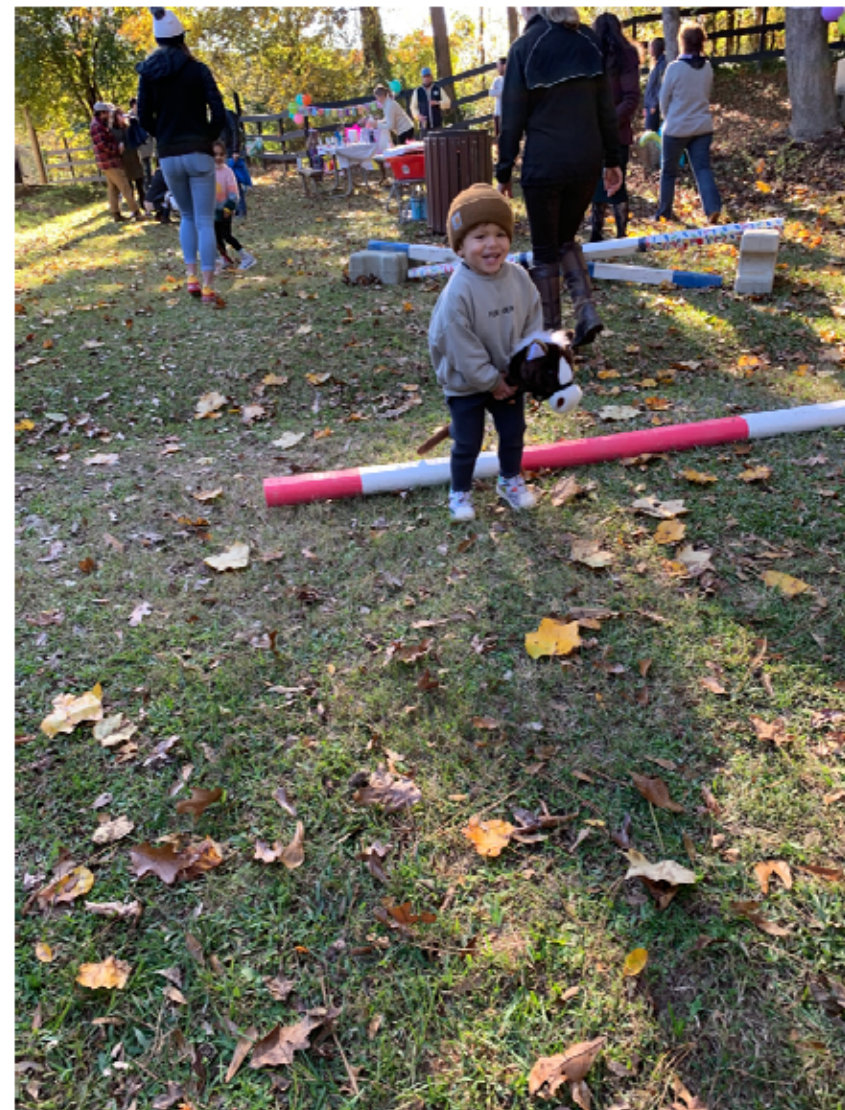
# Equestrian Programs

The three equestrian programs at Little Creek are the best public introduction to large animals and farms in DeKalb County. LCFC is proud to support these programs.

Riding Lessons are provided through Mark's Riding School and Atlanta Riding Academy while Equine Assisted Therapy is provided by Stride Ahead.

For contact information:

[www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org](http://www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org)



Celebrating at Little Creek



# Atlanta Riding Academy

Atlanta Riding Academy offers lessons in hunt seat equitation and promotes horsemanship education at Little Creek Horse Farm.

In 2021 Atlanta Riding:

- Maintained a client roster of 38 students.
- Assisted in a tree restoration project that successfully planted over 20 new trees on the west side of the property.
- Hosted 3 "virtual" horse shows that combined class time, quizzes and videos to create socially distant competitions for clients.
- In August, Atlanta Riding welcomed a new horse, Remedy, now in training.



Vic and Ink



# Mark's Riding School

Mark Jaglarz shares his 40+ years of professional horsemanship through English riding and jumping lessons. Group and private lessons with Mark and his assistant Brad are a joy for ages eight to eighty.

Meet **Flynn**, a Welsh Pony and Mark's newest lesson horse. Now training riders.

2021 stats for Mark's Riding School:

- Current roster: **30** students
- Weekly average: **35-40** lessons per week



Flynn: Now giving lessons with Mark

# Stride Ahead

Equine-assisted therapy is back in service at Little Creek and ramping up post-COVID. The horses and their volunteer humans have been in training to step up this special service. Capacity is now available for additional clients.

Clients include students with disabilities, veterans working through PTSD, and others who benefit from this special service.

Visit [www.strideahead.org](http://www.strideahead.org) for details.



Nash: Stride Ahead's newest

# Financial Results

In 2020 LCFC invested **\$23,454** in improvements to the barn, pastures, and paddocks and farm supplies, in addition to volunteer contributions of time, energy and materials.

LCFC had revenues of **\$33,690**. Net proceeds are invested in DeKalb County's unique Little Creek Horse Farm & Park.

100% of net proceeds are invested here at DeKalb County's Little Creek Horse Farm and Park.



## Little Creek Farm Conservancy, Inc. Statement of Activity

January - December 2021

Revenue	
4100 Donations/Sponsorships	18,988.42
4200 Membership Dues	2,300.00
4300 Gate/Tickets/Fees	824.59
4800 Other Revenue	<u>11,577.09</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 33,690.10
Expenditures	
5100 Administration	6,216.72
5150 Bank & Merchant Fees	184.37
5200 Contractors/Labor	3,252.40
5400 Food & Beverage	585.15
5500 Marketing & Communications	725.72
5700 Project Materials	18,944.18
5800 Supplies	<u>1,257.01</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 31,165.55
Net Revenue	<u>\$ 2,524.55</u>



# Financial Position

LCFC has **\$93,766** in funds for projects and matching grants to support Little Creek Horse Farm & Park, as of December 31, 2021.

LCFC is in the process of investing with DeKalb County to implement a \$50,000 matching grant from Park Pride on DeKalb County approved projects at this Park.



# Why Donate?

The Conservancy is a 100% volunteer run 501c(3) non-profit. Funds donated stay in this Park, for:

- Capital Improvements
- Community Programs
- Events

For information and to donate visit:

[www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org](http://www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org)

You can also make Little Creek Farm Conservancy your preferred charitable organization for Amazon Smile, Kroger Community Rewards and Paypal Giving funds. Each contributes a small percentage of your purchases to LCFC.

[www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org/shopgive](http://www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org/shopgive)



Sunset over the grass arena

# DeKalb County's Remarkable Horse Park

LCFC thanks the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Management team; Director Chuck Ellis, Division Manager David Flaherty, and the barn staff.

The horse park is a unique asset for DeKalb County. LCFC is proud to support the good work of the County's team.

LCFC is dedicated to keeping the Park's community informed. Check us out!



Readying the Audubon Bird Sanctuary

2,500 Facebook fans [www.facebook.com/littlecreekfarmconservancy](http://www.facebook.com/littlecreekfarmconservancy)  
278 Instagram followers #instalcfc [www.instagram.com/instalcfc](http://www.instagram.com/instalcfc)  
1000+ Email subscribers - sign up at [www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org](http://www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org)!



