

Cooperative Agreement: Delaware Tribe Land North of Lawrence

Background

The Delaware Tribe of Indians and the undersigned organizations have undertaken a collaborative planning process to envision an agricultural, educational, and cultural center on a portion of the 90 acres north of Lawrence purchased by the Delaware Tribe. The property was purchased by the Delaware Tribe in July 2013 to facilitate their re-establishment in their ancestral lands in northeast Kansas. In the spirit of cooperation, the Tribe reached out to community leaders to engage in dialogue about the future potential use of the property.

Interested parties from the City of Lawrence, KS; Douglas County, KS; Unified School District 497 Lawrence, KS Public Schools; Haskell Indian Nations University; the University of Kansas; Kansas State Research and Extension; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; the Douglas County, KS Conservation District; and the Lawrence, KS Chamber of Commerce have all participated in the creation of the *Vision Outline: Delaware Tribe Land North of Lawrence* that describes the potential use of this site. This Vision Outline demonstrates a shared interest in creating a community asset that provides educational opportunities, tribal economic benefit, agricultural conservation, and contributes to a healthy tribe and community.

Purpose

This Agreement codifies the intent of these organizations to continue to engage in a collaborative planning process that supports the Delaware Tribe's desire to create an agricultural, educational, and cultural center for their tribal members and the broader Douglas County community. The Delaware Tribe and the undersigned organizations agree to:

- Participate in collaborative planning efforts for the future use of the 90 acre Delaware Tribe property, including a facilitated design charrette process to further refine the plan for the project.
- Support grant writing needed to ensure the viability of the project.
- Dedicate a representative from their organization to continue with the project in an Advisory Council capacity.

This agreement is effective when executed and will remain in effect until amended and agreed upon by all parties.

Vision Outline: Delaware Tribe Land North of Lawrence

Over the course of four facilitated meetings in August, 2014, the Delaware Tribe of Indians and local Lawrence and Douglas County, KS representatives met to discuss the potential use of the Delaware Tribe-owned 90 acres of agricultural land in Douglas County located just north of Lawrence. These parties came together for discussions with the expressed goal of finding ways they could work together to best meet the interests of the Delaware Tribe in Kansas and the broader community. The vision that emerged for the site included two key components.

1. Multi-purpose cultural/education center:

This center would be located on the west thirty acres of the tribal land, utilize some of the existing buildings, and would serve multiple purposes, including:

- tribal headquarters and offices
- classroom space for Tribe, Haskell, University of Kansas, Kansas State University and other educational partners to collaborate in the teaching of food production methods
- internships and job training
- public interface (profit-generating)
- kitchen to feed elderly tribal members
- classroom space for cooking demonstrations and culinary students
- general meeting spaces
- classes in Native American culture

Meeting participants agreed that the components of the center listed above are examples of appropriate uses, but it is not an all-inclusive list. The design of the west 30 acres should begin before pursuing the agricultural uses on the east 60 acres of land, and the vision may need to accommodate the construction of a new building or buildings.

2. Agricultural component:

In addition to the multi-purpose cultural/education center, participants suggested appropriate agricultural uses and strategies for the tribal land:

- make the best use of soil on the west thirty acres of land before planning for the east sixty acres
- multi-level education to include traditional and modern production methods
- sustainable (which includes profitable) agricultural enterprises
- on-site, collaborative agricultural education classes
- a variety of complementary agricultural uses, ranked by the group in the following order:
 - food hub
 - food-based botanical garden
 - experimentation or demonstration agriculture
 - hoop houses
 - food sovereignty (native and heirloom foods and seeds)
 - horticultural gardens, orchards and fruit stands
 - tribal extension agent (*tie with item above*)
 - holistic health center
 - orchard, farm-to-plate restaurant, monarch and pollinator preservation center, livestock production (*all unranked*)

Once again, participants agreed that the items listed above are examples of appropriate agricultural land uses. Items may or may not be included in a final plan as the vision is pursued in greater detail.

Signatures from participating entities:

The Delaware Tribe of Indians:

The City of Lawrence, KS:

(signature of representing official)

(signature of representing official)

(printed name and title)

(printed name and title)

Douglas County, KS:

USD 497 Lawrence, KS Public Schools:

Nancy Thell

(signature of representing official)

(signature of representing official)

Nancy Thellman

(printed name and title)

(printed name and title)

Al + [Signature] *Doug Cook*

Haskell Indian Nations University:

The University of Kansas:

(signature of representing official)

(signature of representing official)

(printed name and title)

(printed name and title)

Kansas State Research and Extension:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

(signature of representing official)

(signature of representing official)

(printed name and title)

(printed name and title)

Douglas County, KS Conservation District:

Lawrence, KS Chamber of Commerce:

(signature of representing official)

(signature of representing official)

(printed name and title)

(printed name and title)

