

EQUESTRIAN CENTER

MASTER PLAN FY 2008-2012

I. MISSION. The Equestrian Center provides a recreational and learning experience in horseback riding and care of horses for residents of Lake of the Woods and their guests.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES. The Equestrian Center operates under the direction of the Stables Manager and reports directly to the General Manager. The Equestrian Committee is advisory to the General Manager and works cooperatively with the Stables Manager with regard to policies, operations, maintenance, promotion, and new capital funding requests.

III. GOALS.

A. Teaching. Conduct a program in accordance with the rules and standards of professional competition and safety to provide a meaningful learning opportunity for members and their children.

B. Competition. Encourage students and other members to compete in programs and events in the region. A student may start as a beginner and become a qualified rider. The Center has the capability to trailer horses to shows outside LOW.

C. Horse Care. Teach the care and feeding of horses as an important part of the learning experience.

IV. Background. The Equestrian Center has been a part of LOW since its inception and provides an important source of recreation and education. It provides LOW an attraction that is not available in most other communities, thus giving LOW an amenity sought by an element of new home seekers.

V. Operations.

A. Site. The center operates on approximately six acres located on Tally-ho Lane.

B. Capacity. The center can board 21 horses. LOWA typically owns seven horses for members use and rents the remaining stable spaces. There is a demand for additional stable space that the current site limitations do not allow. The greatest need is for a larger site or ready access to a site that would provide natural grazing areas for the horses.

C. Program. The Center normally operates seven days a week. Its programs include planned activities and shows both within LOW and the central Virginia area.

D. Trails. There is access to riding trails in the Wilderness National Park adjacent to the equestrian center.

VI. Five Year Plan.

A. Capital. New capital expenditures are planned.

1. Small Ring Lighting. A minimum expenditure would allow lighting of the small ring. Currently only one lesson can be given in the after school hours secondary to darkness. Two or more lessons could be given each day if there was adequate lighting. Lighting would also allow working boarders a chance to ride in the evening rather than weekends only.

2. Small Ring Covering. A greater need is covering the small ring with lighting under the cover. This would achieve two purposes. Covering the ring would allow lessons during inclement weather and allow boarders more time to enjoy pleasure riding. Installing lighting under the roof would reduce any lighting impact on surrounding homes. It is best if the lighting and covering were installed simultaneously.

B. Future Plans. To maintain a robust riding program to meet the needs of LOW members, it is essential that a larger site be made available for the Equestrian Center. This site could be within or outside of current LOW boundaries. A new site would ideally allow a larger stable with the capacity to board more horses, a natural grass grazing area, expanded programs, while retaining access to riding trails in the national park. Options for land lease, land swap with the National Park Service, or land acquisition were explored in the Land Use Update Study without success.

C. Phase II Implementation Plan. Equestrian Center options will be explored during the Phase II Implementation Plan of the Land Use Update Study.

Projected Costs of Projects follow:

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	YEAR
Lighting the small ring alternative		08
Covering and lighting the small ring alternative		08