

Kansas Trails Council

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Newsletter

September 2006

Trailbuilding Weekend

On October 28 and 29, the KTC is hosting a trail building weekend at MacLennan Park in Topeka. We'll supply the tools and lunch on Saturday as we continue to add new sections of trail. For more details on the schedule, please download the flyer from the KTC website at:

www.kansastrailsCouncil.org

If you can attend we would appreciate hearing from you so that we may plan for tools, lunch and other logistics. For more information or to let us know you're coming, please contact Mike Goodwin by email or phone at goodwinmw@cox.net or 785-221-1794.

Leveraging Our Resources

Most non-profit organizations have limited resources and the KTC is no different. Our desire to build new trails and public demand for them can easily outpace our supply of capital. In order to continue expanding the quantity and quality of Kansas trails, we believe that one solution is to leverage our resources with Recreational Trails Grants. These grants, which are administered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, are funded by the Federal Highway Administration. The grants fund 80% of project costs while 20% is provided by matching contributions by the grantee.

In 2005, we were successful in receiving approval of a grant to extend the South Lawrence Trafficway bike trail from its west end into the Clinton Lake Sanders Mound and Overlook areas. This project will also provide direct



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access to the existing 23 mile North Shore Trails which the KTC built in the 1980's and which we still maintain today. This project, which is a partnership with the Corps of Engineers, the City of Lawrence and the KTC, is under way with a planned completion this fall.

This year we have submitted three Recreational Trail Grant proposals for consideration – the Wilson Lake project, the Park 24 project and the Statewide Trail Map project.

The proposed Wilson Lake project, a partnership between Wilson Lake State Park, the Central Kansas Mountain Bike Club and the KTC would add about one-half mile of new trail in the State Park's Tower Hill area and would provide much needed power equipment for volunteers to use for trail building and trail maintenance at Wilson Lake and other nearby trails.

The proposed Park 24 project, a partnership with Park 24 and the KTC, will fund the purchase of power equipment, hand tools, an equipment trailer and a storage building. The project involves the redesign, repair and maintenance of the existing trails and the addition of one to two miles of new trails in the park. The KTC will also coordinate the redesign with the ongoing trail renovation at the MacLennan Park trails which the KTC now manages.

The third grant proposal recognizes that many Kansans and out-of-state tourists may not be aware of the rich inventory of trails which are located throughout the state. The Statewide Trail Map proposal will first involve developing a comprehensive inventory of Kansas trails and gathering trail characteristics data such as length, type of surface, type of use, trailhead locations and nearby amenities. Then significant trails in each region of the state will be highlighted in a printed brochure and map. This project is a partnership between the KTC and Kansas Departments of: Commerce, Transportation and Wildlife and Parks.

We believe that we can fulfill our mission to promote the development and enjoyment of Kansas Trails by leveraging our capital and by combining our volunteer time and trail building expertise with Recreational Trail Grant funding. We also believe the long term success of trail building efforts in Kansas depends on the formation of collaborative partnerships with other trail groups and state and local governmental agencies.

Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting – August 13, 2006

- The KTC Board met at Boss Hawg's in Topeka, Kansas. Nine current Board members and incoming Board member Bob Nicholson were present. The minutes, investment, treasurer, and membership reports were approved.
- It was proposed that the KTC present another trail building workshop at MacLennan Park in January.
- It was proposed that the KTC host a trail building weekend the last weekend in October.
- All six people listed on the ballot were elected for the 2007-2008 term: Amy Thornton, John Haynes, Lyle Riedy, Mike Goodwin, Robert Nicholson, Kevin Otterman.
- Ed DeTrude informed the Board that he is resigning, effective after this meeting, as his job is taking him to Wisconsin shortly. The Board expressed many thanks for his work in the KTC, as well as on many Kansas trails.
- Kevin Otterman also announced that he will resign, effective the first of the year, as he has moved to Oklahoma. He will continue with treasurer's duties through the end of the year. He, too, was thanked for all his work with the KTC and on the trails of Perry. Kevin shared that Dave Brackey will be the new Perry Coordinator.

Business

- **Trail Sponsorship:** The criteria for adopting existing trails developed by the committee was discussed. Consensus was that the process be kept simple and inviting. The criteria for adopting trails was passed unanimously.
- **Membership Report:** Various ideas on membership development and retention were discussed. A motion was passed that trail coordinators may offer free one-year memberships to volunteers.
- **George Latham Grant Request:** KTC received a grant request from Strong City. The Community Connection Trail Coalition seeks to create a safe, accessible pedestrian/bike trail connecting Strong City, Cottonwood Falls and the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve. After discussion, it was moved and passed that we table approval pending KTC making contact to clarify matters and specific details and to draft language to express limitations and conditions for funding.
- **Next meeting:** November 19 at the Wilson Lake area, with the possibility of camping and other activities on Saturday (18th).

Susan Haynes, Secretary

Contact Info

2006 KTC Board of Directors and Officers

Mike Goodwin, President [10] (Runner, Hiker)

Email: goodwinmw@cox.net

Phone: 785-266-6218

Lyle Reidy, Vice-President [9] (Mountain Biker)

Email: riedy@usd345.com

Phone: 785-286-4103

Susan Haynes, Secretary [6] (Hiker, Backpacker)

Email: jhaynes5018@everestkc.net

Phone: 913-248-1259

Kevin Otterman, Treasurer [12] (Canoeist, Kayaker, Hiker)

Email: skiotter@aol.com

Phone: 913-856-8281

Ed DeTrude [1] (Hiker, Mountain Biker)

Email: detrude@earthlink.net

Phone: 785-232-1661

John Haynes [8] (Hiker, Backpacker)

Email: jhaynes5018@everestkc.net

Phone: 913-248-1259

Olivia Huddleston [4] (Horseback Rider)

Email: opieh@bluevalley.net

Phone: 785-382-6886

Ken Miner [11] (Mountain Biker, Single-track Advocate)

Email: kminer@minertech.com

Phone: 913-894-4276

Doug Palen [3] (Mountain Biker, Hiker)

Email: djpalen@nckcn.com

Phone: 785-545-3460

Neil Taylor [5] (Mountain Biker, Hiker)

Email: medic1@sunflower.com

Phone: 816-392-1038

Jim Thomas [2] (Horseback Rider)

Email: thomasj@kansas.net

Phone: 785-528-4255

Amy Thornton [7] (Mountain Biker, Hiker)

Email: amyt@wp.state.ks.us

[Positions 1-6: 2006-2007 term; Positions 7-12: 2005-2006 term]

Trail News

Thunderhead Partners with CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has approved a one-year contract towards Thunderhead Alliance's first full Benchmarking Report. This report will build on Thunderhead's previous Benchmarking work, comparing bicycling, walking, health and underserved population data in all 50 states and at least the 50 largest U.S. cities to reveal the total impact of the built environment on the health and safety of Americans. For more information on Thunderhead and the Benchmarking Project, visit www.thunderheadalliance.org.

*League of American Bicyclist - American Bicyclist Update
August 28, 2006*

Obese People Now Outnumber Hungry

There are now more overweight people across the world than hungry ones, according to experts. US professor Barry Popkin said all countries - both rich and poor - had failed to address the obesity boom. At a recent meeting of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, Popkin said that the number of overweight people had topped one billion, compared with 800 million undernourished. Speaking at an Australian conference, he said changing diets and people doing less physical exercise was the cause. Professor Popkin, from the University of North Carolina, said that the change had happened quickly as obesity was rapidly spreading, while hunger was slowly declining among the world's 6.5 billion population. *(from the BBC)*

*League of American Bicyclist - American Bicyclist Update
August 28, 2006*

IMBA and REI Launch "10,000 in 2010" Campaign to Boost Volunteerism

IMBA and REI have targeted "10,000 Volunteer Days Annually in 2010" as the goal for a powerful new initiative, the REI/IMBA Volunteer Stewardship Challenge. The objective: boost volunteerism in the mountain biking community - which is already highly commendable - and do a better job recording and sharing those achievements with others.

Along the way to the goal of recording 10,000 volunteer days during the year 2010, the campaign aims to hit important benchmarks: 3,000 recorded volunteer days this year, and 5,000 days during 2007. These numbers are not cumulative - they reflect the number of volunteer workdays to be logged each year.

REI is contributing to the campaign by funding the development of free toolkits for select clubs and patrols, and by supporting new online resources at imba.com that

will enable groups to log their volunteer efforts. "REI is committed to supporting stewardship and volunteerism," says David Jayo, REI corporate giving manager. "Programs like this give people the tools they need to care for the places we all enjoy."

IMBA's Executive Director Mike Van Abel believes the 10,000 in 2010 campaign will significantly advance the sport of mountain bicycling. "IMBA-affiliated clubs, patrols and individual members pitch in thousands of hours every year caring for the trails. While our record of service is tremendous, we've haven't done enough to catalogue the hours and days of service we compile. This campaign is going to help us share our achievements with land managers and key decision makers."

Visit the "10,000 in 2010" resources at imba.com for much more information about this exciting program.

IMBA Press Release - August 8, 2006

Forest Service to Revise Trail Classification System

The U.S. Forest Service is currently soliciting public comments as it revises its National Trail Classification System (TCS). This process will result in new guidelines for trail classification, design and implementation on all 133,000 miles of National Forest System trails.

IMBA is currently evaluating the 75-page document and will send official comments to the Forest Service in the near future. Interested mountain bikers should check the IMBA website in mid-August, 2006, to view IMBA's comments and for assistance preparing individual comments. The official deadline for public comments is Sept. 1.

The draft TCS is largely positive for mountain biking and should be a major improvement over the document it replaces. In particular, the draft includes revised trail design parameters and language to manage mountain biking much like hiking and horse use, and separate from motorized recreation. Mountain biking is also categorized, along with hiking, as an activity generally acceptable on all trail classes.

Read the Forest Service's Federal Register notice for more information on the TCS revision and instructions for public comment.

IMBA Press Release - July 24, 2006

OSWATOMIE TRAIL WORK TO START

Construction should start soon on a 3.75-mile section of the Flint Hills Nature Trail west of Osawatomie stretching between Pressonville Road in Miami County and Virginia Rd. in Franklin County. The Osawatomie Division of the Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy plans to install and roll a crushed limestone surface within the next few weeks with

Trail News

the goal of having the trail open by the end of September. This section of trail is very scenic and traverses oak-hickory forest and passes by bluffs along the Maries des Cygnes River. Development funds have been generously provided by the Olivia Lincoln Garvey Memorial Trust and Dr. Jeff Dorsett.

*KANSAS TRAILS NEWS August 6, 2006
Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy &
Sunflower Recreational Trails*

New Draft National Park Management Policies Restore Park Protections

In June, the National Park Service released a new draft of the National Park Service's (NPS) Management Policies that reinforces the agency's commitment to protect park resources, such as air quality, and preserve wilderness and the experiences of visitors. The draft is undergoing a final internal review, but preliminary analysis indicates that the National Park Service, after pressure from Congress, park experts, and the American public, produced a new draft that largely reflects the park-protective policies in the existing 2001 Management Policies.

Earlier this year, American Hiking Society urged the NPS to abandon the drastic rewrite of the Management Policies and keep the existing 2001 policies intact. American Hiking submitted formal comments on the originally proposed draft in February and raised concerns that the rewrite process should not open the door for disruptive and damaging motorized activities in parks, and that the policies needed to protect park air quality, wildlife, scenic vistas, historic treasures, and other resources that attract millions of visitors annually be maintained. The NPS received more than 50,000 comments, mostly critical of the rewrite, during a public comment period a few months ago.

The new draft appears to reaffirm the park-protective emphasis of the existing policies. Language that confirms the Park Service's overarching predominant mission of long-term preservation has been maintained, as well as protections for park air quality, wilderness, natural quiet, and other resources. The final changes are expected to be completed and implemented this summer.

Thank you to all members who spoke out and sent comments to the NPS emphasizing the importance of protecting the magnificent resources and experiences within our national parks. The new draft and a summary are available at:

www.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Announcements&id=4565

American Hiking Society's Paperless Trail for July 2006, for more information visit their webpage at www.americanhiking.org.

Searching the Web for Better Hiking

You can now raise money to help improve hiking trails, educate people about hiking responsibly, and raise the hiker's voice on Capitol Hill every time you search the web! Just visit www.GoodSearch.com, enter the word "hiking" in the charity selection box and then search the web just as you normally would. This search page is powered by "Yahoo!" and gets great results.

American Hiking Society staffers have been using this for a few weeks now and are happy to report that it works well, with no strings attached.

We encourage you to download their toolbar so that you can search the web right from your browser anytime. Using the toolbar means never even having to leave the web page you're on to search the web and it also saves American Hiking Society as your preferred charity (unless you just rebooted your computer – then just type "hiking" into the charity space again).

What an easy way to do something good for hikers all across America

American Hiking Society's Paperless Trail for July 2006, for more information visit their webpage at www.americanhiking.org.

Senate Supports Conservation, Mixed Bag for Trails and Recreation

In the last week of June, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed an Interior funding bill that restores critical funding to several conservation programs but also includes deep cuts for programs important to hikers. On the positive side, the bill includes:

- \$129 million for the federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which funds land acquisition for parks, trails, forests, and other public lands (\$70 million more than the House)
- \$30 million for stateside LWCF, an important source of funding for close-to-home parks and recreation (compared to zero money in the House)
- Level funding for the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program at about \$8 million (compared to a severe \$500,000 cut in the House)

Unfortunately, the bill also includes damaging cuts to other trail and recreation programs such as Forest Service recreation and trails (cut by more than \$10 million each), Bureau of Land Management recreation, and National Park Service operations. The Senate committee provided significantly less money for these programs than the House.

After the full Senate passes this bill, the House and Senate will then "conference" to reconcile the differences and pass a final bill in late summer or early fall.

KTC Trail Reports

Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails

Bridges have been our recent focus on the Clinton trails. Thanks to John Bergman's Eagle Scout project, the bridge on the west end blue trail has been reinforced and rails have been added (see photo below). Despite the threat of rain, John's crew finished the bridge remodeling in one day and logged 72 volunteer hours.



About one hundred feet north of the rebuilt bridge we have started developing the mountain bike skills loop by installing old boat docks as bridges over the creek. The State Park donated the four retired docks and the power equipment to put them in place (see photo below).



Next, we will build approaches to each bridge and add skill features along the new trail in the coming months.

Mike Goodwin

Dornwood Trail (Topeka)

Dornwood trails are much improved since this time last year. The goal is to be able to make that statement each year for years to come. We have the ideas and plans, but most importantly we have the volunteers to see it through.

I have noticed an increase in trail use by walkers, hikers, runners and bikers. The new trails are in good shape and getting better with use. Watch for the new log feature on the first loop to the north. This is a good example of what we hope to have more of. (See photos)



108 years in the making



4 hours later

Tom Travis

KTC Trail Reports

El Dorado Lake Trails

After a summer of fun and frolic at El Dorado Lake, the work will soon begin on the construction of a new and improved horse campground at Boulder Bluff Area 2. Complete with all the things an equestrian and their equine friend would appreciate during their stay while camping at El Dorado Lake. Some of the new additions will include: campsites equipped with electrical hookups and new individual corrals for the horses to be turned out in after a long time out on the trail. Wash bays will also be installed so that riders can hose down their animals after a long ride out on the trails. Manure bunkers will also be installed for easier collection and removal of the horse manure from the new campground. No date has been set for the completion of this project, much of that will depend on the weather as the project continues. After the new campground is completed, they also plan to expand the trails to the North of the lake.

Chris Kaegi-Stephens

Eisenhower State Park (Melvern Lake) Crooked Knee Equine Trail

Trail improvements continue as the popularity of the equine trails grow. A new section has been added to the orange trail with a scenic ride around a hilltop on the northwest side. Plans are in the works to add more miles through the woods on the east side this winter. The park management has agreed to place a picnic table and tie-line on a scenic overlook cliff about halfway around the outside blue trail. The Brushbusters Riding Club of Topeka is donating \$200 toward a metal cutout sign to put above the new entry into the West Point Equine Camp area.

Jim Thomas

George Latham Trail (Clinton Lake)

The trail is in the middle of getting a facelift. The newest section of rerouted trail has been built and is holding fast. It even looks like people are deciding you use it rather than scramble over the rocks down the old trail which is good. What still needs to be done is that there are sections mainly this old washed out part that need to be reclaimed. My goal is to have this done by the first of the year. What would be the biggest help from the public is that they do not destroy any barricades that are erected. Not that this will happen but hopefully with a few directional signs they can be swayed to taking the new trails.

Sam Gleeson

Ike's Trail (Eisenhower State Park)

With Ed DeTrude's departure, Tim Golgoski from Osage City will be taking over the Trail Coordinator position.

Perry Lake Bike Trails

Another round of late summer storms fell many branches and several large trees across the trail. Another work day or two should have things up to normal soon. Plans are being developed to re-route more of the original trail to avoid persistent erosion problems and to improve the general flow and feel of the trail.

Lyle Riedy

Perry Lake Hiking Trails

Our summer trail work at Perry was typical – quite limited in scope. But we are gearing up for fall.

Two updates are worthy of mention however. First, we have a new trailwatcher who will cover the eastern part of Section 2. We now have a full team of volunteers! Second, I have assumed the Trail Coordinator position following the corporate relocation of Kevin Otterman. I and the rest of the Perry Trail group wish Kevin and his family the best in their new corporate adventure. He will be a tough act to follow; all I can say is I'll do my best.

Our next Perry goal is to start the fall cleaning a bit earlier this year to open the trails to the fall hikers. Early November was always a convenient time to work – cooler weather and after a frost. But, many hikers enjoy October's changing colors, so we need to be aware of their needs too.

Dave Brackey

Tuttle Creek Trails

The Tuttle Creek Trails have been maintained throughout the summer. Most activity is now concentrating on preparation for the Flint Hills Competitive Trail Ride to be held at Randolph State Park October 6, 7, & 8. The state park has been remarked as well as the private property that is used to insure enough suitable miles are available.

Trail maintenance is year round, unless there is snow or ice on the ground. Much energy was spent earlier this summer on clearing the dead trees and brush at the campground of the state park after the wildfire.

Olivia Huddleston

KTC Membership Form

I would like to join or renew my membership in the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2006

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Note: It is the KTC's policy that the above information will only be used internally by the KTC and will not be distributed to any other entity.

In the interest of conserving the KTC's resources (time, postage, copying and supplies) and being more environmentally friendly, the KTC newsletter is primarily distributed by email. However, if you prefer to receive the newsletter by U.S. mail please check here .

Membership Dues and Contributions

Amounts

Lifetime Membership	\$100 (One-time payment, no annual dues)	
Annual Dues: Individual	\$10	Trails Supporter \$101 - \$249
Family	\$25	Trails Patron \$250 - \$499
Affiliate	\$25	KTC Sponsor \$500+ _____

Optional "Friend of the Trail" Contribution * (Any amount is appreciated) _____

Please designate the trail(s) you would like to support with your tax deductible donation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Lake - George Latham Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinton Lake - North Shore Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Eagle Rock Bike Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Elk River Hiking Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Elk City Lake - Table Mound Hiking Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> El Dorado Lake Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Melvern Lake - Crooked Knee Horse Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Melvern Lake - Ike's Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Perry Lake Bike Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Perry Lake Hiking Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuttle Creek – Carnahan Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Tuttle Creek – Carnahan Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Topeka – Dornwood Park Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Topeka – MacLennan Park Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Toronto State Park Trails
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Timbers State Park Trails |
|--|---|

Total Amount Enclosed (Annual Dues + Friend of the Trail Contribution) \$ _____

Please Mail To: Kansas Trails Council, PO Box 695, Topeka, KS 66601-0695

* Your tax deductible Friends of the Trail contributions are used directly to maintain the selected trail(s). The KTC is a non-profit 501c3 corporation.

Kansas Trails Council
PO Box 695
Topeka, KS 66601-0695

Fourth Quarter 2006 KTC Board Meeting

The next KTC Board meeting will be held on November 19, 2006 at 1:00 PM in the Wilson Lake area at a location yet to be determined. KTC members are invited to join us for lunch at 12:00 noon and stay for the business meeting. For additional information please check our website: www.kansastrailscouncil.org.

Departing Board Members

Long time KTC member, Ed DeTrude has resigned from the KTC Board because he has moved to Wisconsin. Ed has been invaluable in planning and hosting trail workshops, trail workdays and trail maintenance on many area trails. He created and maintained Ike's Trail at Eisenhower State Park and will continue to contribute the "Trail News" section to this newsletter. Ed is a Life member of the KTC and the recent chair of the membership committee. We wish him the best in his new endeavors. His energy and dedication to Kansas trails was truly appreciated and will be missed.

As noted in the Board meeting minutes, Kevin Otterman has recently moved to Oklahoma and has turned the Perry Hiking Trail coordinator position over to Dave Brackey of Kansas City. Kevin has devoted thousands of hours maintaining and improving the Perry Hiking Trails over many years. Kevin's devotion to the trails went well beyond "normal" maintenance. Building (and rebuilding) bridges, installing memorial benches and trailhead kiosks, maintaining a trail website, working with Corps of Engineers staff, area volunteers and boy scouts are but a few examples of his dedication and vision for the 28 mile hiking trail. Kevin continues to serve as the KTC treasurer and Board member through the end of the year.