

Planning Process

Overview

The Oakridge planning process consisted of preliminary focus group meetings and a three-day charrette with an invited steering committee, key JCPRD staff and a Board member punctuated by daily community involvement meetings. Community comments in relation to the desired uses for the site are included throughout the document. The planning process was completed as follows:

Planning Schedule

- ◆ **Inventory and Analysis** - September/October 2006
- ◆ **Equestrian User Group Focus Meeting** - October 17th, 2006: Individuals who board horses at Oakridge Stables and other equestrian users joined the consultant team for a question and answer forum in which they shared their likes and dislikes of the current Oakridge Farm, as well as what they would like to see happen with the stables, Mack house and Farm.
- ◆ **General User Group Focus Meeting** - October 28th, 2006: All other park users and neighbors of the park were invited to this question and answer session during which they were encouraged to share their likes and dislikes as well as what they would like to see happen at Oakridge Farm. A hayride tour of the site was planned but poor weather conditions required cancellation.
- ◆ **Charrette Day One** - November 1st, 2006: Analysis and Park Programming.
 - » During the morning, the consultant team and District staff met with the steering committee to review the wants and desires of those who participated in the user group meetings, prepared project goals and brainstormed an Owner wish list.
 - » A Focus Group meeting with senior District staff was held to discuss funding and feasibility.
 - » The Design Team brainstormed the park's theme/story and uses for the house.
 - » Site analysis was mapped and summary notes for the morning meeting were prepared.
 - » Diagrams of both site and house design ideas were prepared that began to put shape to the ideas and suggestions of the constituents.
 - » At the end of the day, a public pin-up session was well-attended and additional insight was offered by the public for molding these concepts.
- ◆ **Charrette Day Two** - November 2nd, 2006: Alternative Generation.
 - » The Design Team held Focus Group meetings with the Chair of the Kanza Group

of the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, Elaine Giessel; Ron Freyermuth, Director of Public Works and Doug Wesselschmidt, City Engineer from Shawnee, Kansas; and with Bill Cobb, the Superintendent of Parks and Golf Courses; Bill McGowan, Interpretive Program Manager; and Grant Evans, Shawnee Mission Park Manager.

- » The consultant team presented the product of day one's public pin-up session to the staff and Steering Committee.
- » The team produced sketches, assimilated programming ideas for the Mack house, and refined the concepts utilizing the community input received.
- » A public engagement session elicited additional valuable input and continued guidance toward the preparation of the final draft plan.

◆ **Charrette Day Three** - November 9th, 2006: Preferred Alternative/Public Open House. The Design Team:

- » Narrowed the design concepts to one preferred alternative for the site and buildings and produced sketches to explain the park concept
- » Met with the Steering Committee to present the preferred alternative
- » Finalized the graphic boards for presentation at the Open House.

- » Hosted a Public Open House to present the community's vision of what Oakridge Farm should be in final draft form. An additional round of comments was collected on this version of the plan for use in finalizing the concept for the final steering committee meeting and Park Board approval.

◆ **Oakridge Master Plan Final Review Session**—January 31st, 2007: Steering Committee Review. In this session, the consultant team met with the Steering Committee to review the Master Plan and supporting documents to ensure the final product aligned with the Steering Committee's vision for Oakridge. Final input from the Steering Committee was incorporated into the Master Plan for presentation to the Park Board in March.

◆ **Park Board Work Session and Public Meeting**—March 28th, 2007: At the Committee of the Whole (Committee) meeting prior to the Johnson County Park and Recreation District Board regular monthly meeting, the consultant team presented to the public and the Committee the initial proposed Oakridge Farm Master Plan. After reviewing the proposed plan, the board directed staff and consultants to continue the planning process and to develop alternative uses for the area currently being used for the boarding of privately-owned horses.

◆ **Public Planning Forum**—May 1st, 2007: As part of the continued planning process, a Public Planning Forum was held at the District Administration Building on

Tuesday, May 1st to develop new ideas for the portion of the initial plan that was designated equestrian boarding. The consultant team subsequently drafted a revised version of the master plan that reflected the input from the planning forum in alternative “Option A and Option B” format. (See appendix for details.)

- ◆ **Final Committee of the Whole Public Presentation, Hearing and Approval**—May 16, 2007: Prior to the Park Board’s regular monthly meeting, the consultants presented the revised Master Plan in a public open house review. Later that same evening, during its regular monthly meeting, the



*“Horse User Group”
—Focus Group Meeting*

*“General User Group”
—Focus Group Meeting*



Board voted to accept the revised plan with both options related to the horse boarding operation included, agreeing that a decision on whether to implement the plan with or without stables would be made by the Board at a later date.

- ◆ **On August 15th, 2007**, at the Park Board's regular monthly meeting, the Board made a motion to adopt "Option B" of the approved master plan, which calls for the removal of the horse boarding operation, making it the official and final plan for Oakridge Farm.

Their adoption of Option B came with the following contingencies:
As part of the annual boarding

contract renewal process on January 1, 2008, each boarder is provided a 15-month horse boarding contract with notice of removal of the "12-month advance notice of termination" clause from the contracts. The new contracts provide 60-day contract extensions beginning April 1, 2009, and continue until staff determine the boarding facility is no longer compatible with development of the property or that it is no longer feasible to operate the facility at Oakridge Farm due to boarder attrition. The matter is to be returned to the Board when appropriate for formal action to close the facility.

*Decisions in the master planning process reflect the community goals set forth in **Map 2020**.*

