

Keyword: Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas

8-60 Word Biographies

1. Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas: Entertainment Development Council

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is an example of the responsible mixed-use of land and development of a vibrant community that the Urban Land Institute supports. The ULI's Entertainment District Council provides leadership and support for mixed-use development and entertainment projects such as hospitality, entertainment, museum, and cultural exhibitions. Of importance to the EDC is assisting the development of properties that will prove assets to their communities.

2. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Successful Philanthropy

Fred L. Merrill, Jr., developer of Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, believes strongly in the positive impact that philanthropy can have on a community and the world at large. With clear communication and honesty in regards to financial requirements and expectations, a development like Prairefire can be a hub for helping many worthy causes such as Heroes 4 Hospice and the Children's Mercy Hospital of Kansas City.

3. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Big Slick Celebrity Weekend

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, has played host to the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend, a benefit for the Children's Mercy Hospital of Kansas City, specifically the Children's Mercy Cancer Center. Founded by Rob Riggle, Paul Rudd, and Jason Sudekis as a benefit poker tournament, the event now encompasses scholarships, live auctions, and celebrity sport tournaments, Over \$3 million has been raised for the Children's Mercy Cancer Center.



4. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: The Museum at Prairiefire Traveling Exhibitions

The American Museum of Natural History, in a joint venture with the Museum at Prairefire, located in Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, provides world-class traveling exhibits that engage and educate visitors and students. Meeting and surpassing current educational standards, the exhibits provide learning about natural history and science through educational opportunities and programming. The current exhibit is *Brain: The Inside Story*, which examines different facets of the brain's capabilities.

5. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Prairiefire Overland Park

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, a mixed-use real estate project, was developed by Fred L. Merrill, Jr. He designed the 58-acre property to create a signature destination for the public. The park offers a variety of dining and shopping experiences, as well as salons and outdoor park activities. Children will be fascinated by the Museum at Prairiefire and the Discovery Room, which offers interactive exhibits for kids of all ages.

6. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Mixed-Use Real Estate Development

Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas, is mixed-use real estate project with a non-traditional style. Developed by Fred L. Merrill, Jr., and opened in 2014, the park boasts multiple retail shops, entertainment choices, museums, outdoor activities, and residential housing. This style of project can boost a community, and with Overland's increased growth and affluent population, Prairiefire has become a memorable destination for visitors.

7. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Future Placemaking

A perfect example of future placemaking done right is Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas. Developer Fred L. Merrill, Jr., designed and built the park with the present and future in mind. He wanted to establish a place that used space for public good in an environmentally conscious way. Future placemaking benefits cities through multiple means, like boosting urban equity, green building, and healthy public land use.





8. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: LEED Certification/Green Building

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, was designed and constructed by developer Fred L. Merrill, Jr., with the purpose of being more green and efficient. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified Merrill's project with special emphasis and high marks given to the developer for innovation and indoor environmental quality. LEED offers guidance and leadership in the development of building projects that help preserve the environment.

12-250 Word Blog Posts

1. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Urban Land Institute Entertainment Development Council

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is a prime example of the responsible use of land and creation of a thriving community that the Urban Land Institute supports. The ULI is a nonprofit that represents all facets of real estate development and land use. Founded in 1936, the ULI encourages the open exchange of information, experience, and ideas amongst policy makers and leaders who want to create better spaces for communities.

The Urban Land Institute Entertainment Development Council is the arm of the ULI that provides leadership to developing entertainment locations. The EDC reports on trends, best practices, and emerging innovations to assist in the development and promotion of community assets like Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas. The EDC is comprised of experienced individuals from a variety of business and real estate backgrounds, such as development, technology, and entertainment. The committees project interests range from entertainment districts to hospitality to museums and cultural exhibitions.

The Urban Land Institute Entertainment Development Council has provided support and leadership to Fred L. Merrill, Jr., and his Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, mixed-use development and entertainment district. Merrill's development project combines the beauty of the Great Plains with exercise trails, shops, restaurants, a natural history museum, entertainment venues, and luxury apartments and residential villas. In particular, the museum at Prairiefire is the country's first permanent location for





traveling exhibitions from New York City's American Museum of Natural History. The success of this project shows it as a worthy example of the type of developments that the Entertainment Development Council strives to help lead and advocate.

Sources: http://uli.org/entertainment-development-council-edc/

http://uli.org/about-uli/

2. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Successful Philanthropy

Philanthropy is the motivation to improve the well-being of other people, generally through financial donations to worthy, community-based causes, and Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, spearheaded by Fred L. Merrill, Jr., is a perfect example of philanthropy at work. With a keen desire to give back to the community, Merrill has, through his development project, created a "pay it forward" approach to assisting community causes.

To succeed at philanthropy, the concept itself should be treated like any other business venture, but with the end goal in mind of making a difference in the lives of others. The development of genuine relationships and clear communication with purpose are necessary for a philanthropic project to succeed. Of these two qualities, creating honest relationships is in many ways the most important. Open communication delivered in a truthful, candid manner will only strengthen connections between a donor and grantee. The finances involved in any philanthropic project must be clearly defined for both partners in the process.

After the successful development of Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, Merrill used his mixed-use and entertainment complex to give back to the community through various philanthropic means. The park is well known for the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend that benefits the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. The Tour de BBQ Ride and ArtsKC are events in honor of the Survivorship Transition Clinic. Prairiefire also hosts benefits for the Go Girl Run and Heroes 4 Hospice, both of which have been very successful fundraisers. Philanthropy can be a success when all parties involved use clear, honest communication and keep the overall goal of assisting others in need at the forefront of the project.

Sources: http://prairiefireoverlandparkks.blogspot.com

https://www.philanthropy.com





3. Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas: Big Slick Celebrity Weekend

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is the proud host of the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend every June. As Fred L. Merrill, Jr., the developer of Prairiefire, strongly believes in giving back to the community, the pairing of his project and the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend was a natural fit.

The Big Slick Celebrity Weekend benefits the Children's Mercy Hospital of Kansas City. Founded in 2010 by Shawnee Mission graduates Rob Riggle, Paul Rudd, and Jason Sudekis, the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend started with a poker tournament aided by fellow friends and comedians Will Ferrell, Bobby Cannavale, and Will Forte that raised over \$120,000. By 2016, the amount raised for the hospital exceeds \$3 million dollars, much of which has been raised through scholarships and live auctions. The main recipient of the fundraising event is the Children's Mercy Cancer Center, which provides care and support to 2,000 children a year afflicted with cancers, hemophilia, sickle cell disease, and other blood disorders.

The Big Slick Celebrity Weekend is held at Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, and this mixed-use development, residential, and entertainment area allows this fundraiser to grow larger every year due to its expansive grounds. This year's event featured celebrity bocce and bowling tournaments at the Prairiefire Overland Park grounds. An additional bonus to this fundraiser, aside from monetary donations, is the attention that is brought to the Children's Mercy Cancer Center and the Hospital in general. This focus has assisted the hospital in recruiting high quality doctors and researchers, as well as placing a national spotlight on the important work being done at the hospital.

Source: http://bigslickkc.org/about/

4. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: The Museum at Prairiefire Traveling Exhibitions

Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas, has created the nation's first collaboration of traveling exhibitions between the Museum at Prairiefire and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The





mission of this relationship is to give the public the opportunity to engage with world-class exhibitions, and fully understand the importance of natural history and science in the United States.

The Museum at Prairiefire's joint efforts with the American Museum of Natural History are designed to provide students and visitors with the best exhibits, STEM and other significant educational opportunities, and educational programming. Currently, this venture is offering incredible exhibits, like *Brain: The Inside Story*, which investigates how the brain is able to multitask on an incredibly complex level. The exhibit address the way the brain perceives the senses, thoughts, emotions, as well as how the brain changes with age. *Brain: The Inside Story* also takes a careful look at how technology may impact, change, and redefine the brain in the 21st century.

The American Museum of Natural History's traveling exhibitions on display at the Museum at Prairiefire, located in Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas, fulfill all requirements established in Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. Another upcoming exhibit that is the result of this joint venture include *Amazing Species: Life at the Limits,* opening in October 2016. This exhibit presents the story behind how species have adapted over billions of years to survive in the harshest conditions. It looks at species' abilities to thrive, breathe, eat, move, sense, and change.

Source: http://museumatpf.org

5. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Prairiefire Overland Park

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is an excellent example of mixed-use development. Developer Fred L. Merrill, Jr., took the 58-acre property and designed it to incorporate the natural Kansas landscape while also providing the public an entertainment complex that emphasizes family fun and education.

Overland Park features the Prairiefire Entertainment District in 207,000 square feet of shops, restaurants, and entertainment centers. Diners, grills, breweries, and pizzerias offer a wide array of culinary choices for even the pickiest eater. Boutiques, art galleries, and salons give patrons the opportunity to challenge the senses, shop for unique gifts and toys, and treat themselves to an afternoon of relaxation and pampering. For more active customers, Pinstripes features bowling and bocce and REI helps visitors enjoy the trails, waterways, and slopes in the park. The crowning piece of





the entertainment district is Cinetopia, an innovative and technologically advanced cinema featuring 17 digital theatres.

The Museum at Prairiefire and its accompanying Discovery Room help promote the educational emphasis of Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas. Working with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, the Museum at Prairiefire hosts world-class traveling exhibitions that celebrate natural history and sciences. The Discovery Room, located within the museum, allows kids to learn more about their world, with a focus on all the important earth and natural sciences. Rotating on a 15-minute schedule, the nature of the Discovery Room is to encourage children to touch, feel, and explore the exhibits in a hands-on, interactive manner. The Discovery Room is also available for school visits and field trips.

Sources: http://visitoverlandpark.com/pages/visitors/prairiefire-district

http://museumatpf.org/explore/discovery-room/

6. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: LEED Certification/Green Building

As a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) development property, Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, was constructed with the future and the environment in mind. Developer Fred L. Merrill, Jr., wanted this landmark project to be resource efficient, to save money and to save the surrounding environment.

LEED-certified buildings use less water and energy; they also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The organization provides the input, analysis, and resources necessary for developers to create green buildings. Because LEED works with a variety of building types --- including hospitality, warehouse, schools, retail, and healthcare centers --- it was a perfect match for a mixed-use project like Prairiefire. The LEED certification process encourages developers, like Merrill, to be innovators and think of the future while building the present.

The Leadership in Energy and Environment Design provides leadership, guidance, and certification in four key areas: materials, performance, water efficiency, and smart grid. Materials are examined closely to better understand their composition and what impact those components may have on human health.





Performance encourages the developer to use performance-based results to study indoor environmental quality and occupant comfort. An accurate understanding of water efficiency can be determined by appropriate studies done to evaluate total building water usage. Smart grid thinking is rewarded through participation in demand response programs.

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is a LEED certified development that has received excellent scores and credit from LEED based on its buildings green factor. The LEED has rated Prairiefire especially high in innovation and indoor environmental quality.

Sources: http://www.usgbc.org/projects/museum-prairiefire?view=overview

http://www.usgbc.org/leed

7. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Mixed-Use Real Estate Development

Fred L. Merrill, Jr., developed Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas, as a mixed-use real estate project with a unique twist: the project would feature multiple streams from entertainment to museums to shops, and even residential villas and luxury apartments. Although mixed-use developments have challenges that traditional building projects do not, success stories like Prairiefire show the potential that this style of development can bring to a community.

Overland Park is second in Kansas in population, and is an affluent suburb that continues to grow at a rapid rate. Because of these factors, and due to his own ties to Kansas, the veteran developer Merrill purchased almost 60 acres of land in 2006. He envisioned creating a mixed-use retail entertainment center, but needed a focal point as the center of the entire project. The Museum at Prairiefire was born, and by pairing with the American Museum of Natural History, the museum is able to host two traveling exhibits every year.

Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas, was welcomed by the Overland community because of the benefits that mixed-use developments bring to an area. The project can potentially slow or stop suburban sprawl. Businesses new to Kansas were willing to sign leases for a non-traditional type of development. Merrill specifically sought out business that were newer and had fewer than ten locations. This helped bolster the idea that Prairiefire offered a bevy of unique shops, restaurants, and cultural interests.





Merrill finished his project and opened it to the public in 2014 where it continues to grow as a major attraction in Kansas.

Source: http://urbanland.uli.org/planning-design/prairiefire-mixed-use-center-meets-t-rex/

8. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Future Placemaking

Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is an ideal model for future placemaking and the positive impact that it can have on communities. Focusing on space, the relationship that people have to it, and what that relationship says about the future of cities is a key component of future placemaking.

Overland Park is a fast-growing city in Kansas, and developers who want their projects to benefit the community in both the short-term and long-term, like Fred L. Merrill, Jr., recognize that building with future placemaking in mind is vitally necessary. Emphasis must be placed on a vision for public space and developers must strive to avoid focusing only on their individual projects, interests, and solutions to be sure their project becomes more than just a building. The concept of place also involves aspects **that** are key to the development of cities and communities, such as urban equity, public health, local economies, smart growth, historic preservation, and architecture and design amongst others.

Merrill's Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, which opened in 2014, is one of the most current examples of future placemaking done right. With the multiple activities offered in this public space, positive placemaking has been achieved. It is a place for urban equity, for development of healthy places, for core economic development, for public art and markets, and for the creation of an environmentally conscious, resilient city. Future placemaking can only occur with a shift in responsibility and power from government to communities. More dynamic place models will develop and emerge, and help to create the best future places for communities.

Source: http://www.pps.org/a-thriving-future-of-places-placemaking-as-the-new-urban-agenda/

9. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City

The Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City is a world-renowned facility dedicated to cancer treatment and research, and local businesses like Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, assist in fundraising efforts to

© COPYRIGHT 2016 | ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



support this worthy facility. With primary focuses on clinical care, education, and research, Children's Mercy Hospital is ranked amongst the leading children's hospitals in the United States.

Children's Mercy Hospital is praised often for its clinical care, which consists of forty different pediatric specialties, a staff of over 750 pediatric specialists, and an award-winning nursing staff recognized for top nursing quality. Children's Mercy is also a leader in medical education; it is the teaching hospital for the University of Kansas Medical Center, and nursing students from the area also receive thorough training here. The hospital makes its biggest impact in the field of medical research; there are always roughly 140 clinical trials on-going at all times, many physician scientists are involved with the development of cutting edge research projects, and the hospital is one of the nation's leaders in studying the safety of new medications for children.

Of particular focus to Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is the Children's Mercy Cancer Center. The park hosts the Big Slick Celebrity Weekend every June, featuring comedians like Rob Riggle and Paul Rudd, to raise money for the cancer center. The center sees over 2,000 patients in areas of cancer, bone marrow transplantation, and hematology. It is also at the forefront of a research project on a range of topics, including neuroblastoma, stem cell functions, new treatments for leukemia, and genomic research.

Sources: http://www.childrensmercy.org/About_Us/About_Childrens_Mercy/

http://www.childrensmercy.org/about-the-cancer-center/

10. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: JDRF

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is a worthy cause long supported by Fred L. Merrill, Jr., developer of Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas. The JDRF's mission is to eradicate type 1 diabetes through funding of the highest level of research possible. Ultimately, the organization wants to cure, prevent, and treat the complications of this disease.

Type 1 diabetes can strike children or adults at anytime without any particular cause. When the pancreas stops producing insulin, manual intervention must occur on a daily basis to assist the body in





receiving energy from food and to prevent low-blood sugar from occurring. The JDRF wants to find a cure for this disease, as insulin does not stop the disease and can, even when taken properly, still allow for too many swings in blood-sugar levels on a daily basis. Through the process of funding research, advocating government support of research, and developing new therapies, the JDRF has grown from a grassroots fundraising group to an internationally known and respected organization that has funded over \$2 billion in type 1 diabetes research.

Merrill has helped support the JDRF through his own personal efforts and also through Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, his highly successful mixed-use development project. Prairiefire has hosted and helped fundraise for JDRF through support of the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes and 5K race. This event not only raises funds for a worthy cause, but also fits with the family-friendly and healthy events that Merrill, through Prairiefire, is happy to host or support.

Sources: http://www.visitoverlandpark.com/events/jdrf-walk-to-cure-diabetes-5k-10062012

http://www.jdrf.org/about/

11. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Community Involvement/Support

For non-profit organizations, like the Museum at Prairiefire, one of the cultural and scientific features of Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, support and involvement from the surrounding community is necessary for the development of a successful business. Without assistance from community members, places like Prairiefire, dedicated to providing families with memorable and fun educational experiences, would not exist.

Supporting local non-profits can take on a variety of guises. Donations are one of the easiest and most popular ways to prove belief in the mission of an organization. Many non-profits rely on money from donations (community and philanthropic) to fund community activities and exhibitions. In the case of the Museum at Prairiefire, donations are used to fund the traveling exhibits from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, as well as the permanent hall exhibits, the children's Discover Room, and the creation of hundreds of educationally engaging programs for families to enjoy.





Providing support for non-profits like the Museum at Prairiefire, at Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, means also advocating for a community resource that everyone can benefit from. Aside from donations, there are many other avenues of support that are also necessary to run a successful non-profit. Volunteers are always needed at non-profits to donate their time, effort, and care to the facility; from greeting visitors to leading tour groups, volunteers are the lifeblood of a non-profit organization. Members are just as important to places like the Museum at Prairiefire. Annual memberships allow the non-profit to continue to grow in its effort to achieve its mission.

Source: http://museumatpf.org/support/

12. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas: Entrepreneurship in Real Estate

Fred L. Merrill, Jr., developer of the cutting edge mixed-use Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, has had years of experience as a successful real estate entrepreneur. Other real estate entrepreneurs can become prominent and profitable by following some common sense guidelines. According the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly half of all new businesses fail to make it to a five-year anniversary, so proper entrepreneurship is necessary to survive in the business world.

Savvy real estate entrepreneurs know that one key component to business success is find needs that other businesses are not filling. Finding that market niche is not easy to do, but locating that underserved aspect of the market can make all the difference and help a new business stand out from the competition. Successful real estate entrepreneurs also work hard to find a way to get things done, even if the way is not always clearly defined. One of the most difficult aspects revolves around obtaining funding, and requires creative approaches to achieving capital needs.

Merrill's Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, development project is an example of what a smart real estate entrepreneur can create despite the odds working against him. Merrill has wisely surrounded himself with strong team members dedicated to Prairiefire's mission. He has also used technology and environmentally conscious green buildings as foundations for his real estate successes. Primarily, though, Merrill has followed through on his passion to contribute to the present and future Kansas community, and he has succeeded with the Prairiefire Overland Park because he has an intimate knowledge of his industry and his personal ties to it.





Source: <u>http://www.forbes.com/sites/navathwal/2016/06/21/the-five-traits-you-can-learn-from-real-estate-entrepreneurs/#6d62d47731ea</u>

25-15 Word Image Descriptions

1. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is an excellent example of mixed-use development, education, and entertainment.

2. The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) is a worthy cause long supported by Fred L. Merrill, Jr., developer of Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas.

3. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is an example of the responsible mixed-use of land and development of a vibrant, educational community.

4. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, a mixed-use real estate project, was developed by Fred L. Merrill, Jr., and opened in 2014.

5. The Museum at Prairiefire's Discovery Room helps promote the educational goals of Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas.

6. Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas, has been welcomed by Overland because of the benefits that this mixed-use project has provided the community.

7. Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas, has formed a collaboration of traveling exhibitions between the Museum at Prairiefire and the American Museum of Natural History.

8. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, spearheaded by Fred L. Merrill, Jr., is a perfect example of philanthropy at work.



9. Fred L. Merrill, Jr.'s Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, which opened in 2014, is one of the most current examples of future placemaking done right.

10. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is a perfect example of future placemaking done effectively with the present and future community in mind.

11. The Urban Land Institute has provided support to Fred L. Merrill, Jr., and his Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, mixed-use development and entertainment district.

12. For the Museum at Prairiefire, at Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, support and involvement from the surrounding community is necessary for success.

13. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, was designed and constructed by Fred L. Merrill, Jr., with the purpose of being more green and efficient.

14. Merrill has helped support the JDRF through Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, his highly successful mixed-use development project.

15. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, features an Entertainment District with 207,000 square feet of shops, restaurants, and entertainment centers.

16. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is a model for future placemaking and the benefits that it can bring to communities.

17. As a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified property, Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, was constructed with the environment in mind.

18. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, provides support for non-profits, advocating for community resources that everyone can benefit from.





19. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is an example of the responsible use of land and creation of a vibrant community.

20. Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas, is mixed-use real estate project with a non-traditional style, combining education, entertainment, and retail.

21. The successful development of Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, shows how mixed-use development can give back to the community through philanthropy.

22. Local businesses like Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, assist in fundraising efforts to support worthy causes like The Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

23. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, is LEED certified and has received excellent scores and credit based on its buildings green factor.

24. The American Museum of Natural History's traveling exhibitions are on display at the Museum at Prairiefire, located in Prairefire Overland Park, Kansas.

25. Prairiefire Overland Park, Kansas, hosts fundraisers for the Children's Mercy Hospital of Kansas City Cancer Center.

