

THE RESOURCE



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EQUINE LAND CONSERVATION RESOURCE

Advocating for Success: Organizing to Protect the Riverside Rancho Equestrian Community of Glendale, California

by Denise Y. O'Meara for ELCR

Riverside Rancho, in the City of Glendale, California, is a unique equestrian community, one of several in the Los Angeles area. Silver Spur Stables is a long-time favorite riding facility in this community. Its potential loss to development would have significant impact on this equestrian area. To prevent this, a group of determined individuals started an organization to save Silver Spur Stables from residential rezoning.



Riders accessing Griffith Park Equestrian Trails at Riverside Rancho in Glendale, California.

ELCR talked with Dr. Jim DeCarli of Glendale. A neuro-epidemiologist specializing in environmental and public health, his daughter is an equestrian and former rider at Silver Spur. Jim shares the affinity that both equestrians and residents have for their horse community. This article reflects ELCR's interviews with Dr. DiCarli.

The Equestrian Community Lifestyle of Los Angeles-Area Ranchos

The Glendale, Burbank, and Los Angeles rancho areas, along with Atwater Village, present a unique urbanized equestrian lifestyle, which includes the highly active Los Angeles Equestrian Center and Griffith Park's 55 miles of multi-use trails for horses, hiking, and biking. Horses are at home in backyard stables and riders access Griffith Park via local streets. 80 boarding barns and equine facilities in Los Angeles County make the area California's second highest in horse numbers. Summer camps and other youth activities abound. Several public parks have horse facilities and bridle paths interconnecting the ranchos.

Silver Spur Stables is located at the center of Riverside Rancho, adjacent to a community equestrian bridge that leads riders into Griffith Park. There is strong community support, and much equestrian traffic over bridges and at access points between the communities. Built in the 1930s, Silver Spur is a community hub for equestrian and community events.

Many equestrian-related businesses and public use stables are located within a very short distance, creating a strong equine-based commercial zone for Riverside Rancho. Residents fear that rezoning Silver Spur for development would lead to the demise of other stables and businesses.

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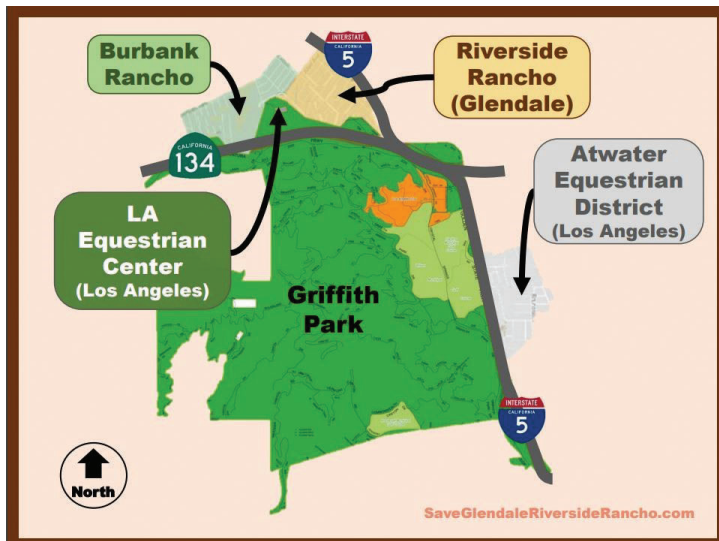
NO LAND NO HORSE



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Bringing Rezoning to a Halt

In 2017, the owner of Silver Spur Stables property joined efforts with a developer and filed an application with the city for rezoning to multi-family, eliminating the major equine access bridge to Griffith Park trails. An early petition requested denial of the rezoning, and the owner withdrew the application. But more was needed to protect Riverside Rancho.

Jim DiCarli's group formed Save Glendale Riverside Rancho to communicate with and advocate for the equine community, collaborating with other concerned citizens and organizations.

- They began educating Council members and the mayor's office about the importance of horses to the City of Glendale.
- After researching existing zoning, they found that multi-family zoning is not allowed, and that the zoning map and long-term strategic plan state that "community services should serve area residents."
- The group developed a new website: saveglendaleriversiderancho.com.



Silver Spur Stables hosts many family and youth-oriented events, making the stable an important social contributor to the community.

Next Steps

The rezoning application has been withdrawn by the Silver Spur Stables property owner. But the threat of development is never far away. This is why an ongoing local advocacy effort is so important. A new, two-part petition was created and submitted to the city of Glendale:

- o Part 1: Disallow any zone change from equine commercial to multi-family residential.
- o Part 2: Special District request.

The request for Special District designation states that it would "make the Riverside Rancho an economic asset to the city of Glendale, while preserving its history and culture." To bring this about, the group continues to meet with and educate City Council members individually, focusing on the economic benefits of horses and equestrian businesses, requesting impact studies, introducing concept plans, discussing renovation of existing buildings, and exploring equine program facilities and opportunities at Glendale Community College.

A Long-Term Process

This is an ongoing process that will require continued advocacy and monitoring. By collaborating with area organizations and agencies, efforts to permanently protect Glendale's Riverside Rancho should not go unrewarded. Save Glendale Riverside Rancho has partnered with Friends of Griffith Park, Friends of the Los Angeles River, the cities of Glendale, Burbank, and Los Angeles, and Atwater Village Equestrian District, among others. These collaborations and others like them are essential to current and future success in the protection of their equestrian lifestyle.

Want to learn more about these important issues?

See the full version of this article at bit.ly/2k3xvWl

Learn about planning and zoning in these ELCR guides: 'Planning and Zoning Guide for Horse Friendly Communities' (<http://bit.ly/2kmbuCo>) and 'Horse-Friendly Zoning Practices in American Communities' (<http://bit.ly/2lHyTOB>), by planner Christine Hughes.

Learn how to educate your community about the positive impact of the equine community: 'Benefits of Horses to Your Community' at <https://elcr.org/conservation-resources/equine-economic-impact>

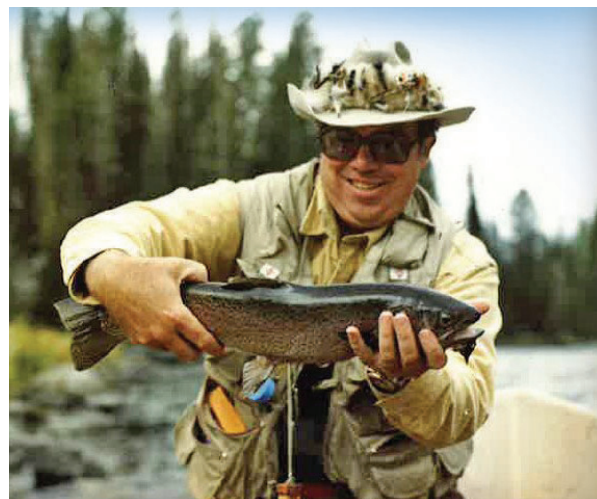
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Remembering Earl “Sam” Sams Lightner

ELCR is remembering one of its longtime supporters, Earl Sams Lightner (Sam), who passed away on May 14, 2019, in Lexington, Kentucky. Sam and his wife Robin have been ardent champions of ELCR's mission and work, with Robin joining ELCR's Board of Directors in 2010.

Sam was born in New Rochelle, New York, in 1938 and raised in Brownsville, Texas, where he graduated from Culver Military Institute and Southern Methodist University (1956). After serving six months in the US Army he moved to New York City to join Merrill Lynch Investments Company. He completed their investment training program and moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he was involved with several businesses as well as investments with Merrill Lynch. There he met Robin, his wife of 53 years, started a family, and was involved in many charities, including Corpus Christi Symphony, Art Museum of South Texas, and the Earl C. Sams Foundation. After moving to Jackson, Wyoming, he continued his philanthropy by serving on the board and as president of the Grand Teton Music Festival and the National Museum of Wildlife Art. Additionally, he was a director for the Jackson State Bank and chairman of the World Fly Fishing Contest.



Sam was an avid big game hunter and an accomplished sailor, taking many trips to exotic locales. He often could be found fishing behind his home on Lake Creek or from his boat “Sunshine” in the Bahamas. Sam was above all a great friend who cherished his friendships and family.

Sam is survived by his wife Robin, their two children, Earl Sams Lightner Jr. and Camille Lightner Bruncker, two grandchildren, and his brother, Larry Lightner. Sam's life and legacy will surely continue through his family, friends, and all of us at ELCR.

ELCR and USPC Announce the 2019 Anson Taylor Scholarship Winner

ELCR is pleased to announce Katrina Rowe of Boyds, Maryland, as the recipient of the 2019 Anson W. H. Taylor Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by the United States Pony Club (USPC) and Equine Land Conservation Resource in memory of former Pony Club president and ELCR founder Anson Taylor. The scholarship is awarded to a current Pony Club member who has been active with and committed to efforts on behalf of land conservation. Katrina is a B Dressage member of Seneca Valley Pony Club and will be attending Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont, majoring in International Studies.

Through a high school Global Ecology Magnet Program, she partnered with a local farm to develop sustainable waste manure methods for 80 horses, including sellable compost. Katrina's project has resulted in improved field and stream health and increased income for the farm. She has become a leader in both equine and environmental best practices. We wish her continued success while pursuing her degree!



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North Carolina's Walnut Creek Preserve: Blending Equestrian and Environment Through Easements

Walnut Creek Preserve Equestrian Trails. Walnut Creek Preserve is a quiet and beautifully scenic piece of land located in Spring Mill, Polk County near Tryon, North Carolina, and other horse-focused communities. Nearly 1,600 of the total 2,100 acres is home to the Walnut Creek Preserve natural area, which includes 25 streams, a large waterfall, stocked pond, extensive trails, and wonderful views of Hickory Nut Gorge. The Anne Elizabeth Surrat Nature Center offers weekly nature educational presentations and events.

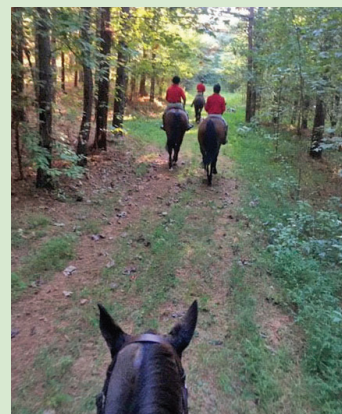
How did Walnut Creek Preserve come to be? When Barbara (Babs) and Bob Strickland's only child Anne Surrat passed away in an accident at the age of 22, these landowners sought to create something special and enduring in her memory. Anne loved the outdoors and nature. She desired a career in space aviation as an astronaut and had equal interest in environmental education. So, the Stricklands worked with the nonprofit land trust Conserving Carolina to place conservation easements on their property, protecting over two miles of Walnut Creek.

Management of the land accomplishes the goal of restoring the native hardwood forest and associated habitat, while providing extensive environmental education and trails that serve the general and equestrian communities.

A portion of Walnut Creek Preserve includes limited development in the form of an equestrian community comprising 25 parcels carefully placed among the 2,100 acres of the property's forest and pastureland. The preserve offers equestrians the opportunity to own and reside upon farms surrounded by over 50 miles of private hiking and riding trails.

To learn more about conservation easements and how they protect land, please visit elcr.org and look for the issue area *Conservation Tools for Horse Owners*, where you will find articles, recorded presentations and guides on the mechanisms of conserving horse lands.

Learn about Walnut Creek Preserve at bit.ly/2N96Tiy and Conserving Carolina at conservingcarolina.org/walnut-creek-preserve



How YOU Can Support ELCR

There are so many ways you can help support ELCR's vital mission of saving horse lands!

1. Join ELCR as a Conservation Partner.
2. Make a gift in honor of friends and family who also love our equine friends and way of life.
3. Donate stock to ELCR.
4. Become a monthly donor and leverage a smaller monthly gift into a larger annual impact.
5. For federal and state employees, contribute to ELCR through the CFC or SECC.
6. Shop on Amazon Smile and select ELCR as your charity (smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2139677).
7. Remember a cherished loved one or equine companion with a Memorial Tribute Gift.
8. Like and share ELCR on Facebook—the more people we reach, the more cherished lands and equine heritage we can save!

Visit ELCR.org for more information or contact us at elcradmin@elcr.org.

Spotlight on the 2019 Combined Federal Campaign

Did you know that ELCR participates annually in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the workplace giving program of the US federal government? The 2019 CFC is scheduled for **September 9, 2019 - January 12, 2020**, so if you are a participating federal employee, be sure to include ELCR in your year-end charitable giving! (CFC #11250 or EIN #52-2139677)





ELCR Education Corner

Recent additions and updates to the ELCR Online Resource Library.

Article: Manure on the Trail – Should We Do Something About It? by Lyndall Erb for ELCR

Manure on the trails is an issue that keeps on giving. Long-time president of Bay Area Barns and Trails steps in there for an updated view of this unpopular trail décor, and what we should do about it, based on her experiences in the Bay area of California. It's a problem everywhere, and this article clears up some common misconceptions held by other user groups. bit.ly/2YO38WR

Recorded Webinar: Advancing Trails Series – Equestrian Trail Design for Urban Multi-Use Trails

Did you miss ELCR's joint August webinar with American Trails? If so, you can access the recorded webinar at bit.ly/2m0S3PL. ELCR's Denise O'Meara, Matthew Woodson (owner of Okanogan Trail Construction, and landscape architect James Coffman (Coffman Studio) presented "Equestrian Trail Design for Urban Multi-Use Trails" addressing methods used in constructing equestrian trails for multi-use, and including ADA interface in an urban environment. Key materials and horse-friendly surfacing (safety and best practices-sustainability) are discussed. The presenters for this well-attended webinar and American Trails are adding a new Part II presentation on Equestrian Wilderness Trail Design in early 2020. Details and registration will be coming soon!



SPONSOR: We thank Rhino Marking and Protection for their sponsorship of this webinar. Rhino has a wide variety of identification and directional products on their website at that are extremely helpful for trail users. Visit 'trails' on their website at bit.ly/2YKDVWJ

Legislation: ELCR Supports Funding for the Recreational Trails Program Through the Coalition for Recreational Trails

As part of our outreach, ELCR recently signed a letter to the U.S. Senate in support of a mandated, periodic study of funding raised through a Nonhighway Recreational Fuel Study, which will give Congress a realistic look at our Recreational Trails Program and what that program does for our equestrian and recreational community. bit.ly/31xKiQO

Frequently Asked Questions

Grappling with a particular issue about your horse land, stables or trails? Don't know where to look for the answer? Our FAQ section is designed to quickly link users directly to the most pertinent articles, tools and templates – even when you don't know where to start! elcr.org/conservation-resources/frequently-asked-questions

Upcoming Webinars

On October 22, 2019 at 7pm, ELCR and My Horse University will cohost a new webinar, "A Look at Backyard Horse-Keeping", with ELCR's Denise O'Meara, PLA, presenting the particulars of small property and residential horse-keeping in communities across the US. Registration details coming soon.



February 2020: "Let's talk about Conservation Easements." ELCR's guest speakers will relate their experiences protecting horse land and trails through the easement process, and clarify the basic information about what easements are, how the equine community can utilize them, and the role that land trusts and local government play. Registration details and exact date and time coming soon.

EQUINE PLACES AND SPACES

SAVED: Middleburg Training Center, Loudoun | Virginia

This thoroughbred training facility was built in 1956 by Paul Mellon. Since then, the facility has changed hands several times, with the property donated to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation in 2016. The following year, the facility was, yet again, up for sale and in danger of closing permanently when a local businessman, Chuck Kuhn, purchased the property and began an extensive renovation, giving new life to the center. Mr. Kuhn is not otherwise involved in the thoroughbred industry. However, he is an avid land conservationist, having purchased several farms in the area, placed conservation easements on them, and resold them as permanently protected land. Mr. Kuhn has not indicated what he will do with the Training Center in the long run, but his work refurbishing the facility shows yet again that people place high value on horse and agricultural open land and facilities in their communities.

SAVED: Prospect Park | New York

Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York, has a long history of equestrian activity that has included bridle paths, practice rings, carriage paths and stables, horse shows and other events. The equestrian activity and facilities began a long decline some decades back. Without a buyer willing to put substantial money and effort into the facility and grounds, there was a very good chance that it would close to horses. John Quadrozzi, Jr., a horse enthusiast and businessman, recently purchased the equestrian facilities and began a carefully planned series of renovations. Upgrades to bridle paths, the practice ring, new and safer fencing, and other amenities are in the process of completion. Next steps will include a renovation and modernization of the historic stable itself. New programming will include equestrian activities for disadvantaged children.

THREATENED: Crow-Hassan Park | Minnesota

Crow-Hassan Park is one of the Three Rivers Park District facilities serving the suburban areas of the Twin Cities of Minnesota, Minneapolis and St. Paul. The District's mission is "To promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system." While there is a large contingent of equestrian trail riders in the area, Crow-Hassan is the only park left in the system that is dedicated to equestrian use. Recently,

the Parks District unveiled a concept plan to include a bike trail, large parking lot, and additional amenities to serve or entice mountain/road bikers to the park. A small equestrian group is looking to ELCR to assist and encourage their efforts to protect the equestrian trails of Crow-Hassan and the environmental work already accomplished there.

LOST: Portland Meadows Race Track | Oregon

Portland Meadows opened in 1946 for thoroughbred racing and off-track betting. The facility has seen high points and low points, including becoming the first track in the US to host night racing, music festivals with top flight performers, and surviving an owner bankruptcy by rebranding. But as of February 2019, the track closed permanently. It is extremely unlikely that another rebirth could occur, as an application for a development permit was filed with the city of Portland in March 2019. The track will likely be torn down and replaced by storage and shipping facilities. Though more racing dates were assigned to nearby Grants Pass Downs, Portland Meadows, as it disappears entirely, will no longer be part of the local identity.

If you are aware of an equine-related place that has been lost, saved, or is in danger, please let us know about it. You can contact us at 859-455-8383 or info@elcr.org, or visit the Report an Issue page on our website.

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Equine Network and its fine family of equestrian print and online publications:

American Cowboy, Arabian Horse World, Discover Horses, Dressage Today, EquiManagement, Equine.com, EquiSearch.com, EquiShopper, EQUUS, Horse & Rider, HorseBooksEtc.com, Horse Journal, HorseLinkMagazine.com, MyHorse.com, Practical Horseman, Spin to Win Rodeo, and The Trail Rider

Join the Celebration

This is a milestone year for ELCR as we celebrate our 20-year anniversary!

Since its inception, ELCR has become known as the go-to organization within the equine community when it comes to land loss issues, assisting individuals, organizations, and communities working on the protection of over 213,000 acres of land and 4,700 miles of trails in the last 10 years. Here is to the next 20 years of working with you to protect our cherished equine places and spaces for the enjoyment of this and future generations!

You are invited to join in the celebration by making a gift to support our ongoing vital mission of saving horse lands in communities like yours throughout the country.

Because we simply cannot do it without our friends like **you!**



ELCR Intern Claudia Brefield

Claudia Brefield began interning for ELCR in May of 2019. A native of Georgetown, Kentucky, she is bright, cheerful, and diligent. Along with her studies as a business major at Kentucky's Georgetown College, Claudia is also a member of the prestigious Equine Scholars Program at Georgetown, which has produced talented academic graduates with varied interests and skills in the equine industry. Claudia is also an entrepreneur, having started Cedar Hill Fiber Farm at the age of 16. The farm produces fleece as fiber, and does not use the goats, angora rabbits, and other animals for meat. Clearly an animal aficionado, she has quickly learned to mix business and academics as she assists ELCR with our work. Claudia has been working on ELCR's social media plan and researching various topics. She joins the roster of ELCR's previous talented interns from Georgetown's Equine Scholars Program.



ELCR Joins the Coalition for Recreational Trails in Supporting Section 1514 of America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019

As one of the many organizational members of the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT), ELCR participates in advocacy for equestrian and all trails through CRT as they monitor legislation that impacts the trails community. Recently we signed a letter to the United States Senate in support of a mandated, periodic study of funding raised through a Nonhighway Recreational Fuel Taxes Study, which will give Congress a realistic look at our Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and what that program does for our equestrian and recreational community.

Things to know about the programs developed under US Internal Revenue and Trust Fund Code:

- The Highway Trust Fund was established in 1986;
- The Nonhighway Recreational Fuel Tax refers to taxes from fuel used in vehicles on recreational trails or backcountry terrain; and
- The Recreational Trails Program is largely funded through the Nonhighway Recreational Fuel Taxes.

Here is the body of the letter sent to Congress:

"The nation's recreational trails community strongly supports Section 1514 of America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019, mandating a Nonhighway Recreational Fuel Study. This study is needed to allow Congress to assess the contributions of the Recreational Trails Program to our nation and strategies to continue and expand this contribution. Since its creation by ISTEA in 1991, the Recreational Trails Program has enabled more than 24,000 projects and programs to be completed under federal/state/local/private partnerships, leveraging the available funding and contributing to our economy, to the nation's health and safety, and to greater access to our public lands and waters.

We deeply appreciate the Committee's support for trails and its response to the request for inclusion of this provision by a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators."

To see the full letter and short description of the legislation, visit bit.ly/31xKiQO. The letter indicates the participating member organizations and the depth of their commitment to funding and bettering our trails.



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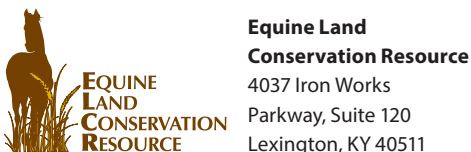
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