

Proposal for Perkins County Landfill Transformation Project

Caleb Richter-Tate
High Plains Smart Community
76720 Road 326
Perkins County

caleb@highplainssmartcommunity.com

Project Title:

Green Horizons: Transforming Perkins County Landfill into a Sustainable Community Park

Project Overview:

Perkins County, in collaboration with local businesses, environmental organizations, and state agencies, aims to transform the Perkins County Landfill into a vibrant, sustainable green space. This initiative, known as **Green Horizons**, will convert the landfill into a multifunctional park that offers recreational activities, boosts local tourism, and serves as an educational hub for sustainable development. Utilizing advanced landfill technology and sustainable practices, we aim to create an environmentally friendly and economically beneficial site.

Project Objectives:

1. Environmental Remediation:

- As it fills, safely cap and cover areas of the landfill using advanced engineering techniques to prevent contamination, as well as implement landscape design to prepare for future recreational use.
- Implement soil remediation strategies to ensure the land is safe for recreational use.

2. Creation of a Community Park:

- Develop trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, and open spaces to enhance community engagement and outdoor activities.
- Integrate sustainable landscaping and native vegetation to promote local biodiversity.
- Consider incorporating features similar to those of Mount Crescent, Iowa, such as skiing and other winter sports facilities.

3. Development of Educational Facilities:

- Establish an educational center focused on sustainable development, waste management, and environmental conservation.
- Create interactive exhibits, workshops, and guided tours to educate visitors of all ages.

4. **Boosting Local Tourism and Economy:**

- Design and promote the park as a tourist destination with features such as a nature reserve, bird-watching areas, and outdoor event spaces.
 - Develop winter sports facilities like skiing, snowboarding, and tubing, similar to Mount Crescent in Iowa, to attract visitors year-round.
 - Partner with local businesses to develop services, including food stands, guided tours, and eco-friendly accommodations.
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Stakeholders and Partners:

- **Perkins County Government:** Primary project leader, responsible for land management, permits, and coordination with stakeholders.
 - **Local Businesses:** Partner for funding, services, and amenities (e.g., cafes, rental services).
 - **Environmental Organizations:** Provide expertise on site remediation, sustainable practices, and educational programming.
 - **State and Federal Agencies:** Assist with funding, regulatory support, and technical guidance.
 - **Community Groups:** Engage in planning, volunteer efforts, and promotional activities.
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High-Tech Landfill Features:

1. **Gas Collection Systems:**

- Install state-of-the-art gas collection systems to capture methane emissions from decomposing organic waste.
- Utilize the captured methane to generate renewable energy, powering park facilities and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2. **Advanced Liners and Leachate Collection Systems:**

- Employ multilayer liners made of synthetic materials to prevent leachate from contaminating soil and groundwater.
- Implement sophisticated leachate collection systems to gather and treat liquids produced by waste decomposition.

3. **Waste-to-Energy Technologies:**

- Integrate waste-to-energy facilities to convert non-recyclable waste into electricity or heat, further reducing environmental impact.
- Use the generated energy to support park operations and local grid needs.

4. **Recycling and Resource Recovery Programs:**

- Develop comprehensive recycling initiatives to divert materials such as paper, glass, plastic, and metals from the waste stream.

- Establish resource recovery programs to reclaim valuable materials, promoting a circular economy.

5. Community Engagement and Education:

- Implement community-driven programs to encourage responsible waste disposal and recycling practices.
- Create educational materials and activities to raise awareness about sustainable waste management.

6. Post-Closure Monitoring and Maintenance:

- Continuously monitor the site for environmental safety, including regular checks on gas emissions, leachate levels, and soil quality.
 - Maintain the integrity of the capping and landscaping to ensure long-term sustainability.
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Project Phases:

1. Phase 1: Planning and Feasibility (6 months)

- Conduct site assessments and environmental studies.
- Hold community workshops to gather input and build support.
- Develop detailed project plans, budgets, and timelines.

2. Phase 2: Design and Permitting (12 months)

- Engage architects, engineers, and environmental specialists to design the park.
- Obtain necessary permits and approvals from regulatory bodies.
- Finalize contracts with construction and landscaping firms.

3. Phase 3: Construction and Remediation (18 months)

- Implement landfill capping and soil remediation.
- Build infrastructure, including trails, parking areas, and restrooms.
- Develop the educational center and visitor amenities.

4. Phase 4: Opening and Promotion (6 months)

- Organize a grand opening event to introduce the park to the community.
 - Launch marketing campaigns to attract visitors and promote local businesses.
 - Establish ongoing maintenance and programming schedules.
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Budget Overview:

- **Total Estimated Cost:** \$2.5 million
 - **Planning and Design:** \$250,000
 - **Site Remediation and Construction:** \$1.5 million
 - **Infrastructure Development:** \$500,000
 - **Marketing and Outreach:** \$150,000

- **Contingency Fund:** \$100,000

Funding Sources:

- **Federal and State Grants:** \$1 million
 - **Local Government Contribution:** \$500,000
 - **Private Sector Sponsorships and Donations:** \$600,000
 - **Community Fundraising and Events:** \$400,000
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Sustainability and Long-term Vision:

- **Environmental Stewardship:** Adhere to best practices in sustainability, ensuring minimal environmental impact and promoting biodiversity.
 - **Community Engagement:** Foster a sense of ownership and pride among residents through ongoing involvement and volunteer opportunities.
 - **Economic Development:** Leverage the park's unique features, including potential winter sports facilities, to stimulate local tourism, create jobs, and support small businesses.
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Conclusion:

The **Green Horizons** project presents a remarkable opportunity to revitalize the Perkins County Landfill into a cherished community asset. By combining public and private resources, we will create a sustainable, engaging, and economically beneficial park that enhances quality of life, promotes environmental education, and drives tourism. Drawing inspiration from successful models like Mount Crescent in Iowa, the park will offer year-round activities, including winter sports, attracting visitors from far and wide. We invite all stakeholders to join us in making this vision a reality for the future of Perkins County.

Let's build a greener, brighter future together.

Economic Potential of a Mount Crescent Type Resort in Perkins County

Introduction:

Transforming the Perkins County Landfill into a sustainable community park with features similar to the Mount Crescent Ski Area in Iowa offers significant economic potential. This transformation will not only enhance the quality of life for residents but also attract tourists and stimulate local businesses. Below are key economic benefits and projections for developing a Mount Crescent type resort.

1. Tourism Revenue:

- **Increased Visitor Numbers:** A well-developed ski and recreation resort can attract thousands of visitors annually, especially from nearby urban areas. This influx of tourists can significantly boost local tourism revenue.
- **Seasonal Attractiveness:** Offering winter sports such as skiing, snowboarding, and tubing ensures a steady stream of visitors during the winter months, while summer activities like hiking, mountain biking, and festivals can maintain year-round attraction.

2. Job Creation:

- **Direct Employment:** Construction, operation, and maintenance of the resort will create numerous jobs, including positions for ski instructors, hospitality staff, maintenance workers, and administrative roles.
- **Indirect Employment:** Increased tourism will support local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and retail shops, creating additional employment opportunities.

3. Business Development:

- **Local Business Growth:** Existing local businesses will benefit from the increased foot traffic, and new businesses will likely emerge to cater to tourists' needs, including equipment rentals, dining options, and souvenir shops.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaboration between the county, private investors, and local entrepreneurs can lead to innovative business ventures and shared economic benefits.

4. Property Value Increase:

- **Enhanced Appeal:** The development of a recreational resort can increase the attractiveness of the surrounding area, leading to a rise in property values. This can benefit homeowners and encourage new residential developments.
- **Real Estate Development:** Improved infrastructure and amenities can stimulate interest from developers, resulting in new housing projects and commercial properties.

5. Tax Revenue:

- **Increased Tax Base:** Higher property values and increased business activities will expand the local tax base, providing additional revenue for public services and infrastructure improvements.
- **Tourism Taxes:** Implementation of tourism-related taxes (such as lodging and sales taxes) can generate significant revenue, which can be reinvested into community projects and park maintenance.

6. Community Benefits:

- **Recreational Opportunities:** Residents will have access to high-quality recreational facilities, improving health and well-being.
- **Educational Programs:** The resort can host educational programs and events focused on outdoor activities, environmental conservation, and sustainable practices, fostering community engagement and learning.

7. Environmental and Sustainability Impact:

- **Sustainable Practices:** Utilizing advanced landfill technologies and sustainable development practices can serve as a model for other communities, highlighting the economic viability of environmentally conscious projects.
- **Green Tourism:** Promoting eco-friendly tourism can attract visitors interested in sustainability, further enhancing the resort's appeal and economic impact.

Economic Projections:

- **Annual Visitor Estimate:** 50,000 to 100,000 visitors
- **Annual Revenue Estimate:** \$2 million to \$5 million from ticket sales, rentals, and other services
- **Job Creation Estimate:** 100 to 200 direct jobs, plus additional indirect employment
- **Property Value Increase:** Potential 10% to 20% rise in surrounding property values
- **Tax Revenue Increase:** Significant boost in local tax revenues from property, sales, and tourism-related taxes

Conclusion:

Developing a Mount Crescent type resort in Perkins County offers substantial economic potential. By attracting tourists, creating jobs, boosting local businesses, and increasing tax revenues, the resort can drive economic growth and provide long-term benefits to the community. The project aligns with sustainable development goals and enhances the county's

appeal as a destination for recreation and education. Investing in this transformative project will secure a prosperous future for Perkins County.
