

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association****Federal Tax ID: 68-0630678****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association - Cottonwood Horse Park

State Funding Requested: \$10,000**House District: Kenai Areawide (33-35)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Cottonwood Horse Park promotes and encourages activities in the community through educational, recreational, therapeutic, and youth programs.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$317,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$232,000)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	(\$10,000)
Project Deficit:	\$75,000

*Funding Details:**Rasmuson Foundation \$25,000**Jansen Foundation \$15,000**Homer Foundation \$2,978**Individual Contributions \$134,500**American Seafoods \$500**In-kind \$12,022**KBEA \$42,000***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Cottonwood Horse Park is a multi-use park and riding facility for our kids, for our community and for our future. The project includes a 130' x 200' outdoor arena, holding pens, restroom facilities, parking and picnic facilities for bicyclists, hikers, animal enthusiasts and the general public. The park is located on a 3.2 acre parcel of land. This project is the culmination of a years-long search for a site for a horse park by members of the lower Kenai Peninsula horse community.

Located 1.5 miles from downtown Homer on East End Road, Homer, Alaska, Cottonwood Horse Park is strategically located near the Jack Gist Recreational Park for softball. The park links neighborhoods and people into the landscapes, providing opportunities for close-to-home, outdoor recreation and sustainable economic development.

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association's mission is to nurture and educate equine enthusiasts, promote the conservation of green space and encourage development of non-motorized trails to enhance the community.

Project Timeline:

\$10,000 will be used for FY2013 loan repayment (annual payment = \$30,000)

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Roberta Highland
Title: President
Address: P.O. Box 3120
Homer, Alaska 99603
Phone Number: 235-8214
Email: kbayea@gmail.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

Cottonwood Horse Park

A MULTI-USE PARK & RIDING FACILITY

For our kids
For our community
For our future

Sponsored by



Our mission is to nurture and educate equine enthusiasts, promote the conservation of green space and encourage development of non-motorized trails to enhance the community.

P.O. Box 3120
Homer, AK 99603-0021

www.kbayequestrian.org



Sponsored by the Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association, Cottonwood Horse Park promotes and encourages activities in the community through educational, recreational, therapeutic, and youth programs. The non-motorized, multi-use park and riding arena provides a safe environment for interaction between the general public and equine enthusiasts. This park will also provide access to new and existing non-motorized trails in the area.

Parks and trails serve as lifelines linking neighborhoods and people into the landscapes, providing opportunities for close-to-home, outdoor recreation and sustainable economic development.

The project includes a 130' x 200' outdoor arena, holding pens, restroom facilities, parking and picnic facilities for bicyclists, hikers, animal enthusiasts and the general public. The park is located on a 3.2 acre parcel of land. This project is the culmination of a years-long search for a site for a horse park by members of the lower Kenai Peninsula horse community.

Located 1.5 miles from downtown Homer on East End Road, Homer, Alaska, Cottonwood Horse Park is strategically located near the Jack Gist Recreational Park for softball.



Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association is a 501c3. Contributions for Cottonwood Horse Park can be made to KBEA and will be fully tax deductible.





Cottonwood Horse Park

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BENEFIT: Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association (KBEA) is seeking capital acquisition funds to complete the purchase of Cottonwood Horse Park located near Jack Gist Park in Homer.

Development of Cottonwood Horse Park began in 2007, when KBEA secured 501(c)3 status and constructed an arena on 3.29 acres of land acquired through a purchase agreement. During the first three summer seasons events at the horse park drew more than 1,065 participants and 1,535 spectators.

The Horse Park fulfills a goal identified in past Homer recreation plans. During the 2010 season use of the park expanded from horse shows, clinics, and riding lessons to a place for picnics, dog walking, a preschool outdoor adventure club and horse camps. KBEA partnered with the local chapter of Connecting Children with Nature to develop a mud wallow. Also, the community celebrated Estuary Day with a BioBlitz on the property to identify all the organisms in the local park environment.

In 2006 the City of Homer acquired, through donation, .89 acres of land adjacent to the proposed horse park and has stipulated that the property be used for parks/recreation or green space. City of Homer Resolution 06-116 expresses the intent of the City to donate the property to KBEA. KBEA is now seeking to raise the remaining funds needed to acquire full title to the existing property.

PLANS AND PROGRESS: As of September 2010, KBEA has raised \$120,000 towards land purchase and approximately \$74,457 in donations of cash, goods, and services towards the development of the park's infrastructure and facilities. Initial development of the property has included a 130 x 200 foot arena, a round pen, horse pens, handicapped accessible restrooms, installation of water, a mud wallow, and a natural playground. KBEA has been awarded grants from Rasmuson Foundation, Homer Electric Association, American Seafoods Company, and Homer Foundation that have allowed completion of the parking lot, an upgrade to the restrooms, construction of benches and tables, and installation of electricity. Grants were received from Jansen Foundation towards purchase of the land.

KBEA has sponsored numerous revenue-generating events including cowboy cabarets, chili cook-offs, garage sales, horse shows, pony club camps, lessons, clinics, and cowboy races.



A rider negotiates an obstacle in the Cowboy Race 2010.

The organization has a business plan and continues to fundraise.

Total project cost: \$317,000

Amount needed to complete land purchase: \$99,720



March 29, 2010

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol Bldg, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing to ask that you please support funding to complete Homer's Cottonwood Horse Park. While my family does not own or have plans to own any horses, we have attended and enjoyed immensely several horse-related events at this wonderful site over the past year and look forward to more fun events there. More importantly, the Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association's (KBEA's) future plans for the entirety of this multi-use property near Jack Gist Park will benefit not just my family but potentially all of Homer's youth and families. I am the chairperson of the *Connecting Children with Nature in Homer* (C2NH) community coalition, an ad hoc group of community residents (with a membership of 65 individuals and growing) helping Homer kids spend more time outdoors. This dedicated group of Homer/Kachemak Bay residents is leading local efforts that mirror both statewide and national grassroots movements to reconnect children with nature. There is currently a staggering divide between children and the outdoors - even in Homer! In his influential book - *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* - child-advocacy expert Richard Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, including the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. To address this issue, the C2NH community coalition has in the past year 1) provided information and presentations to Homer special interest groups (including student classrooms) about the issue of nature-deficit disorder, 2) developed the newly adopted (by Mayor's proclamation) *Homer Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights* and Homer's annual *Kids Outdoor Day* on June 20th, and 3) hosted several well-attended outdoor play events for families in Homer. With the Cottonwood Horse Park land acquisition completed, KBEA's capacity to host collaborative outdoor events - such as the upcoming *Mud Games* on April 22, 2010 - and provide natural play spaces for children will be outstanding. They will be joining forces with the *Connecting Children with Nature in Homer* community coalition to provide unique and seasonal outdoor recreational opportunities for local kids and supporting efforts to improve the health of Homer's children. Please do what you can to help make KBEA's Cottonwood Horse Park completion a reality. Their dream is also a dream for our children.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carmen Field, Chairperson
Connecting Children with Nature in Homer community coalition

Katie Koester

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 7:58 AM
To: Katie Koester
Subject: FW: Cottonwood Horse Park

Categories: Katie

From: Dan Boone [mailto:dpboone@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2010 5:30 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Cottonwood Horse Park

Dear Representative Seaton,

Homer Animal Friends would like to add our support to the Cottonwood Horse Park acquisition. The additional land would open up opportunities for other groups to use the new green space and picnic area.

Animals enhance our lives and the Cottonwood Horse Park helps to encourage a healthy life style for both youth and adults; while promoting a greater understanding of animal welfare.

Please support funding for the Cottonwood Horse Park acquisition this legislative session.

Patricia Boone
President
Homer Animal Friends
Homer, AK

Katie Koester

From: Janet Fink [jfink@xyz.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2009 10:16 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Cottonwood Horse Park

Categories: Katie

December 14, 2009

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing to request capital acquisition funds to assist in the purchase of the land beneath Cottonwood Horse Park in Homer. Cottonwood Horse Park is a unique addition to the lower Kenai Peninsula as it is the only park with an arena in the area. During its second season this summer over 1000 people participated directly or indirectly with activities at the park.

Cottonwood Horse Park is designed as a multi-use park with natural play space, picnic areas and restrooms. Because of its close proximity to Jack Gist Park, the East End Bike Trail and the proposed Beluga Lake Trail network, Cottonwood Horse Park is also serving as a multi-use trailhead.

I am hopeful that you are able to assist Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association, a non-profit organization, with their effort to complete this purchase. Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

Janet Fink
jfink@xyz.net
64957 Da Mar Loop
Homer, Alaska 99603

Katie Koester

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2009 9:50 AM
To: Katie Koester
Subject: FW: Cottonwood Horse Park

Katie Koester
Legislative Aide
Rep. Seaton
907.235.2921

From: Jennifer Reinhart [mailto:jennifer@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2009 9:04 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sean.Parnell@alaska.gov
Subject: Cottonwood Horse Park

Dear Gentlemen,

I am writing to express support for the Cottonwood Horse Park, which is on the City of Homer's CIP list. This park has already been in use for two summers now by lively groups of youth and adult equestrians. I hope you have had the opportunity to stop by and watch the young and old gather to participate in clinics, riding lessons, horse shows, 4-H events, Pony Club day camps, and Girl Scouts activities. The park was buzzing with activity all summer, and well into the fall.

The Horse Park not only provides a family and youth friendly environment, but promotes sporting events in Homer that can bring money into our economy. Equestrian sports have the potential to stimulate tourism and recreation-related travel to our community. Last spring our local Pony Club hosted a quiz that brought about 40 families into town from across the state. These families ate in restaurants and stayed at hotels and B&B's around our community.

The non-profit board for Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association is excited to link together services and work in partnership with the city of Homer and other non-profit groups to support and coordinate a variety of recreational activities such as the East End Road bike trail, the Jack Gist Softball Park, and the proposed Beluga Lake Trail Network.

Please consider our family as voting strongly in favor of funding the Cottonwood Horse Park on the CIP list.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Reinhart, John Kelly, Morgan Kelly, and Maya Kelly

Katie Koester

From: Janice Todd [jcptodd@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 9:53 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Cottonwood horse Park

Janice & Ed Todd/ Homer, AK 99603 etodd@acsalaska.net

Representative Paul Seaton
345 W. Sterling Highway Suite 102 B,
Homer, Alaska 99603

24 November 2009

Dear Paul,

Thirty years ago we moved to Homer. I got a horse and enjoyed many wonderful moose trails. There are still wonderful places to ride and explore but not a place to work on the ABC's of riding; a level place with good footing without obstacles like stumps, down trees or holes.

There was an area in where Hornaday Park Ballfields are. It had a huge ditch and posts but support failed. Years later the 4-H ers obtained access to the old dump site, where the Jack Gist Softball Park is below the Cottonwood Horse Park. That too died.

Now we have Cottonwood Horse Park. Wow! Much development, energy and volunteer commitment has been put towards it. The Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association (KBEA) has raised \$160,000 in two years towards the purchase of the three plus acres of land and to complete the initial development. The community sees the need for this green space that is shared with many.

The Horse Park provides a space for events: horse shows, a safe centrally located site for clinics, instruction and practice. Many groups utilize it: Pony Club, 4-H, Horse Masters, Girl Scouts and even the Independent Living Center. The Horse Park encourages and supports a healthy lifestyle, it has the potential to be much more: link the East End Road bike trail, be part of the Beluga Lake Trail network, a site for horse shows, even dog agility shows. More events and benefits will develop over the years that will enhance and encourage tourism and healthy living in Homer. In the last two years the events have drawn over 600 participants and almost 1000 spectators!

KBEA is seeking to raise the remaining \$129,000 to acquire full title to the existing property, to guarantee the land as a community-use park for perpetuity. Full title will aid KBEA to obtain the additional land that will enhance the entire Homer community with additional amenities; picnic areas, a playground, and a greenspace with neighborhood trail connector.

Please support KBEA in this year's legislative session. An ounce of prevention goes further than picking up dropped pieces, many which will be lost or broken.

Sincerely, Janice & Ed Todd

Katie Koester

From: earthacres@acsalaska.net
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 7:39 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Horse park

Categories: Katie

Hello Paul, thank you for all of your efforts!

I am writing to ask you to please support funding for the Kachemak Bay Cottonwood Horse Park. We love seeing such a development where kids especially can come and learn/practice a valuable skill such as horsemanship in a safe environment with knowledgeable teachers.

Thanks again for your work! Evelyn Seguela

Katie Koester

From: seaflite [seaflite@xyz.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 12:42 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sean.Parnell@alaska.gov; Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association
Subject: Cottonwood Horse Park, Please

I am pleased that the Cottonwood Horse Park had been included in the City of Homer's Capital Improvement Plan; but disappointed that it did not make the approximate top fifteen items of the Legislative Priority List. The Horse Park's proximity to the Jack Gist Ball Parks and the connection to both the new and the old park roads make an important block for recreational pursuits that would benefit Homer for generations to come; and merit aid to development that would carry the area past its initial crude beginnings. Further legislative funding would ensure a permanency that would discourage inroads and delays to the park area's progress and promise for the Greater Homer Area.

Sincerely,

Leah W. Jenkin
4850 Adams Drive
Homer AK 99603

Janice & Ed Todd
61940 East Skyline Dr
Homer, AK 99603

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

19 November 2009

Dear Paul,

Thirty years ago we moved to Homer. I got a horse and enjoyed many wonderful moose trails. There are still wonderful places to ride and explore but not a place to work on the ABC's of riding; a level place with good footing without obstacles like stumps, down trees or holes.

There was an area in where Hornaday Park Ballfields are. It had a huge ditch and posts but support failed. Years later the 4-H ers obtained access to the old dump site, where the Jack Gist Softball Park is below the Cottonwood Horse Park. That too died.

Now we have Cottonwood Horse Park. Wow! Much development, energy and volunteer commitment has been put towards it. The Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association (KBEA) has raised \$160,000 in two years towards the purchase of the three plus acres of land and to complete the initial development. The community sees the need for this green space that is shared with many.

The Horse Park provides a space for events: horse shows, a safe centrally located site for clinics, instruction and practice. Many groups utilize it: Pony Club, 4-H, Horse Masters, Girl Scouts and even the Independent Living Center. The Horse Park encourages and supports a healthy lifestyle, it has the potential to be much more: link the East End Road bike trail, be part of the Beluga Lake Trail network, a site for horse shows, even dog agility shows. More events and benefits will develop over the years that will enhance and encourage tourism and healthy living in Homer. In the last two years the events have drawn over 600 participants and almost 1000 spectators!

KBEA is seeking to raise the remaining \$129,000 to acquire full title to the existing property, to guarantee the land as a community-use park for perpetuity. Full title will aid KBEA to obtain the additional land that will enhance the entire Homer community with additional amenities; picnic areas, a playground, and a greenspace with neighborhood trail connector.

Please support KBEA in this year's legislative session. An ounce of prevention goes further than picking up dropped pieces, many which will be lost or broken.

Sincerely,
Janice and Ed Todd
Horse Owners
Family Dental Practice



*Sent via email
12-8-9*

P.O. Box 602
Homer, Alaska 99603
November 13, 2009

Representative Paul Seaton
345 W. Sterling Highway
Homer, Alaska 99063

Dear Sir:

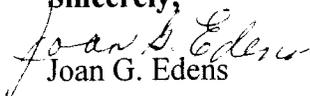
This year, the City of Homer included a request for \$129,720 in its list of funding priorities to the Alaska Legislature for the Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association (KBEA) to finalized acquisition of land for the Cottonwood Horse Park.

I am **urging** you to support funding for the Cottonwood Horse Park.

Cottonwood Horse Park not only benefits the horse people who have many activities at the park but the general public with green space, potential multi-use trail head, and monies brought to Homer through its many programs.

Capital Improvement Plan: **\$129,720** **Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association**

Sincerely,


Joan G. Edens



Kachemak Bay Equestrian

Association

February 24, 2012

Greetings Heather,

Congratulations on your new position. Here is the update on the Cottonwood Horse Park Project information you requested.

Total Project Cost	\$317,000.
--------------------	------------

LAND ACQUISITION

➤ LAND PRICE	\$225,000
➤ FUNGING SECURED	
Tillion, Clem & Diana	\$25,000
Jansen Foundation	\$15,000
American Seafoods	\$500
Multiple Community Member Donations	\$78,900
Cowboy Cabaret Fund Raisers	\$30,600

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

➤ FUNDS SECURED	
Rasmuson Foundation – parking lot	\$25,000
Homer Foundation – Picnic tables, benches, first aid kit, Signs, stairs & sound system	\$2978
In-Kind Donations for picnic tables, benches, first aid kits, signs, stairs, water hook up, electric hook up, horse pens, & round pen.	\$12,022
Arena	\$27,000
Restroom	\$15,000
➤ FUNDS TO BE SECURED	
Land Payment	\$75,000
4-Wheeler & drag for grooming arena	\$10,000
Total	\$317,000

➤ FY13 Request	
Land Payment	\$75,000
FY13 Funding Request	<u>\$10,000</u>
Deficit	\$65,000

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association is responsible for Ongoing Operations and Maintenance.

Contact information:

Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association
Roberta Highland, President
P.O. Box 3120
Homer, AK 99603
(907)235-8214
kbayea@gmail.com