



2022 Annual Meeting at Overbrook

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The 2022 Annual Meeting of Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy will be held on **Saturday, November 12** in the Community Room of the Brookside Retirement Center at 700 W. 7th St. in Overbrook. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Darius Riley with Basecamp Flint Hills will be the key-

note speaker. After learning about the progress the Conservancy has made in the past year, members will elect directors to the Board of Directors. Lunch is \$10.00 per person. Please RSVP by Nov. 5 by returning the enclosed form or emailing: info@kanzatrails.org.

Board of Directors Election

Nominees to the Board are Kareen King of

Lawrence, Keith Payne of Berryton, Jay Schniedewind of Lyndon Cheryl Thomas of Lyndon, Doug Walker of Osawatomie and Andy Gisi of Topeka.

Gisi just joined the board and is a retired KDOT engineer who recently inspected three railroad bridges to determine what needs to be done to ensure they are safe. Also, he calculated how much lumber will be needed to deck them.

Highlights of the Landon Trail:

- Crosses two 240-foot-long trail bridges.
- Connects Clinton Lake with Pomona Lake.
- Crosses the Santa Fe National Historic Trail near Overbrook.
- Follows picturesque and clear Camp Creek nestled in oak-hickory hills.
- Forms a link in a 230-mile rail-trail network in Eastern Kansas.

\$25 million Grant to Complete Flint Hills Trail

KDWP has been awarded nearly \$25 million in federal RAISE funds to complete the Flint Hills Trail from Herington to Council Grove and upgrade two other sections of the trail. According to US DOT: "The trail will offer an alternative to

driving as well as provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a rural area that is currently fragmented with very few public outdoor recreational areas. There is also opportunity for the project to boost recreation and nature tourism,

as evidenced by establishment of 10 new businesses related to the trail in the past three years." "This is going to be a game-changer," remarked President John Payne. The trail will finally be completed after 21 years of work!"

Clinton Wildlife Area Trail Section to Open



Directors and volunteers are planning to complete a 1.9-mile section of the Landon Trail through the Clinton Wildlife Area by Thanksgiving. The trail crosses the 240-foot-long Wakarusa River bridge and passes by wetlands teeming with aquatic life and waterfowl. The Topeka-based Sunflower Foundation provided part

of the funding for the project. "This section is very scenic, has a tree canopy and features the longest bridge on the trail," commented director Keith Payne. We are now close to finishing the trail in Shawnee County which is a key milestone." When funding is forthcoming, plans are to extend the trail to

Ratner Road in Osage County a distance of about 3.4 miles and includes three bridges which must be decked and railed. This section is one of the most scenic segments of the entire trail as it follows Camp Creek with its rushing clear water, large boulders, and timber-covered hillsides.

Trail Detour West of Ottawa to be Eliminated



There is currently a three-mile detour west of Ottawa on the Flint Hills Trail due to busy BNSF double-line railroad tracks. However, KDWP is using a federal Transportation Alternatives grant and other funds to build a

bridge over the tracks and upgrade the trail approaching the bridge. The project was bid in September and the new bridge should be completed in late spring/early summer of 2023. "This project will eliminate a dusty detour on gravel

roads," said director Owen Harbinson. It will clearly enhance the experience of trail users." The new trail segment will make it easier for wheelchair users and road bicyclists to travel on this remarkable national recreation trail.

Economic Impact of Kansas Rail-Trails



As mentioned previously use on the Flint Hills Trail has already resulted in 10 businesses opening the last three years in towns along the trail. These include a bike shop, coffeehouse, bed 'n' breakfasts, etc. The 2021 Kansas State Parks

Impact Study on contributions to regional and state economics by state parks listed 38,600 annual visitors on the Flint Hills Trail and 66,070 users on the Prairie Spirit Trail in 2020. The economic output on the Flint Hills Trail was \$1,847,333. On the

Prairie Spirit Trail it was \$3,396,046. (Source: CEDBR Center for Economic Development and Business Research). Of course, trail users purchase gas and food and often stay at bed 'n' breakfasts and private campgrounds.

Michigan Valley Trail Section Opens

The seven-mile section of the Landon Trail stretching between Overbrook and Michigan Valley opened in September. This trail segment passes by a small lake and much of the trail is covered by a tree canopy. Funding came primarily from Swiss billionaire

Hansjorg Wyss, the Jones Trust and the Sunflower Foundation. "It is already popular with area residents who bike, walk, jog or horse-back-ride between the two communities," observed director Scott Averill. Its terminus in Michigan Valley is only two miles from Pomona

Lake." The next step is to upgrade the section near Overbrook. This will involve fixing drainage problems which result in the limestone screenings being washed to the sides of the treadway. Then a new layer of crushed limestone will then be installed on the first half mile.



Osage City Trail Section Construction Update

Rod Willis, Osage City administrator, reports that KDOT will let bids in October and the contractor will be selected by the end of November for the in-town section. That means construction on the 2.5-mile

segment through the town could start after the first of the year. Part of it will be crushed limestone and part will be concrete. There will also be a segment adjacent to streets so an existing railroad crossing

on Holliday St. can be used. A trailhead will be built at 17th St. and the existing Old Santa Fe Depot will also serve as a trailhead. A trailhead at K-31/Martin St. on the west side of town may be built in the future.



*Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

KRTC Annual Meeting RSVP Form

Complete, enclose check, and mail to KRTC

KRTC

P.O. Box 3863

Topeka, KS 66604

City: _____

Number of persons attending Luncheon: _____

At \$10 per plate

Name: _____

Total Amt. Enclosed: \$ _____

State: _____

Checks may be made out to:

Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Mail remittance along with this form to: _____



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Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Address: _____ \$15/household

_____ \$25 Trailblazer

City: _____ Other _____

Mail remittance along with this form to:

KRTC

P.O. Box 3863

Topeka, KS 66604