

Hollis Equestrian Park News

August 2025

The season is winding down, and things are happening at HEP! Here's a quick update.

Manager's Booth Renovation

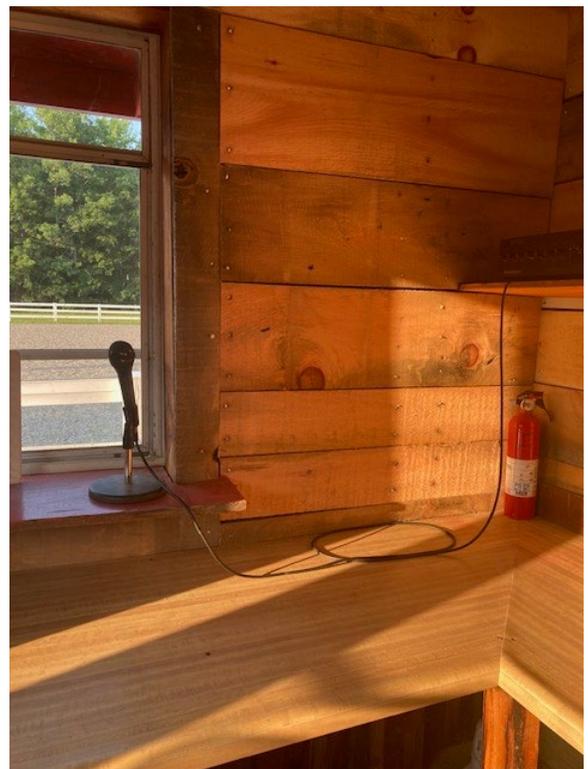
We're so pleased with how the Manager's Booth came out. The exterior has been stained a cheerful barn red with white trim, and the interior has been finished with rough-cut pine for a rustic, but clean look that's a huge improvement over the crumbling drywall. Our facilities manager, Mike Pulsoni, led the efforts, and we had a generous crew of volunteers to make this happen.



Manager's Booth Exterior



Manager's Booth Interior Back Room



Manager's Booth Interior Front Room

Hitching Post Memorial

Check out the beautiful new granite hitching post located just outside the main arena near the tree. Donated by the Standardbred Pleasure Horse Organization of Maine (led by Denise Metayer), the post is a memorial to the late Robyn Cuffey. One of the founders of HEP, Robyn, was active in promoting and maintaining the Park for longer than anyone can remember! It's only fitting that there should be a permanent feature to remind us of this incredibly special person and to acknowledge how much she did for the horse community.



New Hitching Post donated by SPHO



Hitching Post Plaque

The inscription on the plaque reads:

In Memory of Robyn Cuffey

05/10/1954-10/10/2023

Robyn rode and drove countless miles in and out of this ring. Her life was blessed with many true friends and horses. She believed every horse is worth something, saving countless numbers of horses from uncertain futures.

She was a lifelong member of Maine's equestrian community and an expert at retraining standardbreds at her Photo Finish Farm.

Robyn was a gifted trainer, a thoughtful teacher, and accomplished writer. Robyn left a positive impact on the lives of humans and equines alike. Please keep her spirit alive by supporting horse rescue and retraining programs.

She is missed dearly by her Maine Standardbred Pleasure Horse Family and Friends.

Trot on . . .

HEP Rules!

Please help us keep HEP clean and in good repair. The Park is under new management in 2025, and we're working hard to make repairs and upgrades so this will be a community facility we can be proud of.

We've prepared a brief Hollis Equestrian Park Handbook, located in a white 3-ring binder in the Manager's Booth. If you have rented or are using the Park as a member, please take a moment to read through it. It includes important information such as who to contact with questions or concerns, and general rules for using the Park. Here are a few highlights:

- **WATER!** There were issues with the water at a show in July, which fortunately we were able to address quickly. Please, if you are going to use the restrooms or turn on any of the water spigots, you must turn the power on in the booth first! If you use water without power, the pump will not work, and air will get in the lines, but not water! If you are having trouble with the water, please 1) Lock the restroom doors so no one can use them; and 2) Contact the Facility Manager (Mike Pulsoni).
- **CLEAN UP WHEN YOU LEAVE!** HEP does not have a janitorial service. Please tidy up and put things back where you found them. Remove all trash and pick up litter around the Park. Yes, we know at the end of the day everyone is tired and wants to get out of there, but it's not fair to the next group if you leave a mess.
- **MANURE!** See the sign at the edge of the woods? Please clean up all manure and dump it in the woods behind the sign. Do not leave manure in the main arena, warm-up, or anywhere on the grounds except in the designated location.



Dump manure behind this sign.

- POSTING SHOW RESULTS! Please do not staple anything to the exterior walls of the booth, or you will make the Facilities Manager cry! We are planning to get a removable bulletin board for this purpose. In the meantime, please use push-pin thumbtacks. They are located in the booth. It was a lot of work to remove years worth of old staples before applying that bright and cheerful red paint. We would like it to last for a while!

To help you close up at the end of the day, we've made a quick checklist that is posted in the booth.

Hollis Equestrian Park Close-up Checklist

- The bathrooms are clean. The doors are locked, and the keys are returned to the nail in the booth.
- Any signs, posters, and show results are removed from the booth exterior.
- The booth is tidy, swept, and things are moved back to where they were found.
- The PA system is powered down.
- The main power switch is turned off.
- Manure is picked up and dumped in the woods behind the sign.
- All litter is picked up, and all trash is bagged and removed from the site.
- The front gate is closed and locked.
- Please report any issues with the facility or supplies:
 - For urgent issues, text Mike 207-831-5024
 - Otherwise, email hollisequestrian@gmail.com

Thank you for your participation!

Fun Show Update

Remember last spring when it rained every Saturday? Including the date we'd planned for the HEP Fun Show, and we ended up cancelling. Nothing is planned for this fall, but we are tentatively planning to try again next spring. Updates and information will be posted on Facebook.

Book the Park!

Speaking of 2026, let us know if you'd like to schedule an event for next season. We do try to hold dates for shows that have the same schedule each year, but it is really helpful for scheduling if you book early. The Park is open from mid-April through mid-November (weather dependent). We had a few open weekends this year, and now that we are working hard on improvements, it would be great to see the facility more fully utilized.

Information about booking the Park is on the website www.hollisequestrianpark.com, including insurance requirements and fees.

Members may use HEP anytime it is not rented out for an event, and it's usually free on weekdays and some weekends. The combination to the lock on the front gate is provided when you join or renew your membership. Check the calendar on the website before you come over to make sure it's not being used.

Trails Update

Well, not much of an update – we're still working on it! The HEP Board has been working on identifying the landowners adjacent to the Park in hopes of renewing agreements to allow HEP member riders to pass through onto the Massabesic Forest Trails, and verifying that the Massabesic Forest Trails are still open to the public.. This is a work in progress, and when we have more information, we'll post on Facebook and notify members via email.

Jump Course

Also, a work in progress! This fall, we plan to evaluate the jump course and see what repairs are needed to make this a safe venue. If you have any questions, suggestions, or especially if you're interested in helping, please contact HEP at hollisequestrian@gmail.com

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