

## A Arrival

It's spring at the farm, and the road that leads to the farm is lined with Cottonwood trees. Their branches seemingly grow into the sky as leaves are beginning to sprout. The gnarled roots of each tree are a tangle of tentacles that disappear into the slow, flowing irrigation canal from which they drink. A decorative metal gateway with the inscription "Arizona Farm and Ranch Experience - Heritage Center at Lakin Farm" lets farm-seekers know they have arrived.

## B Visitor Parking Orchard

At the gateway, the road changes from paving to gravel. Visitors can feel and hear the crunching sound of the rocks under the tires of the car. Instead of parking stripes and man-made metal canopies, cars are parked in the shade of the pecan trees that create a parking orchard for up to 500 cars. Shallow, gated irrigation channels water the trees and flow towards the main entry into the farm.

## C Children's Learning Center

Entering the Park from the parking lot, an arched structure referencing the greenhouses of the area welcomes visitors into the heart of the Farm. The tree-lined walkway leads patrons by the Children's Experimentation Park. The area is filled with kids of all ages, playing with a variety of farming tools, equipment, and sustainable technology that provides a hands-on farming experience and a living example of good water management. Continuing along the walk, visitors move through the shaded walk into the heart of the Farm.

## D Tractor Museum

To the west is the Tractor Museum. The smell of well-oiled machine parts is everywhere. The antique tractors glisten in the light as their owners wipe the dust from the metal. Outside of the Tractor Museum is an open-air area where a changing exhibit of tractors, harvesting equipment, or antique cars are on display.

## E Central Fountain

Organized around a central fountain and shade structures are three more buildings. These consist of a Heritage Museum, Conference Center, and Farmer's Market. The architecture of these structures is reminiscent of the cast concrete, wood siding and metal roofs of mid 20th century farm buildings. Looking south over the grassy green performance lawn and Lakin Lake, are the nearby Estrella Mountains. In the distance, to the west, are the White Tank Mountains that define the western boundary of the Valley.

## F Conference Center

A large group gathers on the front porch of the Conference Center, taking a break from their corporate retreat to enjoy the shaded verandas that overlook the rest of the Farm. With a large ballroom, breakout spaces, and catering kitchen, the Conference Center is a premier venue for 500-person events.

## G Farmer's Market

Families enjoy a meal together on the shaded porches of the Café while a group of schoolchildren gather inside to eat a healthy snack of organic produce from the fields of the Farm. Other visitors browse the General Store where they can purchase produce, seeds, and herbs, along with specialty goods made by the blacksmith.

## H Heritage Museum

Inside the Museum, visitors listen to the stories of the men and women who pioneered farming and ranching in Arizona. A permanent exhibit focuses on the development of the Salt River Valley Water Users Association (SRP) and the agricultural history of the Salt River Valley. The Heritage Center will become a historical research center for farming and ranching history in Arizona and will become the home of the Arizona Farming and Ranching Hall of Fame.



## I Gathering Plaza, Reflecting Pool and Rose Garden

A bride stands in the shade as she looks down the aisle to the man she will marry today. In the background are rose gardens, a reflecting pool, and citrus trees in bloom. Though over a hundred people have gathered on the plaza to celebrate with her, she sees only her groom.

Surrounding the reflecting pool, visitors are invited to walk through the flower gardens where they are immersed in an explosion of color and aromas. It is so beautiful, and it's easy to imagine a wedding right here with the roses, trees, water and mountains as a background.

## J Butterfly and Dragonfly Pavilion

For some children and even adults, holding a butterfly in their hand may be an experience to be cherished for decades to come. Designed to mimic the delicate wings of a flying insect, the pavilion is home to seasonal insects that populate the desert southwest. This exhibit creates an awareness of the importance insects play in the fertilization of plants in nature.

## K The Working Farm

Children watch as a local farmer prepares a field for planting. He stops his tractor beside them, hops down, and begins teaching them the basics of agriculture. Soon, he says, this field will be full of yummy produce that they can enjoy. He reminds them that hard work and perseverance are necessary to work the land, but seeing that land produce it's fruit is a just reward for all his labor. Tipping his hat, he climbs aboard and revs the tractor to the delight of his new admirers.

## L Corral and Blacksmith Shop

A boy and his sister stand next to their prize-winning goat, while their proud mom snaps a photo for the family album; it's their first blue ribbon. Walking through the livestock pens families are overwhelmed by the sounds of the animals and activity. Outside in the Corral a roping contest is underway. Dust swirls into the air as the cowboy jumps from his horse and makes the tie beating his personal best time.

To the south is a working Blacksmith Shop where the constant clang of a hammer on anvil reverberates thru the farm. The kids and parents watch as raw metal is forged into farming implements.

## M Plow Field Event Lawn

Honoring the tradition of farming in Arizona, the ranch has dedicated space to be used for plowing and seasonal plantings and harvest. Here children learn where their fruit and vegetables come from, changing the perception that food only comes from the grocery store. During October when the ranch celebrates its Fall Festival, the field will be cultivated by the Arizona Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association members into a pumpkin patch where pumpkins can be picked by kids and adults. During the Christmas season the field can be turned into a winter lawn that becomes a tree lot. For spring and summer events, bermuda grass can be grown, and events such as the Blue Grass Festival can be held on the new lawn. Imagine families on blankets enjoying a picnic while they listen to their favorite local band.

## N Event Staging and Parking

It's a Saturday morning and the sun is just coming up over the Superstition Mountains. The exhibitors arrive early with their trucks and trailers. The eastern edge of the ranch has a convenient parking area away from public traffic where they can unload horses, tractors and equipment. Direct access to the Conference Center, Tractor Museum, Blacksmith and Livestock areas is provided from the parking lot.

## O Agricultural Educational Center

A group of children unload from their bus in front of a picnic area and enter a classroom to learn about the science and art of agriculture. They enjoy a refreshing snack of fresh produce before visiting the nearby plow field. There a local farmer explains how what they just ate comes from hard work and knowledge of the soil.

THE ARIZONA FARM AND RANCH EXPERIENCE

# The Heritage Center at Lakin Farm

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ARCHITECTURE PLANNING INTERIOR DESIGN