



Annual Report 2023



elcr.org

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As I look back on 2023, I'm proud of the progress we've made at ELCR in continuing to support the equine community and protect horse lands across the country. Thanks to your ongoing support, we've been able to play a critical role in addressing the challenges that threaten these spaces and the activities they support.

If you're reading this annual report, it's because you've been part of our efforts. Your involvement helps us provide essential resources—both online and in-person—to communities working to protect and preserve horse lands. We continue to rely on your support and encourage you to share our mission with others who may also care about preserving these important spaces for future generations.

While we've made strides in some areas, we still face ongoing challenges. Development pressures continue to threaten the availability of equestrian spaces, and we're seeing more requests for assistance as these issues become more widespread. However, there are positive signs as well—more people are getting involved with horses in some areas, and that's a trend we hope to build on.

To keep up with the growing demand for our resources, we are updating our website to make it more user-friendly and accessible. We've already started this process, but we need your continued support to ensure we can complete this important project.

As a small organization with a national focus, we can't solve every issue, but we play a vital role in providing support and guidance to those who need it most. I encourage you to visit ELCR.org to see the wealth of resources we offer. If you believe in our work, please help us spread the word and encourage others to get involved.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission. Together, we are making a difference.

Ken Haddad



President, ELCR Board of Directors



Ken Haddad aboard his mount, Eragon

EQUINE LAND CONSERVATION RESOURCE (ELCR)

About ELCR

ELCR is the only national organization focused on the conservation of land for horses and **all** horse-related activities. Our organization is dedicated to promoting the vital role the horse serves in society and championing the future of horses and horse-related activity in America.

We are working with our conservation partners, individuals, local organizations, and government to stem the tide of development to ensure a future for horses in our communities for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

Our Mission

Equine Land Conservation Resource leads in the protection and conservation of lands for the horse and horse-related activities.

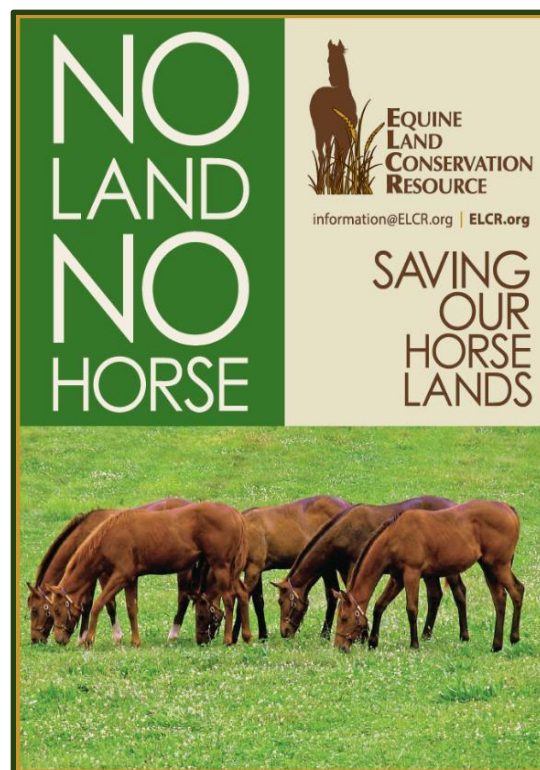
Our Vision

A future in which horse lands have been conserved so that America's equine heritage lives on and the emotional, physical, and economic benefits of mankind's bond with the horse remain accessible to all.

Our Work

Since land is saved locally, it is imperative that horse enthusiasts be made aware of the existing threats and understand how they can become actively engaged in protecting horse lands and trails in their communities. Creating awareness of equine land loss has always been an integral part of our work. Providing the equine community with the tools and resources needed to prevent the loss of land for equine-related activities is also at the forefront of our work. ELCR supports these efforts by:

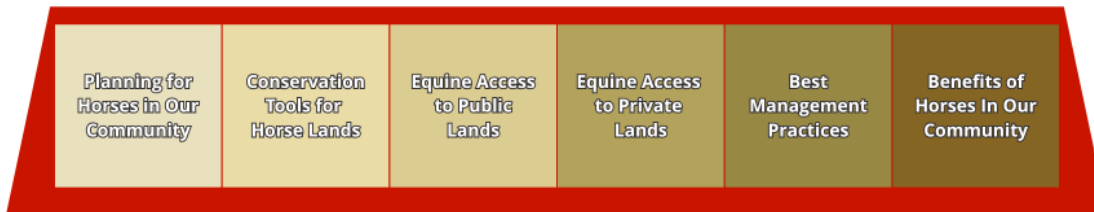
- Continuing to expand awareness of the threat of unplanned growth and development and impact on horse owners, enthusiasts, and the equine industry at large;
- Serving as the first point of contact and clearing house for connecting to leading national experts on advocating for and conserving access to land for horses;
- Representing the public land access interests of the equine community at the national level;
- Creating and providing no-cost access to educational articles, tools, templates, and webinars in our six core issue areas in our online resource library;
- Providing one-on-one customized technical assistance and counseling on local land-loss issues;
- Working with partner organizations to host informative educational webinars on important equine land conservation-related topics;
- Building a national network of local equine advocacy and equine land conservation organizations to expand the rate at which land is protected for horses and horse-related activities.



EQUINE LAND CONSERVATION EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

ELCR is committed to using feedback-generated programming to create extensive and up-to-date educational resources for horse owners and landowners, organizations, and agencies, to help them understand the impact of the many issues that contribute to loss of equine access in their communities. Our educational resources provide ideas about what to do, how to communicate needs, who to collaborate with, and what actions need to be taken to resolve local equine access issues. The equine community can access our educational resources via our online resource library, educational webcasts, and in-person presentations. These guides, tools, templates, articles, and other educational resources pertaining to six core areas of equine land conservation are available free of charge at www.elcr.org.

Our 6 Core Conservation Areas



Online Resource Library

In 2023, ELCR developed and made these new educational resources available to the public free of charge:

- *Utilities and Recreational Trails: A Summary of the Article "Trails and Utilities: A Powerful Partnership" by the Rails to Trails Conservancy* <https://elcr.org/utilities-and-recreational-trails-a-summary-of-the-article-trails-and-utilities-a-powerful-partnership-by-the-rails-to-trails-conservancy/>
- *Trail Protection Easements Part I: What Are They and Why Should Landowners Want One?* <https://elcr.org/trail-protection-easements-part-i-what-are-they-and-why-should-landowners-want-one/>
- *Dealing with Changing Development Pattern* <https://elcr.org/dealing-with-changing-development-patterns/>
- *How Mounted Patrols Benefit Our Communities* <https://elcr.org/how-mounted-patrols-benefit-our-communities/>

Educational Webcasts

As part of its educational programming, ELCR routinely offers webcasts (webinars) that address imminent and current national issues on a local basis with local examples. Offering webinar programs with our partner organizations allows us to bring a variety of authorities to speak about relevant equine land advocacy topics while reaching an even broader national audience.

The recorded and archived webinars are made available on the ELCR website at www.elcr.org for those who are unable to participate in the live events. Our annual educational webinars remained very popular.

In 2023 ELCR offered the following webinars through our partnerships with American Trails, Back Country Horsemen, Daily Acts and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

- **August 31, 2023:** "Got Mud? Tackling Mud and Erosion on Equestrian Trails" <https://elcr.org/equestrian-trails-webinar-got-mud-tackling-mud-and-erosion-on-equestrian-trails/>
- **March 4, 2023:** "Sustainable Equine Management - Water, Flood, and Mud Management" <https://elcr.org/webinar-sustainable-equine-management/>
- **February 8, 2023:** "Equestrian Trails - Part of the Outdoor Florida Webinar Series" <https://elcr.org/webinar-equestrian-trails/>



ELCR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ELCR continues to be the leading organization for the equine community when it comes to guidance on protecting endangered horse lands. We offer personalized counseling and technical assistance to individuals, organizations, and communities addressing local horse-land challenges. As the only national organization providing such services for all horse-related land concerns, ELCR plays a pivotal role in supporting equine land conservation.

The high volume of inquiries we receive each year gives us valuable insights into the diverse equine access challenges faced across the nation. This allows us to create targeted informational resources and educational materials that address the most common issues within the equine community, while also expanding our national network.

In 2023, ELCR staff responded to 33 individual requests for counseling and technical assistance regarding local horse-land issues. These inquiries came from individuals, organizations, and communities across 14 states.



Photo Courtesy of Shelly Paulson

Requests for assistance in 2023 have covered a wide range of topics, including planning and zoning regulations, equine access to both private and public lands, conservation tools for horse properties, and best management practices for equine properties. Each request is unique, reflecting the specific challenges of the local area.

While the specific challenges and assistance required may vary by community, the following provides a general overview of the common land-related issues addressed through our technical assistance program:

- Efforts to conserve privately owned land that has become available for sale and is crucial for equine activities.
- New or revised local ordinances that impose additional restrictions on horse owners and equine businesses, negatively impacting existing and future operations.
- Addressing conflicts between new residents, who may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with horses, and local farms or ranches.
- Loss of equine access to local trails on public lands, such as parks, forests, or wildlife areas, where land managers raise concerns about horse use.
- Loss of access to trails crossing private properties, often due to landowners' privacy concerns, liability issues, or conflicts with horse riders, especially when these trails connect public trail segments.
- Resolving conflicts among trail user groups, caused by land damage, inadequate trail design or maintenance, or lack of communication between groups.
- The need to implement best management practices on current horse properties to ensure sustainable land use.
- Assisting in securing financial support for equine land conservation initiatives.

ELCR'S CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM

On an annual basis, ELCR recognizes commitment to land conservation that exemplifies the mission of Equine Land Conservation Resource with our awards and scholarship program. The program has expanded over the years, with many of the awards presented in partnership with our conservation partner organizations.

The awards and scholarship program serves not only to raise awareness of the importance of land conservation, but also to highlight the conservation achievements of an individual, group, or organization that serves as an inspiration to the equine community.



Below is an overview of the various individual awards in our program.

Anson W. H. Taylor Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award

The Anson W. H. Taylor Jr. Memorial Scholarship was established in 2006 to honor Mr. Taylor for his work with the United States Pony Clubs and the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource. An avid equestrian and foxhunter, Anson W. H. Taylor Jr. was dedicated to educating equestrians about land conservation. He was a founding member of the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource and served as USPC president in the mid-1980s. The scholarship, sponsored by USPC and ELCR, is annually awarded to a Pony Club member in his/her senior year of high school with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, who has been accepted to an institution of higher learning, and who has achieved a USPC rating of C-2 or higher, with demonstrated achievements in Pony Club and to horse land conservation.

The Anson W.H. Taylor Jr. Conservation Leadership Award

The Anson W.H. Taylor Jr. Award for Leadership in Equine Land Conservation was established by the ELCR board of directors to recognize individuals and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to preserving land for equine use through their extraordinary generosity of time, effort, and expertise. This award is named for the late preservationist, land conservator, family man, foxhunter, equestrian, and ELCR co-founder Anson W.H. Taylor Jr. For more on the Anson W.H. Taylor Jr. Award for Leadership in Equine Land Conservation and a list of past award recipients, visit <https://elcr.org/about-elcr/anson-taylor-award/>

The Robert N. Clay Conservation Leadership Award

The Robert N. Clay Conservation Leadership Award, established in partnership with Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA) in 2014, is presented annually at the TOBA awards dinner to a member of the Thoroughbred community for their achievements in equine land conservation. For more on the Robert N. Clay Conservation Leadership Award and a list of past award recipients, visit <https://elcr.org/about-elcr/robert-n-clay-conservation-award/>

The Equine Land Conservation Achievement Award

The Equine Land Conservation Achievement Award, established in 2017 in partnership with United States Dressage Federation (USDF), recognizes individuals or organizations for outstanding achievement in protecting land or access to land for equine use. The award was established to help increase awareness of the importance of land conservation in the dressage community and to serve as inspiration to others within the discipline. For more information on the Equine Land Conservation Achievement Award, visit <https://elcr.org/about-elcr/the-equine-land-conservation-achievement-award/>

HONORING LEADERSHIP IN EQUINE LAND CONSERVATION IN 2023

2023 Anson W.H. Taylor Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award Recipient

ELCR and United States Pony Clubs (USPC) are pleased to award the 2023 Anson W.H. Taylor Jr. Memorial Scholarship to C2 HM, C1 DR dressage rider and Sonoma Coastal Equestrian Training Center (SCEC) Pony Club member Meghan Hill of Petaluma, California. The scholarship, sponsored by USPC and ELCR in memory of former USPC president and ELCR founder Anson Taylor, Jr., is awarded annually to a current USPC member demonstrating commitment to horse land conservation.

Meghan developed a plan to make the 320-acre SCEC an example of good management, with an eye on sustainability and conservation of the natural environment. As part of this whole farm plan, they limit the total number of horses on the property and utilize a rotational pasture system to allow fields to regrow. They also incorporate native grasses into the pastures and hay fields and utilize no-till planting methods to limit soil disturbance. Other farm improvements include developing a filtration system between natural reservoirs on the farm and using water from these reservoirs for the horses. They planted trees along creeks which help eliminate erosion issues and provide new habitat for various animal species.

Meghan will be continuing her education at University of San Francisco by completing a master's degree in sustainability and management. She says the work she helped with at SCEC inspired her to pursue this degree, stating "sustainability is my number one passion."



2023 Anson W.H. Taylor, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Recipient, Meghan Hill.

2023 Robert N. Clay Conservation Leadership Award



Greg Goodman Receives the 2023 Robert N. Clay Award from ELCR Executive Director, Holley Groshek. Photo provided by Mark Mahan.

Greg Goodman, of Mt. Brilliant Farm, was selected as the recipient of the 10th annual Robert N. Clay Conservation Award for his commitment to preserving land for equine and agricultural use. In 2006, Greg became a co-founder of the Lexington, Ky.-based land-advocacy organization Fayette Alliance with others from the equine, agricultural, and neighborhood communities. Greg currently serves as co-chair of Fayette Alliance, remaining actively involved in the organization's efforts since its inception. Fayette Alliance is dedicated to smart, sustainable, and equitable growth in Lexington-Fayette County through land-use advocacy, education, and research. Fayette Alliance's vision is to connect the vibrant city of Lexington with the productive and beautiful Bluegrass farmland of Fayette County. To achieve this goal, the organization advocates at city hall with

local decision-makers, educates the community through free programming, and commissions objective and independent research to support its advocacy and educational efforts, to ensure their work is always data driven.

Since the founding of Fayette Alliance, Greg also has been hosting the Bluegrass International Cup at his 1,400-acre Mt. Brilliant Farm in Lexington to raise funds for Fayette Alliance and the UK Markey Cancer Foundation.

ADVOCACY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

ADVOCACY EFFORTS

ELCR advocates for individuals and organizations supporting horses at local, state, and national levels. The organization represents the equine community on land-related issues across various national platforms. Below is an overview of ELCR's national-level equine land advocacy efforts in 2023.



American Horse Council Recreation, Trails, and Land-Use (RTL) Committee. ELCR continues to be an active member of the RTL Committee. In 2023, recognizing the significant increase in trail usage among all user groups, the committee focused on national legislative issues related to trails on public land working to keep access for equine related activities.

Coalition for Recreational Trails. ELCR continued its active participation in the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) in 2023. CRT is a coalition of national and regional trail-related organizations, representing both motorized and non-motorized communities. The coalition collaborates to raise awareness and understanding of the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which redistributes federal gasoline taxes paid by off-highway recreationists back to the states for trail development and maintenance. As part of this effort, ELCR represents the interests of the equine community, alongside two other national equine organizations, addressing key issues such as the use of e-bikes on public lands. In 2021, ELCR supported CRT's initiatives to reauthorize and expand the RTP, further advancing the coalition's goals. [The Coalition for Recreational Trails - American Trails](#)



COALITION
FOR
RECREATIONAL
TRAILS



Trails Are Common Ground. A study by the Outdoor Industry Association revealed that 8.1 million more Americans hiked in 2020 compared to 2019. However, any trail user can attest that the increasing number of people on trails has intensified pressures among different user groups, leading to overcrowding. Acknowledging the rapid growth of the trail user community, ELCR became part of an unprecedented coalition in 2021 to launch the public awareness campaign, *Trails Are Common Ground* (TaCG). This coalition, representing a wide range of outdoor activities such as hiking, trail running, equestrian riding, mountain biking, and motorized singletrack, includes both ELCR and Back Country

Horsemen of America as key voices for the equestrian community. The campaign promotes the importance of respectful, inclusive, safe, and enjoyable trail experiences, encouraging all user groups to join in. ELCR remained an active member of the TaCG Steering Committee in 2023. To learn more about the campaign, visit <https://trailsarecommonground.org/>

Trails Move People. In 2021, ELCR became a member of the *Trails Move People* coalition, led by our partner organization, American Trails, and continued its involvement throughout 2023. *Trails Move People* is a coalition of trail-focused organizations working together to amplify the voices of a diverse community of trail users. By focusing on shared values, collaboration, education, and communication, the initiative raises awareness about the economic, health, social, and political importance of trails. It fosters interaction and understanding among trail communities that are often unfamiliar with one another. In partnership with American Trails, the coalition also launched *The Trail Fund*, an emerging grant program dedicated to maintaining and improving America's trails through maintenance, research, and stewardship training projects. Initial grant funds were awarded in 2023. [Trails Move People - American Trails](#)



OUR CONSERVATION AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

Corporate Conservation Leaders

Blackburn Architects
Kentucky Performance Products

Business Members

Cornett and Associates
Equestrian Properties & Fine
Country Homes LLC

Conservation Leaders

Masters of Foxhounds Assoc.
North Salem Bridle Trails Assoc.
United States Equestrian Federation
United States Eventing Assoc.
United States Hunter Jumper Assoc.
United States Pony Clubs



Conservation Partners

Allerton Farm
American Association of Equine Practitioners
American Endurance Ride Conference
Ashland Farm
BCH, Lower Rio Grande Chapter
Bay State Trail Riders Assoc.
Caledonia Conservancy
Cedar Ridge Farm Equestrian
Certified Horsemanship Assoc.
Delaware Valley Combined Training Assoc.
Equestrian Partners in Conservation
First Equine Aid
Foothills Equestrian Trails Assoc.
Foothills Riding Club
Fox Covert Farm
Friesian Horse Association of North America
Great Lakes Distance Riding Assoc.
Green Vista Stables
Horse Heritage Conservancy
Horse Mesa Ranch
Horsemen's Council of Illinois
Kentucky Horse Council
Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Assoc.
Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation
Maryland Horse Breeders Assoc.
Masterson Equestrian Trust Fdn.
Muttontown Horsemen's Assoc.
National Reining Horse Assoc.
Nevada All-State Trail Riders
North American Trail Ride Conf.
North Carolina Horse Council
Oregon Equestrian Trails
Ortega Equestrian Center
Palos Hills Horsemen's Assoc.
Pathfinder Farm
Pennsylvania Equine Council
Piscataquog Area Trailways, Inc.
Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council
Shawnee Trail Conservancy
South Eastern Distance Riders Assoc.
Southern Eighths Farm
Sun Star Farm
The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County
Twin Oaks Valley Equestrian Assoc.
United States Dressage Federation
Wayne Area Conservancy Foundation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ELCR Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current Assets	2023	2022
Cash	639,160	627,739
Other Receivables	957	0
Promises to Give	0	0
Prepaid Insurance	979	4,408
Total Current Assets	\$641,096	\$632,147

Property & Equipment	2023	2022
Total Property & Equipment	\$1,150	\$1,795

Total Assets	2023	2022
Total Assets	\$642,246	\$633,942

Liabilities & Fund Balance

Current Liabilities	2023	2022
Accounts Payable	1,363	1,968
Accrued Liabilities	16,862	14,997
Deferred Revenue	140	28
Total Current Liabilities	\$18,365	\$16,993

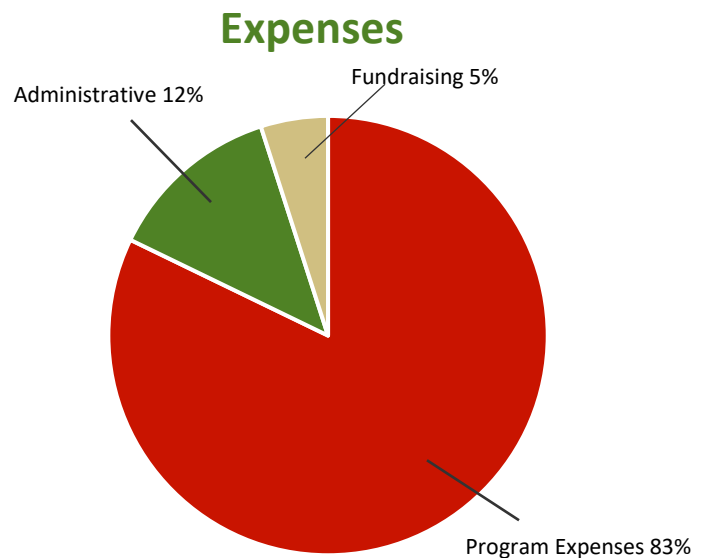
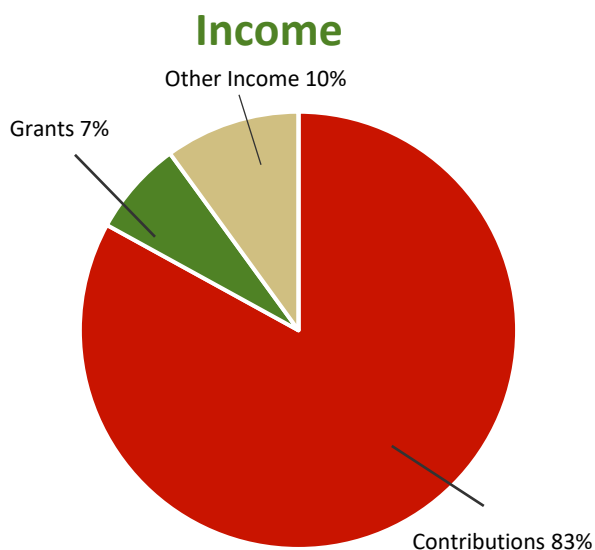
Fund Balance	2023	2022
Unrestricted	624,759	588,450
Temporarily Restricted	10,000	30,750
Total Fund Balance	\$634,759	\$619,200

Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	2023	2022
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$642,246	\$633,942

ELCR's Ratio of Spending

Income	2023	2022
Contributions (Unrestricted)	232,183	257,621
Grants (Unrestricted)	19,000	111,915
Other Income	28,870	25,191
Total Income	\$280,053	\$394,727

Expenses	2023	2022
Program Expenses	219,207	189,729
Administrative	33,193	29,089
Fundraising	12,110	10,240
Total Expenses	\$264,510	\$229,058



OUR LEADERSHIP

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Equine Land Conservation Resource
4037 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 120, Lexington, Kentucky 40511
Phone: 859-455-8383, info@elcr.org
www.ELCR.org

