

City of Delta
Horse Country Arena & Horse Park
Located in Confluence Park

Mission

To preserve land for equestrian activities and public recreation and provide a vibrant multi-purpose Special Events Arena and Horse Park for the Western Slope and the Citizens of the City of Delta and surrounding communities, including scheduling and promotion of diverse events.

Vision

- To implement improvements on the current facilities and infrastructure of the Horse Country Arena and create a horse park to provide a safer, more esthetic, family oriented venue for both horses and people using the facilities.
- To enhance the facility and amenities to draw larger participation and spectators to Horse Country Arena & Horse Park.
- To create a positive economic impact on the local economy by expanding the impact of the equine industry to the area.
- By refurbishing and expanding on the current facilities so Horse Country Arena & Horse Park can be financially self sufficient.

Brief History of Facility

On July 3, 1989 the *Rocky Mountain News* featured an article entitled "*Horse industry helps Delta buck slump, spur economy*" which began:
"Delta - The future is arriving on horseback."

Considerable attention was gained by Delta's equine activities in 1989, initiated by the Retail Development Administration's recognition that, as a point of improving the economy, the area had a number of resources which could attract activities that would bring in (not only new residents and businesses) but contestants with substantial money in their hip pockets.

The effort was in response to the area's loss of over 500 residents as part of mining closures and a sagging agricultural economy.

Three projects were created by the Administration which were related and complementary in their goals: First, in gaining regional attention, was the winning of the contract to hold the National Little Britches Finals in Delta beginning in August of 1990. In addition was the formation of the Horse Country Committee and its activities in the city arena at the north end of Delta on Highway 50. And, third, was recognition by Governor Romer to be designated as a

Colorado Initiatives Community to study the feasibility of expanding the horse activities as a point of economic impact. Delta competed against fifty-six other projects and was one of eight nominated to win up to \$25,000 as "seed money" from U.S. West to develop their future on horseback. Horse Country Committee competed for 9 months before being awarded the seed money grant of \$25,000 to expand the arena, which was relocated in a grove of shade trees at the south end of Confluence Park. Two miles of trails, Confluence Lake for fishing and the Uncompahgre River surround the arena complex for added activities. A \$58,000 grant was awarded by the U.S. Forestry Service to build portable stalls for the new Horse Country Arena facility.