

Little Creek Farm
Conservancy

Annual Report 2023



Drinking buddies at Little Creek

From the President...

A remarkable year of investment.

2022 was the 18th year of Conservancy support for this Dekalb County Park. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the County and the public by directly impacting special projects and programming at the Farm.

On deck for this year - more pony rides (sponsorship opportunities!), more tours, more improvements. *We need hands on leaders for programs, website support and fundraising help....reach out if that's you.* And thank you from the bottom of our hooves to all who support the Conservancy and the Park in so many ways, large and small. You are the heart and soul of Little Creek.

Haven't visited? Get in touch - come meet our amazing equine and human volunteers. It will change your day for the better, and maybe even change your life forever... that's what happened to me!

Rene Iverson, President



2022 Park Pride Inspiration Award Recipients (I'm in purple) Thank you to my colleagues that nominated me - truly honored and surprised! & Thank you, Park Pride and Dekalb Commissioners for supporting our work.

Capital Projects 2022

In 2022, LCFC delivered \$122,255 in major capital improvements: signage, community room, entryway and patio, gathering corral, pony viewing stalls, and more. These projects were funded by donations, fundraisers, and a significant matching grant from Park Pride.



Community Room, Entryway & Patio

The completely renovated and newly furnished community room is now a place for meeting, teaching & learning, meeting docents, organizing events, community outreach, taking a break or lunch and gathering out of the weather.

The Park now has a recognizable entrance immediately in front of the Community Room. A newly poured patio, walkway connecting to the Gathering Corral and standing seam roof change the appearance of the entrance, and new outdoor furnishings create a spot for meetings, lunch, students awaiting their rides and just relaxing.



Construction! One of many steps toward making the Barn a welcoming place for all... everyone is excited about the now finished covered porch

Gathering Corral

The new Gathering Corral activated the barn's side yard. It is now a safe and "corralled" space for birthday parties, pony rides, special events, interacting with the horses and minis, and hand-grazing horses.



Halloween at the Gathering Corral

Mini Ambassadors Viewing Stalls

LCFC identified an unused corner of the Barn and built viewing stalls for two miniature horses. Instant outreach! Sprinkles & Boone are Park ambassadors who work with Little Creek Farm Conservancy to introduce children and families to farm animals.

In a true public partnership with the community, DeKalb County shares in the costs of boarding while the owners of the minis cover all other costs, training and maintenance. Donations to the Conservancy from outreach directly benefit life at the Park for horses and humans.

Sprinkles & Boone bring joy to children at birthday parties, Hands On Horses, and many others who stop by to visit the Park. They have also been traveling ambassadors to local preschools ... a program we cannot wait to expand!



Signage Program

As part of the Community Access matching grant provided by Park Pride, LCFC made an investment in signage throughout the Farm.

- Signage at each gate aids in staff efficiency, maintenance reporting, and safety issues.
- Perimeter signs increase safety of horses & identify park boundaries
- Educational signs about the miniature horses used in programming make the Park more accessible and welcoming to visitors.
- Gate information signage (not pictured) enables access for vehicles and pedestrians at the Park's new secure entry gate.



Friends of Little Creek Horse Farm & Park

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

Together with DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs, we have been deploying a Community Building Grant. Awarded over a year ago, the \$50,000 grant was matched by a \$50,000 investment from LCFC. It covered significant projects including community room, entry patio, signage, and gathering corral.

DeKalb County installed a security gate that was part of the original grant as a direct park improvement. This allowed Park Pride and LCFC funds to complete the new community access facilities.



Al and Eastern Phoebe

Events & Programs 2022

In 2022, LCFC completely redesigned its Pony Ride program. The new format includes pony rides, petting zoo and crafts. With the new format, the Conservancy plans to offer pony rides to the community 3 times in 2022 and plans to expand the program in 2023.



Joy at the petting zoo – pony ride days

Pony Ride Days

A new format for Pony Rides in 2022! Instead of one large event, the Conservancy delivered:

- 3 Pony Rides days
- Serving **300** children, with over **400** accompanying adults

The pony carousel is perfect for kids up to 100 lbs. A petting zoo and horse-themed crafts round out the day. These events are outreach and fundraising combined....with a percentage of complimentary tickets offered to nearby non-profits to ensure everyone gets a chance to play.

Look for more scheduled Pony Ride dates at LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org; sign up for our mailing list to receive notifications.



Sweet Ponies!

Hands on Horses

LCFC delivered Hand-on-Horses events to over **150** happy people in 2022 and will expand for 2023. Sprinkles and Boone, the mini horses, are now an active part of Hands-On-Horses, enabling visitors of all ages to interact close-up with the Park's resident horses.

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

You can book Hands on Horses at:
www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org/handsonhorses



Hands on Horses volunteers share educational and fun horse facts, while Sprinkles and Boone demonstrate how horses graze - they are experts!

Pony Crew

Pony Crew meets Saturdays from 9 - 11 am for a 10-week program in the Spring and again in the Fall. It is open to ages 7+ (yes, adults, too!), who want to learn about horses and the barn.

Mucking stalls, sweeping the aisles, raking the arena, cleaning tack, 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.

Look for information at www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org to join the crew.



Micah during the 2022 freeze - 8 degrees F outside

Birthday Parties at Little Creek

Birthday parties and other celebrations are available at the Park 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 friends. Parties are customized for different ages.

Excited happy birthday groups in 2022: **10**

Funds raised for the Farm: **\$2,500**

For information and booking:

<https://littlecreekfarmconservancy.org/parties/>



Exploring the horse's world

Halloween Costume Party & 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.

Horses and humans were paired in costume as a latte and barista, geishas, Darth Vader, an Imperial Storm Trooper and many more.

Thank you to all participants and to Dover Saddlery for sponsoring prizes!



Keegan and her noble steed - Sprinkles

Environmental Committee

77 bird species are observed at Little Creek and tracked at: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L7492764> from the tiny Peewee and Siskin to large owls and herons. We also have frogs, otters, deer, raccoons and many other Park residents.

The Environmental Committee brings together people from the community who are interested in supporting our local ecosystem. In 2022 we improved the Georgia Audubon habitat with paver stones under the spreading oak by the creek and habitat flora grew in.

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



Volunteer Program

In 2022, LCFC volunteers contributed throughout the Park.

- Supporting staff by cleaning stalls, dusting, sweeping, filling waters, and more
- Bringing the community in through Hands on Horses, birthday parties, Pony Crew, Pony Rides events, and interacting with visitors who stop by the Farm
- Improving facilities and grounds by pulling weeds, gardening, planting, trimming, painting
- Working with volunteer groups from corporations and the community on workdays



Emory Day of Service volunteers bring gravel to improve a pedestrian walkway - thanks!

Equestrian Programs 2022

Three equestrian programs at Little Creek offer a remarkable service, making large animals and farming accessible to 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 information:
www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org



New friends – future equestrian

Atlanta Riding Academy

Atlanta Riding Academy offers lessons in hunt seat equitation and promotes horsemanship education at Little Creek Horse Farm. In 2022 Atlanta Riding:

- Attended Certified Horsemanship Association's national conference for riding instructors
- Maintained a client roster of **38** clients per week
- Started a new process to reduce wait times that introduced **24** new riders to the park
- Relunched the Mounted Games classes for both new riders and experienced riders
- Welcomed 2 new horses: Frenchie and Orbit
- Added instructional videos to the curriculum that includes 2-minute tutorials and client video reviews



Mounted Games

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 **Goldie**, Mark's newest very lovable lesson horse. Now training riders.

Mark's Riding School is now delivering **44** lessons weekly.



Goldie: Now giving lessons with Mark

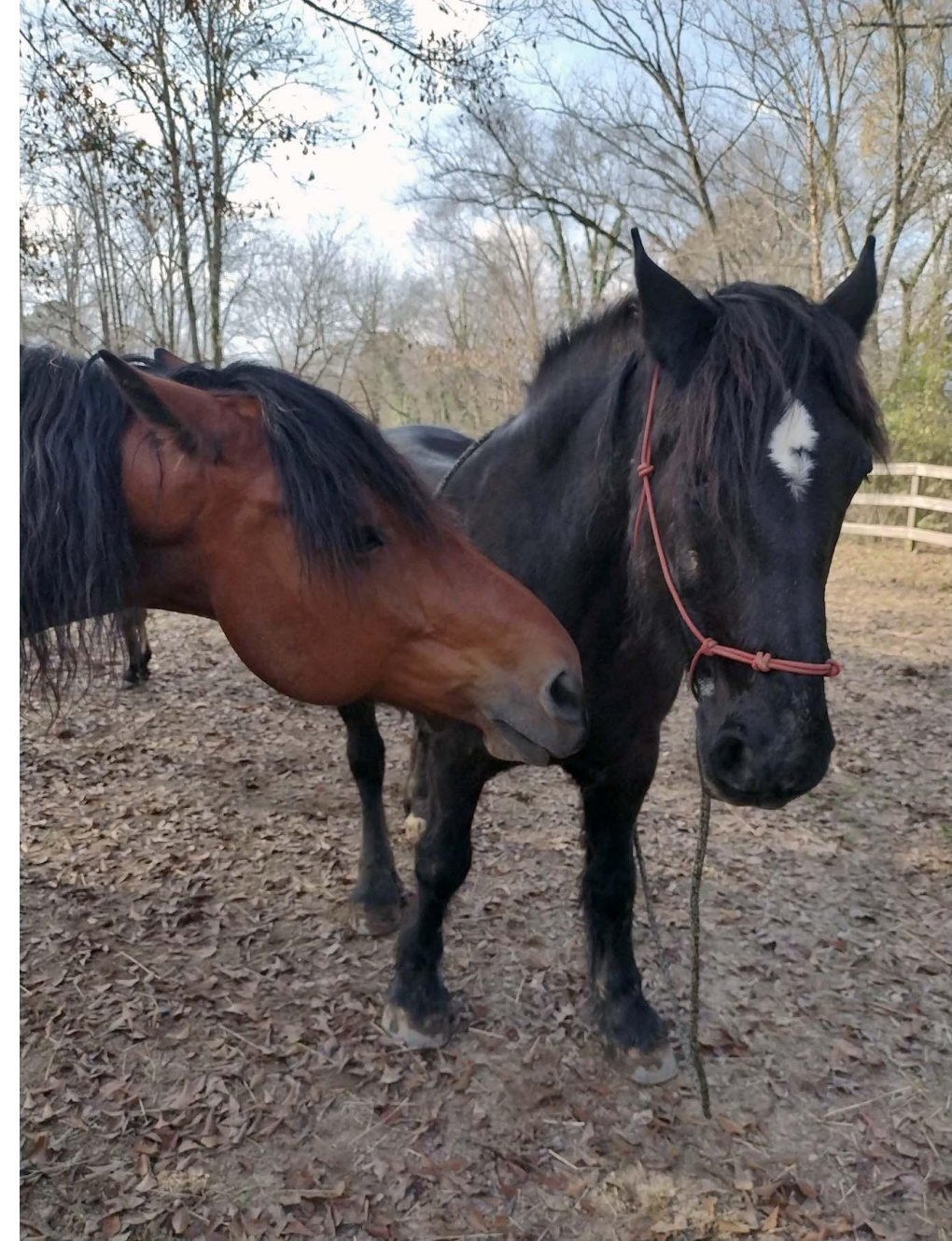
Stride Ahead

Stride Ahead's mission is to help those in need to reach their highest potential.

Delivering **26** classes per week.

- Equine-assisted therapy for children, teens and adults with disabilities.
- Equine Stress Relief for frontline medical workers, teachers and veterans.
- EAP (Equine Assisted Psychotherapy) and EAL (Equine Assisted Learning) led by mental health professionals and equine specialists.

For more information: Pam Smith, Program Director,
pashme01@gmail.com or www.strideahead.org .



Micah and Officer Jake

Little Creek Farm Conservancy Results 2022

LCFC is proud to support the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Management team; Director Chuck Ellis, Division Manager David Flaherty, Barn Supervisor, Tamara Dillard, and the barn staff.

For program and other information:
www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org



Boone “clacking” to Believe – “I’m just a baby, protect me”

Financial Results

In 2022 LCFC invested **\$32,255** 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 **\$28,320**.

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 2022

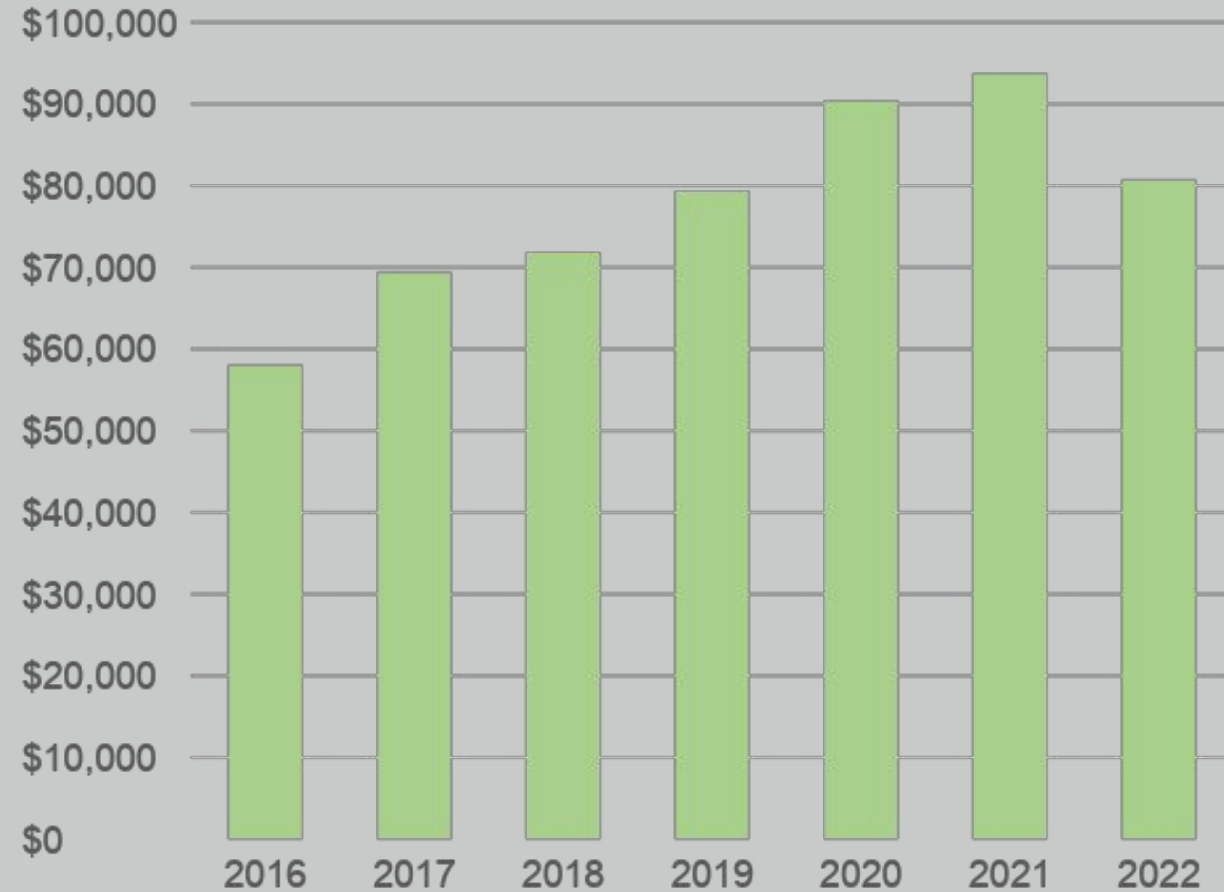
Revenue	
4100 Donations/Sponsorships	9,296.43
4200 Membership Dues	1,518.63
4300 Gate/Tickets/Fees	13,862.61
4400 Non-Profit Revenue	632.50
4700 Vendors/Auction	2,825.31
4800 Other Revenue	185.14
Total Revenue	\$ 28,320.62
Expenses	
5100 Administration	5,154.70
5150 Bank & Merchant Fees	350.32
5200 Contractors/Labor	28,223.42
5300 Donations from LCFC	255.93
5500 Marketing & Communications	379.93
5700 Project Materials	5,099.72
5800 Supplies	1,931.43
Total Expenses	\$ 41,395.45
Net Revenue	-\$ 13,074.83

Financial Position

LCFC has **\$80,723** in funds of which about half will be paid on the Park Pride matching grant in February 2023.

LCFC will invest over **\$50,000** in 2021, 2022 and early 2023 through DeKalb County to implement the matching grant from Park Pride. DeKalb County approved projects approved the projects and managed the construction.

LCFC Fund Balance



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

Vice President, Nick Thompson

vicepresident@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org

Treasurer, Peggy Berg

treasurer@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org

Secretary, Jamie Hodges

secretary@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org

At-Large Community Liaison, Bobbi Woolwine

outreach@littlecreekfarmconservancy.org

COMMITTEE LEADERS

Membership: Deborah Slatten

Volunteers: Karen Maloney

Hands on Horses: Christy Rosenblatt

Pony Crew: Nancy Cornish

Safety & Security: Karen Maloney

Environmental: Bobbi Woolwine

Trees: Dana McDaniel

Recycling: Jenny McQuiston

Fly Control: Nancy Scott

Bookkeeping: Nancy Scott

Birthdays/Celebrations: Valerie Morvan

Support Little Creek Farm Conservancy

We are rebuilding membership post-pandemic because member support is vital to the Farm.

Member Meetings are open to the public. LCFC is a 100% volunteer run 501c(3) non-profit. Funds donated stay in this Park, for programs and capital improvements.

You can also make Little Creek Farm Conservancy your preferred charitable organization for Amazon Smile, Kroger Community Rewards and Paypal Giving fund.

To support Little Creek through membership and donations, visit:

www.LittleCreekFarmConservancy.org



Photo booth with Wallee, our training horse