Town of Hodges

P.O. Box 87
Hodges, Alabama 35571

April 26, 2016

Maureen Neighbors, Unit Chief
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103-5690

RE: Town of Hodges
Recreational Trails Program
Pre-Application

Dear Ms. Neighbors:

Please find enclosed the Recreational Trails Program Pre-application forms and supporting information for the Town of Hodges' Rock Bridge Canyon park improvements project.

We appreciate the possible funding opportunity for park improvements from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

Sincerely,

Mayor Edward Crouch

cc Kelley Keeton Taft, The Kelley Group

STATE OF ALABAMA

TOWN OF HODGES, ALABAMA

FRANKLIN COUNTY

At a regular meeting of the Town Council held at the Hodges Town Hall on the May 10th, 2016, there were present Mayor Edward Crouch, Council members, Samantha Gann, Ronald Holland, James Isom, and Jeff Stidham constituting a quorum of the Town Council. Present and recording was Frankie Petree, Town Clerk.

Resolution "To provide an in-kind match of $20,000 or 20% of the proposed project costs For the purpose of matching the Recreational Trails Program".

This was introduced by Council member Samantha Gann.

Council member Ronald Holland moved that all rules governing the town council which might, unless suspended, prevent the passage and adoption of this nomination at this meeting be and the same are hereby suspended for the purpose of permitting the said Resolution to be finally passed and adopted at this meeting.

Council member Jeff Stidham second the motion. That the question was put before the council and on roll call the vote was as follows:

Edward Crouch __yea__
Samantha Gann_yea__
Betty Gober _resigned__
Ronald Holland __yea___
James Isom __yea____
Jeff Stidham __yea____

That the presiding officer declare the motion adopted by unanimous vote of the members present. That Council member Samantha Gann moved that said Resolution for Town Council be finally passed and adopted as introduced. That Council member James Isom

second the motion. That the presiding officer put the question of final passage and the adoption of Resolution to vote of the town council, and on call of roll the results were as follows:

Edward Crouch _yea_____
Samantha Gann__yea___
Betty Gober __resigned___
Ronald Holland _yea___
James Isom __yea___
Jeff Stidham __yea____

That the presiding officer announced the result of the vote, and declared the Resolution finally passed and adopted and directed that the same be recorded on the minutes as a permanent memorial thereof. such Resolution is in words and figures as follows: to wit:

Town of Hodges
Resolution 2016-5

WHEREAS, the TOWN OF HODGES proposes to construct recreational resources at Rock Bridge Canyon to provide for the health and well-being of the general public; and

WHEREAS, the TOWN OF HODGES intends to make application to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs for grant assistance to develop trail facilities from the Recreational Trails Program; and

WHEREAS, the total proposed project costs total $120,000.00. The TOWN OF HODGES is applying for Recreational Trail Program assistance in the amount of $100,000.00, or 80% of the total proposed project costs which will be used to construct connective trails from Rock Bridge Canyon to Bear Creek Development Authority, and construct a covered arena facility at Rock Bridge Canyon's Trail Head.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the TOWN OF HODGES will provide a cash match of $20,000 or 20% of the proposed project costs for the purpose of matching the Recreational Trails Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event a grant is awarded, the TOWN OF HODGES understands that it will sign assurances to comply with all applicable Federal and State laws, rules and regulations and that the property developed with Recreational Trails Program assistance will be maintained for public outdoor-recreation in perpetuity.

Edward Crouch

Mayor Edward Crouch

Frankie Petree

Attest

My Commission Expires November 15 2017

CERTIFICATE

I, Frankie Petree, Town Clerk, of the Town of Hodges, Alabama hereby certify the above and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Hodges, Alabama.

I, further certify that said Resolution was adopted by Town Council on May 10th, 2016, and was signed by the Mayor and that a copy of same has been recorded in a book kept by me for recordation of same, and that said Resolution has been published by posting copies thereof in three public places within the corporate limits of the Town of Hodges, Alabama, one of which places was the Hodges Post Office. Town Hall, and the Hodges Community Center, of said Town of Hodges and this certification has been prepared in Compliance with Section 11-43-50 Code of Alabama, 1975.

Frankie Petree

Town Clerk

My Commission Expires November 15 2017

Date: May 10th, 2016

FY2016 Recreational Trails Program
Pre-Application Form
Deadline: Noon, Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Applicant Information

Applicant's Name (Organization)	Town of Hodges		
Street Address	1942 AL-172		
City	Hodges	State	AL
Zip Code	35571		
County	Franklin		
FEIN	636005416	DUNS Number	800693678
Project Title (maximum of six words)	Rock Bridge Canyon-Overton Farm Trail		
Project Description (maximum of 25 words)	Create a trail connecting Overton Farm to Rock Bridge Canyon, while also extending the trail through the Overton Farm Property		
Park Name	Overton Farm		
Park Address	1300 Overton Farm Rd		
City	Hodges	State	AL
Zip Code	35571		
GPS Coordinates of Project	34°23′5″N 87°57′30″W		
Congressional District	AL-4		
State Senate District	D6	House Senate District	D18
Applicant's Chief Elected Official, Director, or President	Mayor Ed Crouch		
E-mail Address	townofhodges@centurytel.net	Phone Number	(205)935-3445

Grant Administrator	The Kelley Group
Email Address	kelley@kelleynetwork.com
Phone Number	256-248-7030

General Project Information

Trail Length in Linear Feet	14,260
Trail Width	8 feet
Trail Surface Type	Natural Earth

Application Type

- ○ Non-motorized, Single Use
- ◉ Non-motorized, Diverse Use
- ○ Motorized, Diverse Use
- ○ Motorized, Single Use
- ○ Educational

Type of Applicant

- ◉ City/Town
- ○ County
- ○ State
- ○ Private Organization

Total Estimated Project Cost	$120,000.00
Grant Amount Requested	$100,000.00
Total Local Match	$20,000.00
Cash Match	$20,000.00
In-Kind Match	
Donation	

Project Narrative

Brief Description of the Project
(350 characters or less)

The proposed multi-use Overton Trail though Overton Farm, intends to extend to the Rock Bridge Canyon Equestrian Park effectively connecting the recreational assets to one another as well as to downtown. These assets, and their connectivity, will position Hodge's as one of the most unique destination in the Southeast for outdoor enthusiasts.

1. **Describe the degree to which the project's scope and feasibility meet the project area's recreational needs.** (Key Consideration: Does the project appear to be feasible and incorporate a good project design with consideration given to the natural and cultural environment in which the project is located, and appropriate consideration given to needs and benefits?) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Town of Hodges is continuing to grow and thrive as a destination with several unique recreational amenities. The proposed multi-use Overton Trail (2.7 miles) would connect to the existing Rock Bridge Canyon Equestrian Park (RBCEP) trail network (27 miles) and allow for horseback-riders, pedestrians, and bikers to access Overton Farm and Bear Creek in a new and unique way for this region.

This project will also help to fill one of Region 1's top five recreational needs by establishing both a park and multi-use trails, along with a multitude of other amenities and opportunities to experience nature with the 211-acre property. In keeping with experiencing nature, a contour trail is being proposed in order to be both feasible in the short-term, and sustainable in the long-term. A contour trail, a trail which generally follows the contour of the land, has been found to be the most sustainable type of trail due to its low costs to develop, as well as low maintenance.

2. **Describe the ways in which the project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes.** (Key Consideration: An important concern is that this project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region. Maximum points will be given to projects with connectivity to other trails or parks, environmental education and preservation, and economic development opportunities.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Overton Trail, will provide for a park and trail experience like no other found in the state. The trail will connect the following destinations. When complete, Overton Farm will provide: Educational Tours of the Historic Overton Farm Homestead, one of only two sites in Franklin County found on the National Registry of Historic Places; Cemetery dating back to the Civil War; a Pavilion; Lodge\Restaurant; access to Bear Creek for canoeing, boating; Bunkhouses; an Amphitheater; and Obstacle Course. Overton Trail will be utilized as way to effectively connect these features, which are spread throughout the property (See map).

The Overton Trail will provide connectivity to the existing RBCEP trail network. This connection will provide a destination to those on the trail, as well as a mid-point back to the Town of Hodges. RBCEP offers multi-use trails featuring beautiful waterfalls, a natural rock bridge, and a breathtaking view of Rock Bridge Canyon atop the largest rock in Alabama.

3. **Describe the ways in which the project provides a new, unique, or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public.** (Key Consideration: This criterion includes projects of national, regional, and local demonstration value. The most important concern is whether the grant recipient is committed to trying an approach that is new at the local level. Additional points are awarded for nationwide applicability and statewide or regional value. The applicant must commit to documenting the results of the demonstration.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Visiting Historical Places is ranked one of Region 1's top five recreational activities. When completed, Overton Farm is will become one of the region's most unique historical destinations. According to the Alabama Historical Commission, it is home to Alabama's only remaining intact pioneer homesteads in its original location. The Farm dates back to 1819 and with an emphasis on educating visitors about frontier life, visitor's will get to see first-hand why early settlers to this region had such a great appreciation and reliance on the natural environment around them.

This project will help to provide much needed recreational opportunities to this underserved service area. This will bring more visitors to the area from the Southeast as well. By partnering with the RBCEP, the parks services will be expanded to offer a unique experience unlike any in this area. RBCEP has already been successful at attracting tourists from all over the country with upwards of 10,000 visitors last year.

4. **Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged, and other special populations or groups.** (Key Consideration: Whether this project will expand recreation opportunities for special populations with recreation deficiencies.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Most everyone in the surrounding communities remember Overton Farm as a child and have pleasant memories of visiting the park on field trips since the 1970s. Restoring youth programs is a top priority for all involved in this project.

These programs will be partnerships with Department of Human Resources (DHR) and surrounding city and county school systems to bring children for educational and recreational activities. The park will strive towards offering unique opportunities to participants, youths and young adults, especially those disadvantaged (such as youths with limited basic skills, youths in foster care who are becoming too old for foster care, youths of Limited-English proficiency, and youths who are individuals with disabilities). These programs will be extended to schools, charities, non-profits, churches, youth groups, and families for educational purposes, retreats, and team-building experiences.

5. **Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interests, and public agencies within the project area.** (Key Consideration: The major concern is that this project is a component of an integrated effort to enhance economic revitalization and community conservation. Maximum points will be given to applicants providing evidence of cooperative efforts with trail user groups and/or multiple public meetings.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Region 1 has been steadily declining in population over the last decade. This decline has prompted a movement among citizens, businesses, and public agencies in the area to begin thinking outside of the box in order to bring interest to the area. With this, trail tourism has been identified and become a significant way to create opportunities for people to vacation in the Town of Hodges. Without the trails, the Town of Hodges would not be a standard tourist destination, but by building upon both the natural and cultural assets found around the town by way of the trails, Hodges has become a destination.

In addition to the relationship that has been established between TVA, BCDA, and the Town of Hodges. TVA is providing a grant in the amount of $80,000 to support the partnership. Other private interest groups, such as the Backcountry Horsemen, along with many community volunteers have provided man hours for trail building maintenance, along with donations.

6. **Describe the ways in which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials as well as dollars).** (Key Consideration: The major concern is whether actual leveraging is assured or the potential for leveraging is good, outside of any funds committed for the initial grant match. Maximum points will be given for applicants committing double the minimum local match or higher.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

TVA has committed to allocating $80,000 to go towards the grant match needed for this project, as well as needed studies and planning to be conducted in order to carry this project out. These plans and studies are intended to be used in order to create a master plan for the park, which will be used to help solicit both public and a private investments in the future. Over the last year, since the Town of Hodges took over operation, there has been $47,000 awarded in grant funds from the Franklin County Commission and the Colbert County Commission.

The Town of Hodges has been successful in raising much of the funds needed to do the more than $50,000 in repairs that have been done to the Lodge in order to get it ready for the restaurant to open in May 2016. In addition to monetary donations, hundreds of hours have been volunteered by the community and non-profits in order to get the facilities back up and running demonstrating the community's dedication and support of this project.

7. **Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail after it is completed and identify who will be responsible for the work.** (Key Consideration: Whether the grant recipient is willing to commit to continue the maintenance and operation of the project and whether the applicant provides a realistic operation and maintenance plan/budget. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating innovative funding measures for trail maintenance.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Town of Hodges and specifically the RBCEP, will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of Overton Farm, and the Overton Trail. RBCEP has been operating since 2010, and has been even more successful than anticipated with increased return on investment much sooner than projected. There will be additional staff added to the full-time staff of four at RBCEP as demand increases to manage the Welcome Center and other facilities. The trail will be maintained by RBCEP staff, with additional funding to be allocated.

With firm support from groups, such as the Backcountry Horsemen, RBCEP has been fortunate to have many volunteers who work on the trails and facilities. This project has been greatly supported over the past year since RBCEP took over the facilities, and it is projected that volunteers will increase when the park officially reopens. With the trail being a natural contour trail there is minimal maintenance expected, making the trail more sustainable in the future.

8. **The degree to which community involvement is addressed: i.e., (A) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group that has substantial knowledge, and (B) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups, or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposed idea and has made commitments of labor, money, or materials to support proposed implementation.** (Key Consideration: The objective is to determine if the project is responding to citizen-identified needs. The priority of the project to users is evidenced by citizen support for the idea. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating that the project concept was originally proposed at the grassroots level and, especially, for extensive citizen or private organization involvement in project development and support in project implementation. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating extensive involvement and participation from citizens and interest groups during all phases of application development and commitments beyond.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Overton was purchased by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1969 from the Overton Family, and deeded to the Bear Creek Development Authority (BCDA), which operated under TVA, as part of the land affected by the construction of Bear Creek Dam.
The farm was restored by the Northwest Alabama State Junior College in the 1970s and used as an educational center until 2013, when it was closed after a string of consecutive years that saw the facility mismanaged and losing money.

After the closure, Representative Johnny Mack Morrow, at the request of Hodges officials, requested that BCDA transfer day-to-day operations of the facility to the town, which planned to include it in part of its growing tourism base featuring the RBCEP. Since the transfer, the restoration and reopening of the property has become a major priority to Hodges and Franklin County, and has seen an outcry of support through the both the monetary and volunteer donations discussed in Question 6.

9. **Describe in detail how the trail will be managed. Include discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling.** 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The trail will be operated by the Town of Hodges, and the existing RBCEP staff with additional staff for attending the Overton Farm Welcome Center. RBCEP's manager will be responsible for scheduling attendees based on events and holidays. The Overton Farm attendant will manage park passes for recreational use, including use of the trail. The restaurant, currently under contract to open in May, will be located in the lodge and will effectively manage and staff this part of the park's facilities.

The Welcome Center will be open every day between the hours of 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, with the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Trials will be mapped as will have proper signage directing users to stay on the trails and include any other information needed regarding safety and facility information found along the trail. Trails use will be limited to only non-motorized recreational use, and will be enforced by Hodges Police Department staff.

10. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multi-use), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership. (Key Consideration: The RTP was created to address trail needs in the urban and rural areas of the state. In order to assess the need for additional trails it is first necessary to identify the quantity and location of existing resources within the service area. It is also necessary to establish a service area – either population or resource based. For example, a population based service area could be a neighborhood, school district, or political jurisdiction whereas, a resource based service area might be defined along a linear greenway, water course, or unique natural/cultural area. However, in both instances, an estimate of the number of beneficiaries should be provided.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Service Area- Franklin County
Population: 31,704

Existing Trails:
1) Rock Bridge Canyon Equestrian Trail
Non-Motorized, Multi-Use
3 miles away
Description: 27 miles of trail used for horse-back riding, hiking, and biking in Hodges, AL.
Owned by the Town of Hodges.

2) Bobcat Hollow ATV Trails
Motorized- ATV
17 miles away
Description: 14 miles of ATV trails in Phil Campbell, AL.
Privately owned.

3) Hoyt Keeton Trail
Non-Motorized, Multi-Use
17 miles away
Description: 1/4 mile of paved trail for pedestrian and biking in Red Bay, AL.
Owned by the City of Red Bay.

11. **Identify the length of time the trail will be maintained and open and available to the public and identify the method to be used to ensure this commitment (deed covenant, deed restriction, etc.).** (Key Consideration: The objective is to utilize RTP funds to the greatest extent possible by ensuring the improvements are maintained and available for public trail use as long as possible. Points will only be awarded to applicants exceeding the minimum required timeframe for a trail development project to remain open to the public. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants electing to maintain the improvements in perpetuity.) 15 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The improvements will be maintained and available for public trail use. The property will be leased by Town of Hodges from the BCDA for 25 years for recreational purposes. It is important to note the BCDA has an existing deed restriction on the property negating development. BCDA cannot improve the property without consulting TVA.

Note: Property acquired with RTP funds must remain open to the public in perpetuity. Should the property cease to be open to the public for trail use, the applicant must repay the RTP 80% of the fair market value of the property at the time of the change in use. If the project is located on an easement or on leased land, the minimum timeframe for the easement or lease is 25 years. The project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended during that time. For development projects on applicant owned property, the project must remain open for public assess for the use for which the RTP funds were intended for a minimum of 25 years.

Total Project Cost	$120,000.00
Total Funds Requested	$100,000.00

Important Note: The maximum grant amount by trail type is $35,000 for non-motorized, single-use trails; $100,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; $524,936 for motorized trails, or $87,489 for education projects.

Signature, Chief Elected Official, Director, or President		Date	05/02/2016
Typed Name and Title	Ed Couch, Mayor		

Program Information

Introduction

History and Purpose

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal grant program authorized by Congress for the purpose of providing states, local governments, and private sector organizations with funds to acquire lands and develop and/or improve trail and trail-related resources.

Allocation of Funds for the 2016 Funding Cycle

The RTP funds are appropriated by Congress to the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and FHWA allocates the funds through state agencies as a grants program to sub-grantees. Alabama's allocation to sub-grantees in the 2016 funding cycle will be approximately $1,609,000.

Division of Available Funds

The maximum grant amount by trail type is $35,000 for non-motorized, single-use trails; $100,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; $524,936 for motorized trails, or $87,489 for education.

Thirty percent of Alabama's RTP funds must be used for motorized trail uses, 30 percent for non-motorized trail uses, and 40 percent for diverse trail uses. Diverse motorized projects (such as ATV and motorcycle) or diverse non-motorized projects (such as pedestrian and equestrian) may satisfy two of these categories at the same time. The State encourages applicants to consider projects that benefit both motorized and non-motorized users, such as common trailhead facilities.

Eligible Applicants
Eligible applicants include incorporated municipalities, counties, legally constituted recreation authorities and commissions, and private sector organizations that can demonstrate an ability to adequately manage Federal grant funds. **No application will be reviewed from an applicant not currently registered in sam.gov under its own name and Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.**

Applications

Pre-applications
The Alabama State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2018 is the guiding document for funding projects from the RTP. This document is available on the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' (ADECA) website at www.adeca.alabama.gov. Statewide issues were gathered and new criterion were developed to evaluate projects. These criterion make up the pre-application. City, county, or private sector applicants may submit only one application for its highest priority outdoor recreation project. State agencies may submit multiple applications. Funds will be allocated to the highest-ranking projects based on scores derived from the evaluation criterion.

Applicants are required to adhere to the grant ceilings listed.

Formal Applications
Applicants receiving the highest-ranking scores on their pre-applications will be asked to submit formal applications. A formal application will be mailed and the Recreation and Conservation Programs staff will be available to answer any questions. Note: An environmental review and/or assessment will be required for all projects selected to proceed in the formal application process.

Target Timeline for the 2016 Funding Cycle

February 2016
Funding cycle for 2016 RTP grants and Application Workshop is announced to all municipalities, counties, regional commissions, and grant administrators via e-mail and/or direct mail and website announcement.

May 3, 2016
Pre-applications (1 original and 1 digital copy (we will not accept e-mailed copies)) are due to ADECA.

Each pre-application must include:

- A cover letter on entity letterhead.
- A signed Pre-application Form to include a response to each of the evaluation criterion
- A resolution adopted by the legal entity of the applicant authorizing the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project
- A narrative description of the proposed project
- Estimate of cost
- Preliminary site plan
- Plat and/or legal description of the property proposed for purchase and/or development
- Location map
- Verification of sam.gov registration

May 2016
Recreation and Conservation Programs staff and the Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board review pre-applications for priority rankings based on evaluation criterion, make recommendations for funding to the ADECA Director, complete site inspections, invite the respective local applicants receiving the highest-ranking scores to submit formal applications, and forward copies of the selected pre-applications to the FHWA.

TBA
Formal applications mailed to applicants.

TBA
Formal applications are due to ADECA. Recreation and Conservation Programs staff will coordinate and correspond as appropriate with each successful applicant to determine if additional documents are needed to complete the formal application process.

TBA
Official notification of award sent to successful applicants.

Minimum Requirements

These are requirements that an applicant must meet in order to be considered for a RTP grant. There are no points attached to these requirements. Only one of two situations may occur: (1) Yes, the applicant meets all minimum requirements and is therefore eligible for consideration of funding based on how the proposed project scores under the evaluation criterion; or (2) No, the applicant does not meet the minimum requirements and is therefore ineligible for funding under the RTP.

Any questions concerning the minimum requirements should be addressed to the Recreation and Conservation Programs staff.

Equal Opportunity:
Applicants must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended; and all other State and Federal laws and regulations on nondiscrimination. This means that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability for recreation programs and facilities sponsored by applicants.

Legally Constituted Entity
The applicant must be a legally constituted entity. This includes a municipality, county or a legally constituted recreation board, commission or authority with legislative sanction, or private sector corporation. All applicants must be currently registered in sam.gov with their own DUNS number.

State and Federal Laws / Regulations
Applicants must comply with existing laws and regulations for receiving and expending State and Federal grant money including, but not limited to, public notices, bidding and purchasing requirements, Uniform Relocation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), Energy Standards, laws and regulations regarding Historic Preservation and archaeological concerns, National Environmental Policies Act, and related environmental rules and regulations. Applicants must not have been debarred, suspended, or otherwise ruled ineligible to participate in Federal programs by any Federal department or agency.

Important note: An environmental review and/or assessment will be required for all projects selected to proceed in the formal application process.

Operation and Maintenance
Applicants must have a satisfactory record of accomplishment for operation and maintenance of public recreation areas and facilities or must have a formal written agreement with an entity with a satisfactory record of accomplishment for operation and maintenance of public recreation areas and facilities in order to apply.

Grants Administration
Applicants must have a satisfactory record of administering Federal grant funds or must have a formal written agreement with an entity with a satisfactory record of administering Federal grant funds. Grant administration professionals may be acceptable substitutes for some institutional capacity upon approval from ADECA.

Twenty Percent Match
Applicants must document the availability of the required minimum twenty percent (20%) match for each application. This requires that each applicant submit a resolution passed by its governing authority that, if a grant were awarded, the required match would be forthcoming. Applicants should be advised that this is a reimbursement program. Funds must be available to expend. Once expenditures are made, reimbursements can be requested. The reimbursement process can take up to 90 days.

User Fees
Applicants must agree that any and all user fees, either resulting from this application or as part of the applicant's system of public parks and recreation areas, cannot be so large as to be exclusionary.

Prospective applicants are not eligible to apply if:

- Entity has an open Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or RTP grant as of May 3, 2016.
- Entity has unresolved compliance issues from a previous LWCF or RTP grant.
- Entity did not respond in writing to a LWCF or RTP inspection report that contained deficiencies.
- Entity has not completed and received approval of a Corrective Action Plan for previous compliance issues.

Submission Instructions

Please submit an original and a digital copy (an emailed copy will not be accepted) of your application. Be sure each application includes:

- A cover letter on entity letterhead
- A signed Pre-application Form to include a response to each of the evaluation criterion
- A resolution adopted by the legal entity of the applicant authorizing the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project
- A narrative description of the proposed project
- Estimate of cost
- Preliminary site plan
- Plat and/or legal description of the property proposed for purchase and/or development
- Location map
- Verification of sam.gov registration

Please submit your application with a single binder clip. Please do not staple, spiral bind, or book bind your application. Please submit applications to:

By Mail
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Community and Economic Development Programs Division
Attention: Crystal Davis, Recreation and Conservation Programs Manager
Post Office Box 5690
Montgomery AL 36103-5690

By Courier
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Community and Economic Development Programs Division
Attention: Crystal Davis, Recreation and Conservation Programs Manager
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 524
Montgomery, AL 36104

All applications must be received by Recreation and Conservation Programs staff by 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

For more information please contact: Crystal Davis at (334) 353-2630, or crystal.davis@adeca.alabama.gov.

Town of Hodges
Recreation Trails Program Application 2016

Overton Trail
Town of Hodges
Recreational Trails Application
Project Narrative

The Town of Hodges is continuing to grow and thrive as a destination with several unique recreational amenities. The proposed multi-use Overton Trail (2.7 miles) would connect to the existing Rock Bridge Canyon Equestrian Trail Network (27 miles) and allow for horseback-riders, pedestrians, and bikers to Overton Farm and Bear Creek in a new and distinctive way for this region.

When completed Overton Farm will become one of the region's most unique historical destination, as it is home to one of Alabama's earliest remaining pioneer homesteads dating back to 1819. With an emphasis on educating visitors about frontier life, visitor's will get to see first-hand why early settlers to this region had such a great appreciation and reliance on the natural environment around them. When completed, Overton Farm will offer: Educational Tours of the Historic Overton Farm Homestead, which is one of two sites in Franklin County found on the National Registry of Historic Places; Cemetery dating back to the Civil War; a Pavilion for gathering; Lodge and Restaurant with a large deck for events; access to Bear Creek for canoeing, boating, and freshwater bank fishing; a Camp with bunks for rental for school and/or church camps; an Amphitheater; and an Obstacle Course for team building exercises.

The proposed Overton Trail will be a wonderful asset to this project by allowing for connectivity not only within the park, but also to the nearby Rock Bridge Canyon Equestrian Park. The Equestrian Park currently has trails that lead to the entrance of the Overton Farm Property. The proposed Overton Trail will connect both parks and provide for a destination for those who are camping at the Equestrian Park; while also allowing for those visiting Overton Farm to experience the park in a new and exciting way via the multi-use trail.

Town of Hodges

Proposed Covered Arena & Multi-Use Trail to Connect RBCEP and Overton Farms

Preliminary Cost Estimate for RTP Pre-Application

April 13, 2016

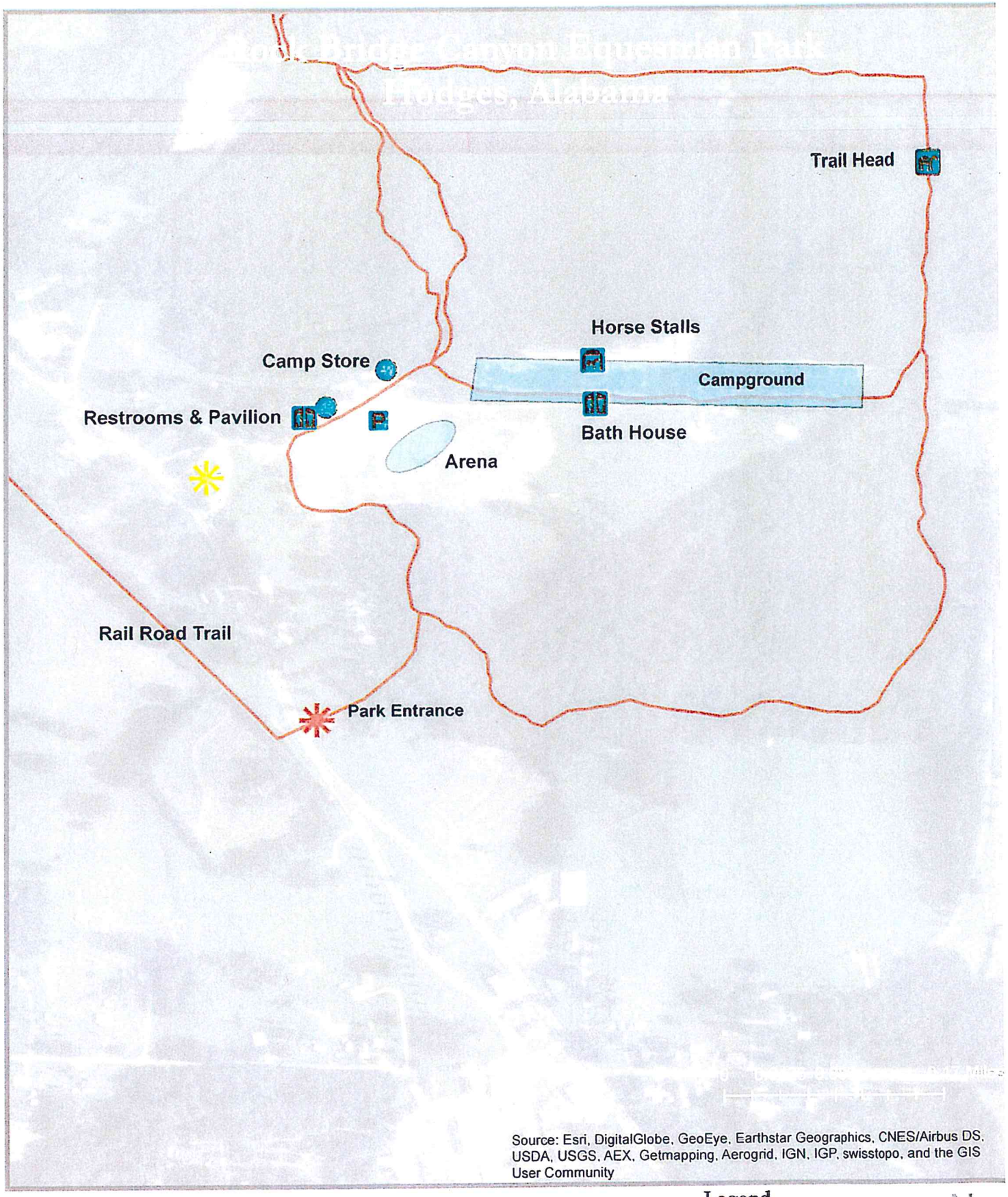
Item #	ITEM	UNIT	QTY	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST
1	Natural Contour Trail (14,260 LF x 8' wide)	LS	1	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00
2	Covered Arena	LS	1	$ 95,000.00	$ 95,000.00
				Subtotal	$ 115,000.00
3	Engineering Design	LS	1	TVA GRANT	TVA GRANT
4	Grant Adminstration	LS	1	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
				Total Construction Cost	**$ 120,000.00**

Notes:

1. This cost estimate is for preliminary budgeting. No geotechnical testing or designs have been completed.
2. Enginneering design includes environmental permitting, geotechnical services, and engineering design.
3. Cost estimates are made based on Engineer's experience, qualifications, and professional judgement. The Engineer has no control over costs of labor, materials, equipment, or services furnished by others or over the competitive bidding process or market conditions. The Engineer does not gurantee or warrant that proposals, bids, or actual construction costs will not vary from the above estimate.

The Kelley Group
205 South Seminary Street
Florence, Alabama 35630
256.248.7030
www.kelleynetwork.com

Rock Bridge Canyon Equestrian Park
Hodges, Alabama



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

THE KELLEY GROUP
105 W 2nd Street
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
Phone 256.248.7030
Fax 866.225.7488

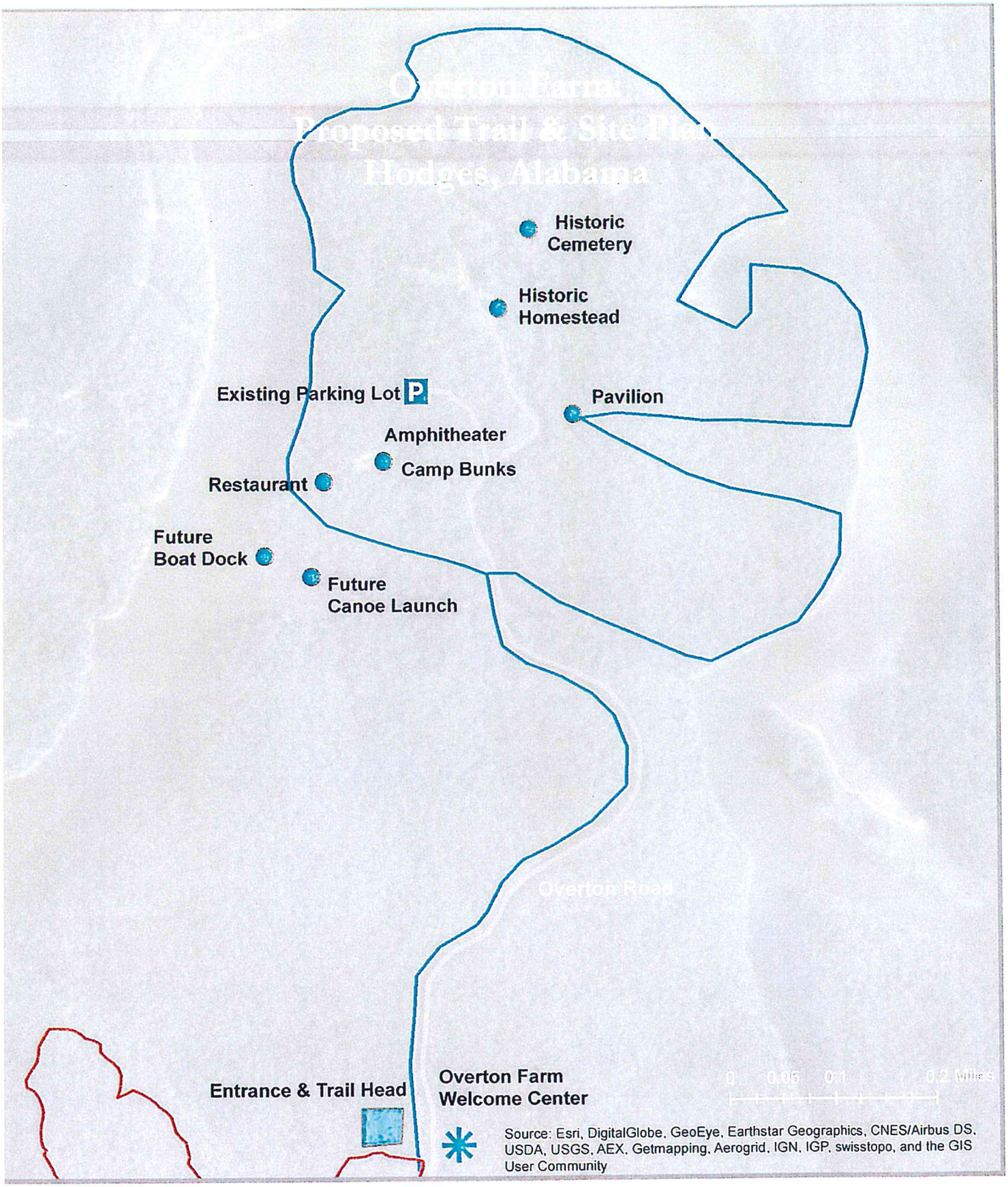
Legend

City Hall

RBCEP Entrance

N

Overton Farm
Proposed Trail & Site Plan
Hodges, Alabama

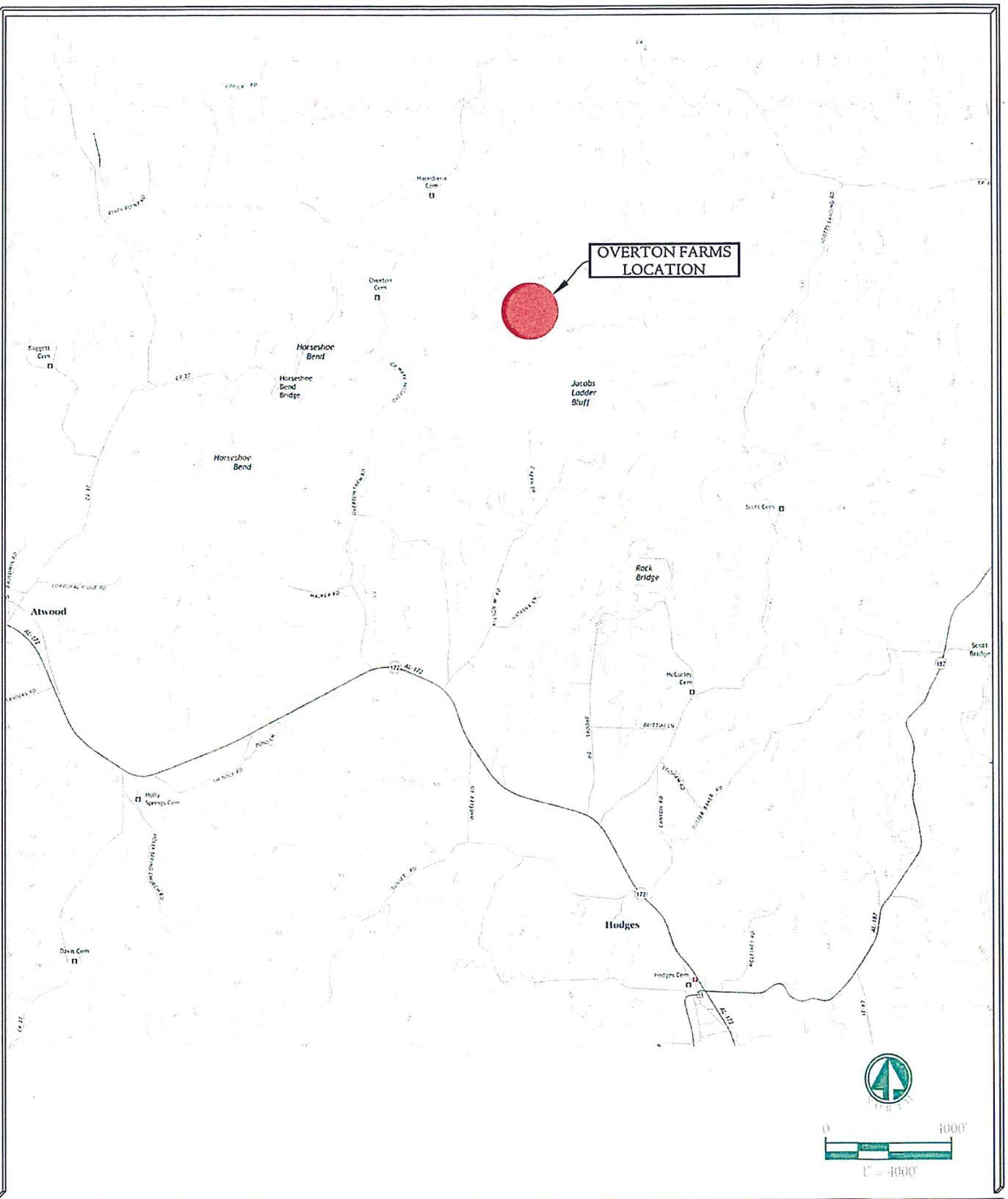


THE KELLEY GROUP
105 W 2nd Street
Tuscumbia, AL 35674
Phone 256.248.7030
Fax 866.225.7488

Legend

- Future Parking
- Overton Trail

N



THE KELLEY GROUP
205 S Seminary Street
Florence, Alabama 35630
Phone: 256.248.7030 Fax: 1.866.225.7488
civil ● municipal ● planning ● grant writing

QUAD MAP

PROPOSED UPGRADES
OVERTON FARMS
HODGES, ALABAMA

PROJECT NUMBER	DATE	SHEET NUMBER
160040	4/2016	1

D:\2_JOBS\2016\160040 – OVERTON FARMS RTP\7.0 CAD\PRODUCTION PLAN\160040–VM01.DWG 5/1/2016 11:32:58 AM

EXHIBIT A

TRACT NO. BCBR-302

A tract of land lying in Franklin County, State of Alabama, in the SW1/4 SW1/4 Sec. 6 and W1/2 NW1/4 Sec. 7, T. 8 S., R. 13 W., and in the S1/2 S1/2 Sec. 1 and NE1/4 Sec. 12, T. 8 S., R. 14 W., on the left bank of Bear Creek, approximately 3/4 mile northeast of the mouth of the Hudson Branch in the said creek, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a stone at the southwest corner of the NE1/4 Sec. 12, a corner of the lands of the W. L. Horn Estate and Annie Ezzell White; thence with Annie Ezzell White's line and the west line of the NE1/4 Sec. 12, N. 3° 30' W., 1540 feet to a point in the center line of Bear Creek; thence with Annie Ezzell White's and L. L. Jackson's lines and with the center line of Bear Creek as it meanders upstream approximately 8310 feet to a point in the south line of the NE1/4 Sec. 12 a corner of the lands of L. L. Jackson and the W. L. Horn Estate; thence with the line of the land of the W. L. Horn Estate, leaving the creek, N. 88° 04' W., 1910 feet to the point of beginning, and containing 211. acres, more or less.

The directions of lines are referred to the Alabama (West) Coordinate System.

It is understood and agreed that the Sellers convey all burial rights and easements in and to the Overton Cemetery located within the boundaries of the tract herein described, subject, however, to third parties' outstanding burial rights and access rights in the Overton Cemetery, and subject to the Seller's rights of access to the Overton Cemetery, provided Sellers shall hold the United States of America, its successors or assigns, harmless from liability for any interruptions to the exercise of said access rights that may result from the water level of Bear Creek Reservoir reaching levels up to 619 feet, MSL.

USER NAME PASSWORD

LOG IN

Forgot Username? Forgot Password?

Create an Account

Entity Dashboard

Entity Overview

Entity Record

Core Data

Assertions

Reps & Certs

POCs

Reports

Service Contract Report

BioPreferred Report

Exclusions

Active Exclusions

Inactive Exclusions

Excluded Family Members

RETURN TO SEARCH

HODGES CITY HALL
DUNS: 800693678 CAGE Code: 5E3B3
Status: Active

1942 HWY 172
HODGES, AL, 35571-3602 ,
UNITED STATES

Expiration Date: 01/25/2017
Purpose of Registration: Federal Assistance Awards Only

Entity Overview

Entity Information

Name: HODGES CITY HALL
Doing Business As: TOWN OF HODGES
Business Type: US Local Government
POC Name: Frankie Petree
Registration Status: Active
Activation Date: 01/26/2016
Expiration Date: 01/25/2017

Exclusions

Active Exclusion Records? No

Note to all Users: This is a Federal Government computer system. Use of this system constitutes consent to monitoring at all times.

PH0001031

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
ALABAMA	
COUNTY:	
FRANKLIN	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 3 1973	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Overton Farm

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~T. 8S R. 14W S. 12~~

CITY OR TOWN: ~~near~~ Hodges, Alabama 4 miles NW of Hodges

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Alabama	01	Franklin	059

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Bear Creek Development Authority

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 670

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Russellville	Alabama 35653	01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Franklin County Courthouse (Deed Book 169 - Page 308)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Russellville	Alabama 35653	01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None known

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

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STATE: COUNTY: FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER OCT 3 1973 DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*if known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Overton Farm consists of eight acres located in a horseshoe bend of Bear Creek. Originally, the complex consisted of a main house, and the following outbuildings: a corn crib, a blacksmith and tool shed, a seed and feed shed, a horse-and-mule barn, two cattle barns, a fruit-and-potato house, and a smoke house.

At present the main house and portions of the corn crib, smoke house, potato house and a three-stall, animal barn are standing. The main house at one time consisted of five rooms added one after another in typical pioneer fashion. Today it consists of two rooms connected by a breezeway or dog-trot, with faint traces of the other three rooms.

Constructed of logs, the building measures 43' by 17'. The roof is gabled and at present is covered with metal. Portions of the building have weather-boarding covering the log walls. The room on the left, (West side) is thought to be the original one-room cabin, onto which the rest of the structure was added. It measures 18'3" by 17' and the logs are secured with a saddle notch. A stone chimney, no longer standing, was located on the west wall and measured 7'2" across at the base. Two windows, thought to have been added later, are located on either side of the chimney. There are two entrances to this room, one on the front or south side of the room, and one on the north side.

To the right or east of this room is a similar room connected by a nine-foot wide breeze way. This room measures 16' by 17' and the logs are secured with a dove tail notch. It has three windows two on the east side, and one on the front or south side. There are two doors, a rear door and a door leading onto the breezeway.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☐ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

Aboriginal
- ☐ Prehistoric
- ☒ Historic

- ☒ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)* _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overton Farm is one of the earliest remaining pioneer evidences in Northwest Alabama, and one of the few early structures which retains a significant number of its original outbuildings.

Abner Overton, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, first visited Alabama in 1815 peddling a wagon load of tobacco. In 1817, he again brought a load of tobacco and on this journey he found 160 acres of rich soil on Bear Creek. Since, at that time, Alabama was still a part of the Mississippi Territory, he registered the land in Pontitoc, Mississippi, sold his wagon and built a shed.

Shortly after his marriage to Judy May in 1819 he began construction of a one-room log cabin. The core of the extant dwelling was built prior to 1838 and some sources contend the 1819 structure became the nucleus of a five-room log home, two rooms of which survive. (Records which would conclusively substantiate the 1819 date have not survived).

In 1876 Judy Overton died and Abner lived on for only a year. The house passed to the children and was occupied by members of the Overton family until 1946.

In 1969 the Tennessee Valley Authority acquired the farm as a part of the Bear Creek Water Control Project, and for the last several years it has served as a valuable teaching tool in the field of social studies, agriculture and ecology for the 13 surrounding school districts.

NATIONAL REGISTER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Family Bible Records, research by Allan M. O'Neal, Jr.
Bear Creek Watershed Enviromental Education Project,
Russellville, Alabama.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	35°	23	05.47"	87°	57	30.52"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

corrected - 34°

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

RECEIVED AUG 6 1973 NATIONAL REGISTER

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission

DATE: July 17, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 305 South Lawrence Street

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery

STATE: Alabama

CODE: 01

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☑

Name: Mike B. Howard, Jr.

Title: SHPO - Ala.

Date: July 21, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/3/73

ATTEST:

for Lewis C. Rogers
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9/20/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

BCOA

Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

May 3, 2016

Ms. Kelley Keeton Taft
The Kelley Group
Post Office Box 45
Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

Dear Ms. Taft:

TOWN OF HODGES – ROCK BRIDGE CANYON EQUESTRIAN PARK – FRANKLIN COUNTY, ALABAMA – ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (ADECA) RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) GRANT APPLICATION AND TVA ENHANCED STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

This is concerning your interest in a proposed grant application for Recreational Trail Program (RTP) funding for expansion of the equestrian park by development of a multi-use trail on land managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Bear Creek Development Authority (BCDA). TVA is currently processing an application for public recreation use of the property, and has budgeted up to $80,000 in partnership funding to be administered in Fiscal Year 2016 to assist with the planning, design and environmental review for this project.

We at TVA are aware of the demands on local and state budgets and the need to leverage funds to assist with public facilities. In support of your efforts the following statement will provide you with a ready reference regarding the origin of any funding made available by TVA for this cooperative agreement. **"The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is a corporate agency and instrumentality of the United States, organized and existing pursuant to the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933, U.S.C 831-831dd (1982 & Supp. I 1983). Although a federal agency, TVA does not receive federally appropriated funds and provides funds from revenues derived from electric power sales and/or proceeds from operation of our recreation areas."**

I trust this information proves helpful as you review your opportunities to seek additional funding for the project.

Please contact Samantha Hartsell at sahartsell@tva.gov or 256-386-3620 for any additional questions or information.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Lea
Manager, Recreation

Letter of Intent

WHEREAS, the Bear Creek Development Authority (BCDA) is the owner of certain properties commonly known as Overton Farms which contains certain historical buildings along with camping and dining facilities which has been used by area schools, churches and community groups for education and retreat purposes for many years, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hodges is located near Overton Farms and is in a position to oversee and manage the continuation of the public purposes for which Overton Farms and the education center has been developed; and

WHEREAS, BCDA has operated Overton Farms and the Education Center at a deficit for a number of years due to the loss of funding and the reduced use over time; and

WHEREAS, Hodges believes it is in a position to obtain certain grants and other public assistance not readily available to BCDA and will manage the property for the public and regional purposes for which it is designed; and

WHEREAS, Hodges is committed to assume the responsibility of maintaining the property and to reopen the facility to booking on a trial basis, provided it will have a long term option if it proves economically feasible to operate.

THEREFORE, the BCDA and the Town of Hodges enter into this letter of intent to enter into a short-term lease for three (3) years with an option to extend the same for a term of not more than twenty (20) years on such terms as may be mutually beneficial to the parties and to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) which has jurisdiction over agreements entered into by BCDA.

The parties acknowledge that the agreement will only encompass land which lies above the 615 feet elevation point above sea level. The use of the lake and or the shoreline will remain under the jurisdiction of BCDA and TVA. The parties further acknowledge that any modifications of the property or its improvements will require the prior approval of BCDA and TVA prior to and during the duration of any agreement between the parties.

The agreement will allow the Town of Hodges to occupy and manage the facilities. Hodges will be allowed upon the execution of this Letter of Intent to immediately enter the premises for the purposes of evaluating and making such repairs as are necessary to preserve the buildings. The parties agree to cooperate on seeking funding for the maintenance, repairs and upgrades to the property as may be otherwise agreed upon by the parties including TVA.

The parties agree that any contract or lease on Overton Farms will include provisions that require Hodges to make the facilities available to the communities which are served by BCDA for civic, school and church groups to rent the facilities at reasonable times and purposes as has been utilized over the years.

Hodges will maintain insurance on the property and structures along with general liability and list BCDA and TVA as additional insureds. Hodges will provide proof of insurance at acceptable levels to both as the same is placed and renewed. Proof of insurance will is required before Hodges is allowed to enter the premises for any purpose.

Hodges will immediately be responsible for any and all expenses associated with the property upon execution of this letter of intent, including but not limited to liability insurance, repairs, maintenance, utilities, taxes and/or any other expenses associated with this facility that are generally the responsibility of a party leasing property.

In case the subject property reverts back to BCDA and TVA for any reason Hodges waived any monetary claim(s) they may have associated with this transaction.

Hodges is responsible for all litigation costs, including but not limited to attorney's fees and court costs if they fail to abide by the agreements of the parties.

Guests of Overton Farms will be required to obtain BCDA permits for use of any of the remaining BCDA or TVA lands (including project lands).

Done this the ____ day of _____, 2014.

_____
HODGES

_____
PRINT (Name and Title)

_____
BCDA

_____
PRINT (Name and Title)

_____
TVA

_____
PRINT (Name and Title)