

# Basis for Decision-Making

## Precedent Guiding Recommendations

The following are recommendations and desires from the various constituents expressed during the various public input sessions. Included are pointers from the JCPRD strategic plan, *MAP 2020*, and wants of the Mack family, interest groups, staff, neighbors and park patrons

### Map 2020 Recommendations

#### For Shawnee Mission Park

*Map 2020* classifies Shawnee Mission Park as a large regional park and an “exceptional resource that possesses a balanced approach to preserving natural areas while providing extensive recreation facilities.” The following list of recommendations is for Shawnee Mission Park as they may apply to Oakridge Farm:

- ◆ Integrate Oakridge Farm and Tomahawk Recreation Complex into Shawnee Mission Park (e.g. Oakridge Farm at Shawnee Mission Park);
- ◆ Provide a large group shelter;
- ◆ Increase the size of the park through land acquisition;
- ◆ Improve parking areas and add shade trees to reduce heat;
- ◆ Inventory natural resources and create a restoration and management plan for selected areas of the park;
- ◆ Limit new tree and shrub plantings to native species, thus preserving the landscape character and natural history of the region,

and create larger prairie areas and improve wildlife habitat;

- ◆ Changes to the native plant community resulting from the suppression of fires may be reversed through an inventory, assessment and development of a restoration and management plan for existing natural resources;
- ◆ Future landscape improvements at the park should be located and designed to discourage geese; and
- ◆ Reduce maintenance costs by converting some lawn areas to natural vegetation.

#### For Oakridge Farm

The following are recommendations for Oakridge Farm from *MAP 2020*:

- ◆ Prepare a Master Plan that identifies a program that provides improved public access while preserving the park’s natural, peaceful character;
- ◆ Rehabilitate the existing historic residence for administrative offices and for revenue-producing facilities that could accommodate meetings and conferences;
- ◆ Return a substantial portion of the existing pasture to prairie;
- ◆ Remove the existing seven stable buildings and construct a new equestrian operation at the Kill Creek Regional Park;

*Comments welcomed-  
Open House Meeting,  
November 2nd, 2006*



- ◆ Connect Oakridge Farm to the Mill Creek Streamway trails;
- ◆ Identify Oakridge Farm as a portion of Shawnee Mission Park and not as a separate park;
- ◆ Improve those portions of Ogg Road under the District's jurisdiction to improve access to the site; and
- ◆ Restore prairie areas and woodlands on the site.

## 2006 User Group Meetings

The Design Team compiled a list of the top most-voiced concerns and desires from the user group meetings. That list follows. A

*"Public Pin-up"—  
Open House Meeting,  
November 1st, 2006*



*Pasture board is one of  
the main reasons the  
boarders are there.*



full record of notes taken during the user group meetings is included in the appendix of this document.

### General User Group:

1. Currently not enough access for the public to Oakridge
2. Need parking on-site
3. We like the horses and stables operation
4. We want more unpaved trails
5. The less development the better
6. Multi-use and separate trails desired
7. We need shelters
8. We could stage events and mountain bike races with enough miles of trails that loop appropriately.
9. Trails need to be mapped and signed
10. Need drinking water
11. Need restrooms

### Horse User Group:

1. We are here because of the pasture (finding pasture boarding in this area is increasingly more difficult as time passes)
2. Keep things simple and affordable and family-friendly
3. Fix the fences – remove abandoned fences and wire
4. We need a better bathroom
5. Trails are great, but they need signs and marking
6. Improve communication between the District and the Boarders
7. Separate the sick pen water from the rest of the horses
8. Store/wrap the hay to prevent mold
9. Manage the pastures better. Rotational grazing program should be managed closely

## Products of the 2006 Charrette Process

Through the three-day charrette, the Design Team gathered input and opinion from various constituents and assembled the following vision and program for Oakridge Farm.

### Design Principals for Creating a Successful Park:

1. Place 8-10 experiences within the Park
2. Create a level of cost recovery to each element
3. Target a length of stay of 2-3 hours
4. Serve 10 of 14 age segments
5. Provide low touch development
6. Embody environmental responsibilities
7. Connect people to nature, history, culture and each other
8. Create symbiotic relationships

### Park Program

- ◆ The House:
  - » Shared Experience
  - » Meeting of Minds
  - » An Inn
  - » Warming Hut
  - » Private Concession – beer and wine would be nice
- ◆ Multi-use
- ◆ More trails
- ◆ Expand horse operation to more people
- ◆ Provide for:
  - » Watershed Management Education
  - » Environmental Education
  - » Historic Education
  - » Cultural Education
  - » Environmental Art

## A Vision for Oakridge

**Oakridge Farm:** A jewel tucked into north central Johnson County where you can get away without getting lost; where history, ecology, and serenity meet to create endless possibilities.

An inviting place for families to explore nature; providing ways to connect to the living earth, protecting virgin forests, streams and wildlife while expanding education and recreation.



*"Public Pin-up"—  
Open House Meeting,  
November 1st, 2006*



*Perspective View of  
the Proposed  
Mack House  
South Lawn*