

# Introduction

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District's *MAP 2020 Master Action Plan*, published in 2001, classifies Oakridge Farm as a "sub-regional park to be part of adjacent regional park" Shawnee Mission Park. *MAP 2020* recommended the preparation of "a Master Plan that identifies a program that provides improved public access while preserving the park's natural, peaceful character."

Adjacent to the northern boundary of Shawnee Mission Park, a 1,236-acre regional park, Oakridge Farm lies between Midland Drive and West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, on the west side of I-435 Highway in Johnson County, Kansas.

The staff team from Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD), the Patti Banks Associates consultant team and the community gathered and developed a Master Plan for Oakridge Farm, a 363-acre tract of land on the north edge of Shawnee Mission Park. The teams and users came together to take a comprehensive look at the needs

of all park users and how they fit with the potential at Oakridge Farm.

## Goals

The goals of the Master Plan come directly from *MAP 2020*, the current and potential users of Oakridge Farm, the Steering Committee and JCPRD staff as they came together in focus group meetings and public open-houses.

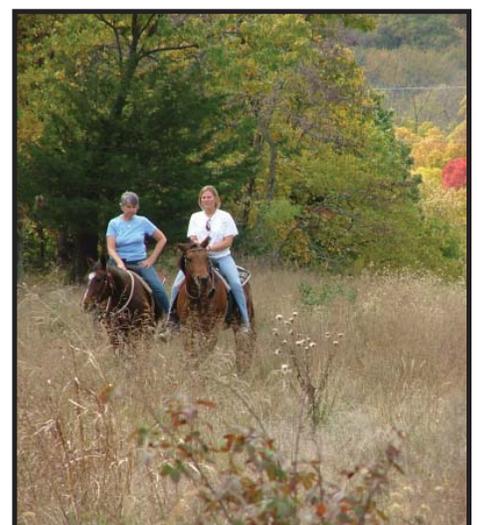
When knitted together, goals from these diverse groups support *MAP 2020's* vision for the park addition, with the exception of one recommendation. The *MAP 2020* recommendation that was not supported by the diverse public input was to "remove the existing seven stable buildings and construct a new equestrian operation at the Kill Creek Regional Park."

A previous attempt at creating a Master Plan for Oakridge Farm followed the recommendation to remove the stable operation and was denied approval by the Park Board due to public outcry from horse owners, park users and other individuals.

*Location map*



The *MAP 2020* Goals are listed on page 17 of this document under "Precedent Guiding Recommendations."



*Horseback riding through Shawnee Mission Park's open space is a treat unlike other riding alternatives in Johnson County.*