

Washington State Horse Park Becomes a Reality *Milestone gives horse lovers a unique 112-acre park*

Land donation and state funding arrangements are finalized and work will begin on building the State's premier equine competition and recreation facilities, according to the Washington State Horse Park Authority in Cle Elum, Washington.

The Horse Park will occupy 112 acres donated by Suncadia resort just north of Interstate 90 in Cle Elum. Initial development activities are funded by a \$3.5 million capital budget appropriation granted by the State Legislature in 2007.

The Washington State Horse Park Authority is a public-private partnership formed by the Legislature in 1995 to find suitable land, develop and operate a first-class competition venue serving the needs of Washington's horse enthusiasts. It took 11 years to complete acquisition of the site. Under the final arrangements, Suncadia donated the land to the City of Cle Elum which is leasing it to the Authority for 99 years at \$1.00 per year, renewable thereafter.

"We couldn't have done it without Suncadia's generosity, support from the Governor and Legislature, and a close working relationship with the City," said Todd Trewin, President of the Authority.

"Now comes the fun part – building well-designed, multi-use facilities to host competitions of all sizes and serve as a home for horse enthusiasts of all ages, abilities and interests," Trewin said.

In addition to the land donation, other agreements are in place to use adjacent conservation land for some competitions and to access the region's extensive trail systems.

Design work began in 2007 and is well underway with the involvement of English and western discipline representatives and CMW Inc., a leading equine architecture firm in Lexington, Kentucky. Groundbreaking is expected to occur this spring with some activities hosted at the Horse Park starting in 2010.

For further information about the Washington State Horse Park, visit www.washingtonstatehorsepark.org. Or contact Leslie Thurston at 425-486-0272.

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Washington State Horse Park

History and Timeline

Developing a state horse park is a large and complex undertaking. Below are key events spanning more than a decade leading up to the current development activities and fundraising campaign for the Washington State Horse Park. We owe sincere thanks to those who worked steadfastly to bring us to this exciting point.

- 1990-94** Two potential locations for a horse park were investigated in Lewis County by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (“WSPRC”); both were eventually found unworkable.
- 1995** The Governor signed legislation creating the Washington State Horse Park Authority (“the Authority”), responsible for locating, developing and managing a suitable site.
- 1996-97** The Authority identified, explored and rejected numerous potential sites across the state. Eventually one site that met all major requirements was identified adjacent to a planned resort and abutting the city of Cle Elum. Jeld-Wen, through its subsidiary Trendwest, offered to donate the land contingent upon determination of the Horse Park’s economic feasibility.
- 1998** The Authority, WSPRC and Trendwest agreed to proceed with the proposed site.
- 1998-02** Jeld-Wen sold its Trendwest subsidiary, and with a new partner in the development, Lowe Enterprises, revised plans for the Suncadia resort and completed an extensive environmental impact statement for the entire property, including linkages to sewer, water and power needs of the Horse Park site. Negotiations continued between the many parties involved.
- 2003** The city of Cle Elum approved expansion of its Urban Growth Area boundary, thereby resolving on-going uncertainties about meeting infrastructure needs of Suncadia and the Horse Park and whether the City or Kittitas County had permitting authority. Construction at Suncadia began and Horse Park supporters began to rebuild forward momentum.
- 2004-05** Governor Christine Gregoire appointed new members to the Authority Board who, working with the Foundation Board, planned next steps with Cle Elum, Suncadia, the state Legislature, outside consultants and the widely dispersed horse community.
- 2006** A new membership and promotion campaign was undertaken, feasibility studies were updated and a proposal was submitted to and endorsed by the Governor for \$3.9 million in State funding to get development activities underway.
- 2007** Thanks to very active grass roots support from individuals across the horse community, the State Legislature appropriated \$3.5 million in its 2007-09 capital budget. Negotiations with Suncadia on details of the land donation began and a site design consulting firm was hired.
- 2008** Negotiations between the Authority and Suncadia on various complex land donation issues continued and eventually involved more than a dozen outside parties, including the City of Cle Elum who agreed to take ownership of the land being donated and enter into a long-term lease with the Authority. Several site design meetings took place with major discipline representatives.
- 2009** In January the Lease was signed, thus enabling the State funding contract to be finalized and progress to begin on developing the Horse Park.