The Wilson College Equestrian Center Facility Tour

Come explore the Equestrian Center with us!

Scroll down to begin your tour of this beautiful facility…
The Entrance

Your first approach to the Equestrian Center will take you over the Conococheague Creek. As you cross the bridges, you may look to your right & see horse and rider pairs playing in the creek –or even swimming in the deep parts!
Continuing your approach to the Equestrian Center, you will notice the beautiful open areas where riders often take their horses on leisurely walks. These are great places to school your horse outside of class time.
The Kitts Arena

The Kitts Arena, our large and beautiful outdoor arena, measures 100 ft. x 300 ft. It’s footing is composed of a sand, salt, rubber, sawdust mixture. Available for schooling and lessons, the arena is a great place to work your horse when the weather is pleasant.
The Cook Arena

Nestled along the edge of the drive just as you pass the Kitts Arena is the first of our indoor arenas. The Cook Arena is a standard dressage arena size (20 x 60 meters). It was created to be the perfect place to practice flat work.

The footing (a sand, rubber, salt, sawdust mixture) is designed to limit dust, and protect the horse’s joints. Mirrors are positioned along the walls and in the corners so riders can easily assess their positions and the performance of their horses. Of course, the Cook is one of the main competition areas on show days!
The Paddocks

Each day, students and visitors observe the horses playing and munching hay in the paddocks that are located just past the Kitts Arena and adjacent to the Cook Arena. There are 10 well-lighted paddocks located close to the arenas and barns.

Horses are kept in small groups to avoid herd related injuries and all fencing is post and board for safety. Horses boarded at Wilson are turned out in the paddocks during the day, while school horses are turned out at night.

Our goal is to keep the horses as happy as possible by allowing them as much time outside as we can. The horses go out everyday unless the weather is bad (cold winds, heavy rain, bitter temps., or wet snow).
The Barns

For horse lovers, one of the most beautiful sights, sounds and smells on the Wilson College Campus comes from the barns at the Equestrian Center. Since the Equestrian Center is located in the middle of campus, students from all majors are able to visit the horses. Our three barns (each housing 23 or 24 stalls) are equipped with wash stalls, heated tack rooms, restrooms, storage rooms, and feed areas.

The stalls all measure 12’ X 12’ and are fully matted. Each stall also has its own brush box for grooming supplies.

Barn One generally houses our many school horses. Barn Two combines space for our school horses with some stalls for leased horses and stalls for student boarders. Barn Three is reserved for student boarders.
The Hawthorne Arena

As you continue your tour, you can’t miss the Hawthorne Arena located in front of the three barns. The Hawthorne is the premier attraction at the Equestrian Center. With it’s 100 ft. x 300 ft. riding area and bleachers with seating for 300+, the Hawthorne is where most of the action occurs! Students enjoy the space to practice their jumping skills while clinicians find great use of the seating areas for auditors. Of course, our shows are predominately held in the Hawthorne as well. You must see this arena to truly appreciate it!
Pastures and Trails

Behind the Hawthorne Arena, hidden from plain sight is the pasture area and access to trails. Students at Wilson enjoy conditioning their horses on the hills around the pastures (named Sonny and Teddy in memory of great school horses from the past). After conditioning, many students enjoy a leisurely trail ride to cool down their horses. Limited trails through the wooded areas are available, and more are always being designed and created. Riders can also share the nature trail around the College Farm. There are lots of green areas to enjoy around Wilson!
One of the newest and most exciting additions to the Wilson College Equestrian Center is the Cross Country Course. Dr. John Tukey, Director of Equestrian Studies, along with the Wilson College Eventing Team has worked very hard to create a cross country course for the program. Although the course is still under construction, the jumps are available for schooling as they are constructed. Jump heights vary from 18” to over 3’ so that all levels of horses and riders will gain valuable experience on the course.