

SustainAbility

A joint publication from Audubon Lifestyles and The International Sustainability Council

The Oaks Equestrian Center First to receive 5-Star Rating and Seal of Sustainability

In early 2008 the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center joined as a pilot member of the Audubon Lifestyles Sustainable Equestrian Facility Program, a voluntary program that is setting the standard for sustainably-managed equestrian facilities. The facility was recently recognized by Audubon Lifestyles as the epitome of sustainability by receiving a Five-Star rating. In doing so the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center became the first equestrian facility in the world to receive the designation. In addition to receiving the Five-Star rating from Audubon Lifestyles, the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center has also been issued the Seal of Sustainability from the International Sustainability Council (ISC).

The Oaks is a project of Dicks Realty which is located in Lake City, Florida, in the triangle between Ocala, Jacksonville and Tallahassee. The planned neighborhood development has over 1,200 rolling acres, filled with large, mature oak trees, and is located near the Osceola National Forest. The development includes more than 15 miles of looped riding trails, giving residents and property users the feeling of being in a wilderness. In addition, the cross-country course (custom designed by Olympian David O'Connor) and custom top-of-the-line 33-stall barn is complemented by a competition-quality outdoor ring, covered round pen, and a large covered arena. These features and more distinguish the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center as a truly premier and one-of-a-kind equestrian facility.

Continue this story on next page...



Inside this issue

The Oaks Equestrian Center First to receive 5-Star Rating and Seal of Sustainability 1

The Oaks Equestrian Center (continued) 2

Ron Dodson receives the 2009 ASGCA's Donald Ross Award ... 2

Planning a Sustainable Franklin, Tennessee 3

The Importance of Openspace Planning..... 3

Bird City, Kansas becomes first Program Member 4

The Chapman School of Leadership in Sustainability 4

The Oaks Equestrian Center (continued)

In June 2009, the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center prepared for the on-site audit conducted by R. Eric Dodson, CEO of Audubon Lifestyles, "I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center, and the staff should be commended for doing an outstanding job. Rhonda Gailey, the General Manager, in particular provided me with invaluable information about the equestrian industry and the issues related to properly managing an equestrian facility. This information will undoubtedly lead to further improvements and help to strengthen the Audubon Lifestyles Equestrian Facility Program. I am grateful to the the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center and their participation as a pilot member, and I am certainly proud to showcase the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center as the first Five-Star Audubon Lifestyles Equestrian Facility, and to issue the International Sustainability Council's Seal of Sustainability to the facility," commented Mr. Dodson.



Ron Dodson receives the 2009 ASGCA's Donald Ross Award

Ron Dodson, Sustainability Advisor for Audubon Lifestyles, and president of the International Sustainability Council was chosen to receive the 2009 Donald Ross Award on May 3, 2009 at the Donald Ross Banquet during the 63rd ASGCA Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington.

Dodson serves on numerous environmentally-focused committees. He is a prolific writer, and a frequent presenter to state and federal agencies on the topics of water quality, ecological studies, restoration planning, and community planning.

The entire Audubon Lifestyles team would like to congratulate Ron on this tremendous achievement.

"Participating in this process seemed like a natural fit for us, as the O'Connor Signature Brand itself was developed using sustainable models that included economic, social and environmental considerations," said Rhonda Gailey, General Manager for the O'Connor Signature at the Oaks Equestrian Center.

The Audubon Lifestyles Equestrian Program includes guidelines and incentives for equestrian facility owners and managers seeking to adopt economic, environmental and socially-responsible best practices. In addition, the program includes safety protocols for horses and riders, as well as criteria for facility planning, environmental practices and operations. Through these standards, equestrian facilities will be recognized for following design and operational parameters that promote all aspects of sustainability.

In addition to setting the standard for sustainably-managed equestrian facilities the Audubon Lifestyles Equestrian Facility Program was developed to offer achievable, yet comprehensive sustainable programming to equestrian managers and owners, and to reward facilities that do more, than the minimum through a series of recognition and branding opportunities. Not every facility will choose the path toward sustainability, but those that chose to participate will become the leaders in the industry.

To learn more about the facility visit: www.OconnorOEC.com

Planning a Sustainable Franklin, Tennessee

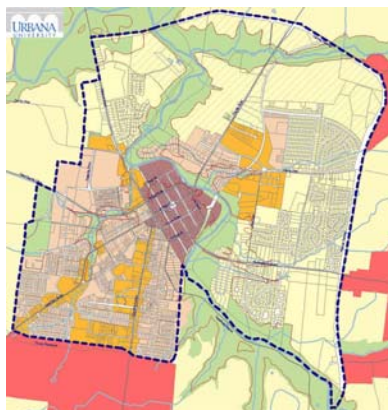
In early June 2009, through a series of daylong charrettes culminating in a public meeting, Audubon Lifestyles assisted LandDesign, city stakeholders and the Steering Committee for Franklin, Tennessee to develop a plan that is intended to serve as a unified guide, and central coordinating mechanism for the future of Central Franklin that:

- emphasizes the interrelated nature of Central Franklin’s diverse neighborhoods and its historic commercial core as a key to its long-term success and vitality;
- synthesizes and builds upon the previous work efforts and successes of the City, the stakeholders and numerous organizations already active in Central Franklin;
- complements the citywide recommendations of the Central Franklin Area Plan;
- focuses on broad issues as they pertain to all of Central Franklin, not just specific geographic areas within it; and
- perhaps most importantly, identifies the necessary “next steps” the community must take in order to achieve the implementation of its goals for Central Franklin.



The Central Franklin planning area encompasses nearly 4,000 of the City of Franklin’s 18,726 acres and includes the downtown, or 15-Block Area, as well as many of the City’s historic residential neighborhoods. The importance of the Central Franklin as the “core” of the community was recognized as most important, and the character of Central Franklin is what was used as the model that should affect and influence the vision of the citywide plan, and upon which Franklin’s future as a city should be based upon.

The Audubon Lifestyles team is proud to have been apart of this process, and is excited to continue to work with the City of Franklin, Tennessee as they move towards becoming more Sustainable.



The Importance of Openspace Planning

Growth and land conservation are often seen as two opposing forces—with proponents of each scrambling to beat the other to valuable land. Fortunately, a new paradigm is emerging. Development and conservation of open space can be compatible and complementary when applied in strategic, collaborative ways.

Open Space is land that is not intensively developed for residential, commercial, industrial or institutional use. It serves many purposes, whether it is publicly or privately owned. It includes agricultural and forest land, undeveloped shorelines, undeveloped scenic lands, public parks and preserves. It also includes water bodies such as lakes and bays. What is defined as open space depends in part on its surroundings. A vacant lot, community garden or small marsh can be open space in a big city. A narrow corridor or pathway for walking or bicycling is open space even though it is surrounded by developed areas. Historic and archeological sites are often associated with significant open spaces and are a part of our common heritage.

Why Plan for open Space Conservation?

- An open space conservation plan can recommend new recreational facilities to enhance the economic as well as the social life of the community.
- It can recommend that a community enhance its downtown by planting shade trees and creating small sitting parks. It can protect wetlands, stream corridors and other ecologically important features.
- It can lead to the establishment of linkages between these areas and sites through greenways and bicycle trails.

Bird City, Kansas becomes first Program Member

What better place to kick-start the Bird City U.S.A. Program than in Bird City, Kansas?

Bird City, Kansas is a small, active, agricultural community in in heartland of the United States. We would like to thank Bird City, Kansas for becoming the first member of the Audubon Lifestyles Bird City U.S.A Program .

The Bird City U.S.A. program provides direction, technical assistance, public attention, and national recognition for municipalities and communities throughout the United States who recognize International Migratory Bird Day, and the importance that birds have in our communities.

Learn more at:

www.audubonlifestyles.org/

The Chapman School of Leadership in Sustainability

Urbana University, the International Sustainability Council and Audubon Lifestyles have partnered together to help to create the Chapman School of Leadership in Sustainability.

The Chapman School of Leadership in Sustainability is focused on delivering Services in Education for Economic Development and Sustainability, also known as S.E.E.D.S. Together we are planting the seeds of leadership in sustainability through educational services, with our signature offering being the Executive MBA in Sustainability Leadership. In addition, the Chapman School holds Leadership in Sustainability Summits on a range of subject matters, offers Sustainability Certification for various professional disciplines.

Urbana University is committed to incorporating the tenets of sustainability in all that we do, including our infrastructure and grounds management, academic programming, and adult and continuing education. In keeping with that commitment Urbana University became the first university to gain recognition by the International Sustainability Council by developing a Sustainability Charter.

Learn more at: <http://www.urbana.edu>



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Additional Resources & Sources

Audubon Lifestyles	www.audubonlifestyles.com
The International Sustainability Council	www.thesustainabilitycouncil.org
O'Connor Signature at the Oaks	www.theoakslakecity.com
The City of Franklin, Tennessee	www.franklin-gov.com
LandDesign	www.landdesign.com
Green Living Tips	www.greenlivingtips.com
The Daily Green	www.thedailygreen.com
Sustainability Campaign	sustainabilitycampaign.blogspot.com
Energy Star	www.energystar.gov
American Society of Golf Course Architects	www.asgca.org
Bird City, Kansas	www.birdcity.com