

Our Oak Ridge Park and Recreation Advisory Board was asked to research the feasibility of adding horse trails at the future park expansion at the Whitaker Property. Advisory board members gathered information from different sources and discussed the horse trail idea at great lengths during several advisory board meetings. A common thread throughout many of the discussions of our board was the safety concern of having people and horses on the same trails. The advisory board also listened to presentations from groups who were in favor of proposed horse trails at the park. After much discussion and deliberation it is the opinion of the Oak Ridge Park and Recreation Advisory Board that horse trails are not recommended at the Whitaker Property.

A synopsis of the gathered information follows:

1. The North East Park in Greensboro, NC has 6.5 miles of horse trails on 374 acres. The trail is dirt and the loading/unloading area for the horses is comprised of soft surfaces. Riders typically take 2-3 hours to complete the trail one time. The park has two separate trail systems with one trail dedicated for horses. Park management staff stressed that separate trails for horses and people are key to a safe and successful trail experience.
2. Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, NC has 7 miles of horse trails on 365 acres. The trail has 1 mile of paved asphalt and 6 miles of sand over gravel. Riders typically take a little over 2 hours to complete trail. The trail is multi-use with walking, running, bicycling, and equine.
3. If our town park created a horse trail it would only be approximately 1 mile not including the concrete sidewalk along Highway 150.
4. Public survey for input on use of the Whitaker Property showed 1 response in favor of riding trails and 1 response not in favor of riding trails from a

total of 112 responses from the mail out survey.
The 72 responses from the on-line survey showed 2
responses in favor of riding trails and 1 response
not in favor of riding trails.

We as a board feel that with this research and the
concern for the safety of patrons at the park we would
not recommend horse trails at the Whitaker Property.

Thank you for your time.

Oak Ridge Park and Recreation Advisory Board