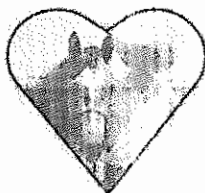


Hey Neighbor



For The Love Of Horses

By Frank J. Buchman

Construction on major horse center at Manhattan could start next year

A major horse center may still become a reality at Kansas State University.

While conversation about the need, and initial planning stages, for such a facility date back as far as 1993, the pace has picked up. Construction could begin as early as next year.

"We have shifted directions and made adjustments to some of the earlier plans," said Aaron Hund, di-

rector of development for the Livestock & Meat Industry Council at K-State.

"Shelden Architecture of Wichita has developed a new master site plan," Hund continued. "It is a small firm made up of K-State graduates who have done an excellent job listening to what we want for a horse facility unique to K-State and the Flint Hills region."

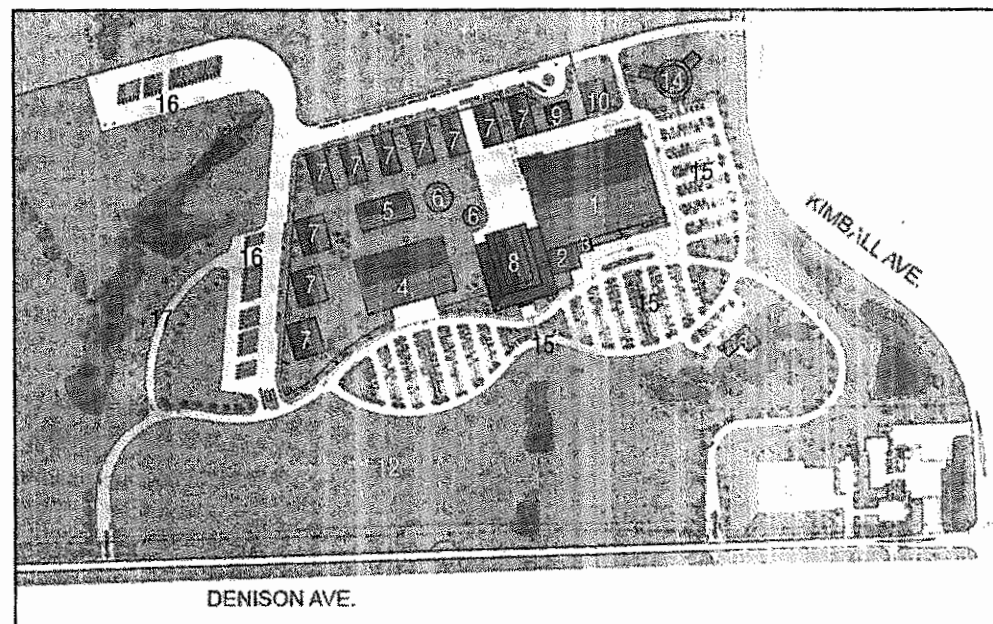
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called EquiCenter, will have two main objectives, according to Hund, who has served in his position for the past year.

"Education is the most important need," he emphasized. "Equine science is growing in leaps and bounds."

"As demographics

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| 1. Indoor Multipurpose Arena | 7. Outdoor Barns for Temporary Stalls | 13. Cattlemen's Conference Center |
| 2. Education Area | 8. Horse Barn | 14. Riding Therapy Center |
| 3. Administration | 9. Hay Barn | 15. Car Parking |
| 4. Outdoor Covered Arena | 10. Maintenance Building | 16. Trailer Parking |
| 5. Outdoor Covered Warm-Up Arena | 11. Dry Lots | 17. RV Parking |
| 6. Outdoor Covered Round Pens | 12. Hunter and Jumper Course/Trails | |

Master site plan by Shelden Architecture of Wichita, shows the EquiCenter to be built at Manhattan. Construction is to start next year.

change, many of our animal science students don't have a traditional farm and ranch background. They're more urban oriented with no hands-on experience and need training," Hund continued.

Present facilities are said to be far from adequate. There is a lack of classrooms and no place for live presentations and hands-on demonstrations.

"The EquiCenter would establish a home for KSU equine teaching, research, Extension and for competitive teams: the NCAA Women's Equestrian Team and the KSU Rodeo Team," Hund clarified.

"It would be developed on university-owned land located northwest of the intersection of Kimball and Denison avenues in Manhattan," Hund described. "Location would be just west of Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community and northeast of the Manhattan Fire Department Headquarters."

Included in the \$10 million education phase would be an education center, administrative space, outdoor covered arena, outdoor covered warm-up area, outdoor covered round pens, horse barn, conference center and a riding therapy center.

"Second phase of the

EquiCenter would be a \$19 million competitive events center," Hund said. "It would be an attractive, highly functional venue to host local, state, regional and national equine and livestock events."

This would add an indoor multi-purpose arena, outdoor barns for temporary stalls, hay barn, maintenance building, dry lots, hunter and jumper course and parking for trucks, trailers and spectators.

"We are in the midst of an aggressive fundraising campaign to secure money for construction of the educational phase," Hund reviewed. "This will give KSU the edge in attracting future talented students."

The university is exploring partnership opportunities with the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

and surrounding communities, including Pottawatomie and Geary counties, to build the competitive events component.

"It would attract not only collegiate events but practically all areas of equine participation from throughout the country. We would expect professional rodeo, cutting, reining, barrel racing, dressage, hunter-jumper and other competitions. These would be from a day to a week in length, with some activity going on nearly all of the time," he added.

While the university is providing the land for the facilities, there is no allocation of state funding expected for construction.

One major gift has been received to start the educational phase. "We have a lot of great alumni and friends

who are engaged with the equine and livestock industries and have a passion to see this facility built. We expect to begin construction next summer," Hund said.

Additional information about the EquiCenter is available at www.ksu.edu/equicenter and Hund can be contacted at (785) 532-7533 or arundh@four.d.ksu.edu.

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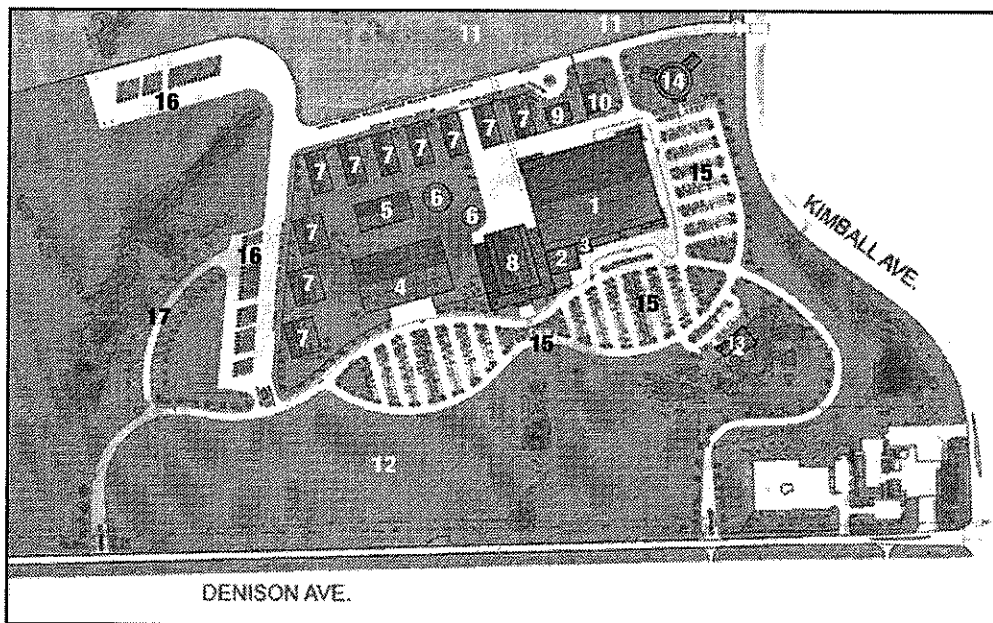
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