Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead

Overland Park Rotary’s Prairie Playground

Renovation and Expansion

City of Overland Park, Kansas
Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead
- where the farm is alive and kicking.

A Success Story

The Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead has been a recreational resource in the southern Johnson County area since 1978, and currently provides more than 380,000 people annually with relaxing family fun.

The Farmstead is a 12-acre park, owned and operated by the City of Overland Park, Kansas. It features farm animals, educational exhibits, historic artifacts and child-centered activities, all set in an early 20th century Kansas farm.

On May 25, 1985 the Farmstead changed its name to Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead. This was done as a memorial to Deanna Rose, the first and only Overland Park police officer killed in the line of duty.

In 1999, the City of Overland Park finalized plans for the Farmstead Expansion project. Since then more than 11 major projects have been completed at the Farmstead with the assistance of the Friends of the Farmstead, a not-for-profit group established to help raise funds for projects and programs.

The Overland Park Rotary’s Playground is an important component of the Master Plan and was established in 2004. We are excited to expand the Overland Park Rotary’s Prairie Playground and we invite you to join us in making it a reality.
Where we’ve been and where we’re going

The Prairie Playground opened in 2004 and was funded by the Overland Park Rotary Club with a major donation paid over a three year period of time.

The playground has served as a major attraction at the Farmstead and is continually voted as the top fun thing to do by most kids and parents.

Since we opened the playground, we have had over 3.5 million visitors, most of whom have used and enjoyed the Prairie Playground.

Now that ten years have passed, we would like to make an addition with a fun and exciting play feature for the kids. An addition of a play tractor is important to maintain the appearance and quality of the recreational exhibit along with creating renewed interest in the playground.

The second major area we are focusing on is the establishment of a new Tot-Lot adjacent to the Prairie Playground. This area is designed for the smallest visitors. Many of our toddlers are overwhelmed by the size and intensity of use of the playground and giving them their space is a necessity.

Cost estimates of the overall project are $60,000. In the following pages, we outline more detail on these three areas.
One of the challenges that has taken place over the last few years is that although our antique tractors were purchased specifically to allow kids to climb on, we can no longer allow that due to safety regulations. They are all now barricaded and posted, do not touch.

Staff has identified a custom made tractor specifically designed for kids to climb on. We know this will be a major hit with our visitors.

Below is a picture of the tractor we are seeking along with where we would like to locate this tractor.
Overland Park Rotary’s Prairie Playground

Expansion—Children’s Tot-Lot

This playground area is actually a replacement for a twenty-five year old structure that was removed in 2013 due to age and no longer meeting the necessary safety requirements.

This area is directly below Gayle’s Outpost Pavilion and across the path from the Prairie Playground.

The equipment selected for this area is designed for one-in-a-half to three year-olds and will appear in such a way as to discourage older children from playing on these features.

In addition to the formal structures, this area will include a variety of simple items like neatly shaped rocks, an old tractor tire, and little animals made of bronze or concrete. Kids will be able to touch, feel, climb, and explore everything.
The Friends of the Farmstead are a not-for-profit group under the Arts and Recreation Foundation of Overland Park established to support Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead. The Friends host ten major events each season and support a donor and membership program to enrich and support the Farmstead.

To find out more, visit us at drfarmstead.org.