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Hollis Equestrian Park News - Spring 2026

Clean-up Day – Sunday, April 26, 2026

Mark your calendars! We'll be cleaning up and getting the Park ready for the season on Sunday, April 26, from 1 to 3 PM. Activities will include hanging the sponsor signs, tidying up the Manager's Booth and bathrooms, cutting tree limbs and brush as necessary,

Booth and bathrooms, cutting tree limbs and brush as necessary, and general grounds cleanup. We're also planning to do some preliminary work on the jump course, such as cutting brush and tree limbs. And to answer your most important question: yes, there will be chili, beverages, and snacks! Come lend a hand and enjoy some good company as we get the Park shipshape.





Waiting for spring so we can get the Park ready for the season!

Park Opening Date and New Lock and Combination

Assuming the weather cooperates, we hope to officially open the Park for members' use right after cleanup day.

An official announcement of opening dates will be made on Facebook and posted on the website calendar.

And of special interest to those of us who struggled last year, our hard-working Facilities Manager Mike will be purchasing a NEW COMBINATION LOCK for the main gate. After receiving multiple calls from agitated Park users unable to open the gate, a user-friendly new lock will be installed for this season!





The much-hated lock will be replaced when the Park is open this spring. HEP members and groups renting the Park will be provided with the new combination.

Jump for Joy – We’re Getting Started!

One of the nicest features of HEP is our fun cross-country jump course, which is located adjacent to the warm-up arena.

Maintenance deferred by a lack of workers caused the jump course to fall into disrepair, and it cannot be used in its present condition.

Under our new management, repairing and upgrading the jump course has been identified as a priority, and we are beginning work this season.

We ended last fall with a detailed walk-through inspection of the current course. Many thanks to Lauren Dallaire of Swan Brook Equestrian Center, who walked the course with us and made helpful suggestions on which jumps could be repaired, jump placement, and safety considerations.



No question that this jump needs help!

We also want to thank Jane and Bill Mitchell, owners of Steep Falls Building Supply, who graciously discounted a load of railroad ties

Building Supply who graciously discounted a load of railroad ties that were delivered last fall. These will be used as ground lines and/or posts for the jumps needing replacement.



Railroad ties will be used as we repair and replace jumps

And a third thank you to Karl Gimpel of Three Maple Farm. Karl has been busy at his sawmill, cutting 4x4 lumber that will be dried and cut into an octagonal shape for jump rails. When the rails are ready, we're planning to schedule a work party to sand and paint so our new jumps will be lookin' sharp!



These custom-milled 4x4s will be cut into an octagonal shape for our jump rails.

What needs to be done?

Our first task will be to complete the necessary groundwork, including grading the footing, cutting brush and tree limbs, filling holes, removing rotten and broken jump components, and thorough mowing. We hope to get this done early in the summer, but timing will obviously depend on when things get dried out and when equipment is available.

A lot of work is required, but we do hope to have the course partially usable before Fall 2026, so stay tuned!

Support HEP – Membership Renewal Time

Come ride at the park!

HEP members are provided with the combination to the main gate

HEP members are provided with the combination to the main gate lock and are encouraged to use the Park any time it is not rented for shows. We keep the calendar updated, so it's easy to see if it's available for member use.

How much does a membership cost?

- Youth \$15.00/year (riders under 18)
- Individual \$25.00/year
- Family \$40.00/year

There are two ways you can become a member:

1. Membership forms are available on HEP's website. Print off a form and mail it in with a check.

[HollisEquestrianParkMembership2026.pdf](#)

2. We've added a website feature where you can join online.

Nice and easy! [MembershipForm.html](#)

Please note that anyone using the Park must be a member – guests are not allowed. This does not apply to organizations renting the park or to HEP-sponsored activities like cleanup days, since both show organizers and HEP carry insurance for equestrian activities.

Support the Park with a Sign!

Would you like to support HEP and become one of our valued sponsors? Sponsorship signs posted on the fence are a great way to advertise your business or organization. All we need is a business card or similar graphic, and we can have a durable sign made. The initial sponsorship ranges from \$125 to \$230 (depending on sign size) with an annual \$100 renewal fee. See the website for more

size) with an annual \$100 renewal fee. See the website for more information.



Become a park sponsor and advertise your business or organization with a beautiful sign.

2026 Park Events

We are still taking bookings for the 2026 season. Presently (as of mid-April), the following dates are booked:

- American Saddlebred Association of Maine (ASAM)– Sunday, May 3
- National Barrel Horse Association of Maine – Saturday, May 16
- SMDA Schooling Show – Sunday, May 17
- SMDA Schooling Show – Sunday, July 12
- SMDA Schooling Show – Saturday, August 1
- SMDA USDF/USEF Show – Sunday, August 2
- KKF Seacoast Classic Hunter Jumper Show – Sunday, August 9
- 63rd Annual Highview Riding Club Horse Show – Saturday, September 12
- SMDA Schooling Show – Sunday, September 13
- National Barrel Horse Association of Maine – Saturday, September 19

Interested in booking an event? Renting HEP is \$200 per day. Information and the booking contract are available on HEP's [website](#).

Using the Park – A Few Housekeeping Issues

We've made up a brief Handbook that includes emergency contact information and a few rules about using the park. The Handbook is in a white 3-ring binder in the Manager's Booth. For organizations renting the park, please take 2 minutes to review before your event. HEP is operated and maintained by a small group of unpaid volunteers. so please help:

volunteers, so please help:

- DO NOT USE BATHROOMS, FAUCETS, OR WATER TAPS unless the main power switch is on.
- Nothing in the toilets except toilet paper. Please use the provided sanitary bags for non-flushable items.
- Do not use staples to post anything outside the booth! Please use the bulletin board provided. Help us keep the exterior looking nice. Make sure to put the bulletin board back inside the booth when you are done – it is not weatherproof!
- Clean up manure: both in the rings and on the grounds. Please dump in the woods BEHIND the sign at the far end of the trailer parking area.
- Pick up litter and remove all trash from the grounds, including the bathrooms.





We've ordered a large bulletin board for posting information at the Manager's Booth. Please use this instead of the walls and remember to put it back in the booth before you leave, since it's not weatherproof.

Trails

We're still working on trail access – in the meantime, please respect private property and stay within the HEP property area.

Friends of Hollis Equestrian Park - Our Mission

The Friends of Hollis Equestrian Park is a group of volunteers that improves and maintains the Hollis Equestrian Park for other equestrians in the community. It is registered as a Maine non-profit organization.

Current Officers and Board Members

President

Kristin Pretorius

Vice-President

Yvette Woodman

Treasurer

Deb Dubois

Secretary

Secretary

Pat Hawley

Board Members

Susan Pendleton

Michael Pulsoni (Facilities Manager)

Questions?

We love to get input from our members! If you have a question about your membership, renting the park, becoming a sponsor or any other information please reach out: hollisequestrian@gmail.com



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123 New County Road, Hollis Center, ME 04042

Our mailing address is:

18 Old Grassy Road, Hollis Center, ME 04042