The horse as a key player of local development in the United States in the 3rd millennium

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Horses and the settlement of the U.S.

- The horse has played an important role in the settlement and development of the United States
  - Native Americans
  - Spanish explorers
  - Settlement of the West
Horses and the settlement of the U.S.

- Horses were vital to:
  - Battle
  - Transportation
  - Ranching and farming
Horses in the U.S. today

Horses are now a luxury...not a necessity

Increasing pressure to develop land for economic reasons...
What is local development?

- Community or rural development
- Economic development in rural communities
  - Improve health
  - Improve jobs
  - Improve economic opportunities
- Horses usually reside in rural communities
- Horses and development do not have to be mutually exclusive
- Intentional community zoning, planning, and land use
  - Balanced, sustainable growth
Kentucky Horse Park: A Case Study

- Created when TB farms started closing their gates
- Tourist attraction and state park
- Boon to the state’s equine industry and to the state
- 2010 World Equestrian Games
  - Improvements to KHP
  - Improvements to Lexington
  - Statewide benefits
  - New destination for Sport Horse farms
Kentucky Horse Park: A Case Study
Lexington, KY

- Firms locate to Lexington area to take advantage of the equine and agrarian culture
- Lexington ranked #19 among best college towns in the U.S. by *Best College Reviews*
  - One of the nation’s most STABLE economies
  - “The Urban Growth Boundary ...preserves the surrounding horse farms that give the region its identity.”
Including “the horse” in community and economic development

- Not all benefits are monetary...and that’s okay!
- Better air quality
- Better mental and physical health
- Preservation of rural character
- Quality of life
Planning for the future...Leaving a legacy

- Development will occur...so...
  - The equestrian community needs to be **actively engaged** in planning
  - Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR)

- What we do today will have a tremendous impact 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 years down the road
  - Sustainable development
    - Economic
    - Environment
    - Social equity
  - Balanced growth
  - Land preservation