



Little Creek Farm Conservancy.
P.O. Box 33862 Decatur, Georgia 30033
www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org



Little Creek Farm Conservancy Capital Campaign 2011

Horses Change Lives.

They inspire us in so many ways. They provide peace and tranquility. They give our children confidence and self-esteem. Little Creek horses and riders deserve the very best, safest environment for both work and play. Please give generously to support the renovation of our arenas.

Background

A former dairy farm and Civil War rest stop, Little Creek Farm is today a Dekalb County Parks & Recreation facility that is home to 45 horses. Situated along Lawrenceville Highway inside the I-285 loop, near North Dekalb Mall in Dekalb County, Little Creek Farm is a convenient and serene resource for Dekalb County's residents and horse enthusiasts.

The farm, which was owned by the same family since before the Civil War, provided a welcome respite for Union soldiers during the Battle of Atlanta in 1864. Soldiers camped along South Peachtree Creek, which runs through the farm and across both main pastures. During the 1920s, Little Creek became a dairy farm, and then a horse farm in 1958.

In 2004, Dekalb County purchased the farm for \$4.4 million. Six years later, the County finished a \$1 million renovation of the 40,000-square-foot barn, complete with 47 stalls, an indoor arena, wash stalls, a lounge and handicapped-accessible restrooms. These improvements were paid for through a 2006 parks bond. The farm also has an outdoor riding arena, a round pen, and riding trails through 15 acres of farm and woodlands.

All public programs at the farm are sponsored and managed by the Little Creek Farm Conservancy, a non-profit organization that also raises money through events and membership fees to support educational outreach and farm maintenance.



Imminent Challenges & Concerns

Like many government bodies these days, Dekalb County is facing serious budget deficits, and there are no funds currently earmarked for improvements at Little Creek Farm.

Meanwhile, Little Creek's outdoor arena is deteriorating rapidly, and the indoor arena needs new footing. In addition, the sand in the indoor arena should be replaced with a denser ground-fill that is less troublesome to the horses' (and human) respiratory systems.

These deficient conditions create an environment that is not safe for our horses or their owners/riders. Failure to address the problems could reasonably result in boarders leaving in favor of better, safer conditions elsewhere. More importantly, asking horses to work on unsafe footing is one of the leading causes of injury.

These needed improvements can only be made through the efforts of the Little Creek Farm Conservancy, the boarders and others who love the farm and its horses.



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The Conservancy

The Little Creek Farm Conservancy was formed in 2004 to organize boarders and foster their participation in, and development of, programs and events that invited citizens of DeKalb County to visit and enjoy Little Creek. These programs were presented when purchase of Little Creek Farm was under review—and the initiative formed the basis for the Conservancy's partnership with Dekalb County in 2005.

Since then, the Conservancy has expanded to include citizens who do not ride or board horses at Little Creek Farm but value, as we do, the farm's role in the community. Many more citizens now visit and enjoy Little Creek than ever before. They benefit from and enjoy interaction with the horses, the green space and camaraderie.

The Conservancy offers many volunteer opportunities to members and the public, who can participate in Little Creek special events such as the Fall Festival, Pony Rides, Clean-up Days, Horse Shows and Conservancy-sponsored seminars. Seminar topics have included leg care and colic. In addition, many volunteers currently offer their services to Stride Ahead, an Equine-Assisted Therapy program.

Individuals and groups also help with special projects related to maintenance, including work with invasive plants and clearance of paths and creek areas.

Conservancy Goals, Values & Achievements

The mission of the Little Creek Farm Conservancy, Inc. is to promote the stewardship of Little Creek Farm for activities, including education, environmental and recreational programs for the general public.

In partnership with Dekalb County, the Little Creek Farm Conservancy provides support to management for maintenance of the pastures at Little Creek. The Conservancy also assists with maintenance of the arena and routinely provides landscaping through special events.

For example, the Conservancy places fly predators in the pastures annually, to control flies. Through outreach, the Conservancy provides community programs and field trips for children, seniors and special needs groups. The Conservancy also supports Stride Ahead in its Equine Assisted Therapy programs for adults, children and veterans.

The Conservancy strives to provide and maintain a safe environment for Little Creek's horses and the people who work, play, learn and ride at the farm.

Request

Due to Dekalb County's budget deficits, it cannot provide funding for any of the needed improvements.

The cost for improvements to the footing of the indoor arena and complete renovation of the outdoor arena is \$50,000. The Conservancy has already raised \$20,000 of needed funds. Therefore, our goal is to raise an additional \$30,000 in order to cover the renovation.

Those of us whose lives are enriched through our experiences at Little Creek Farm can make a true difference by making a contribution that signifies our appreciation of what we gain here.

The long-term impact of these improvements will provide our horses, members and farm visitors with a safe and healthy environment.

Contributions can be made in full, or in installment payments via **paypal** at www.littlecreekfarmconservancy.org
Credit cards will be accepted.