

Kansas Trails Council

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Newsletter

December 2004

Trail Building Workshop

January 22, 2005

Mark your calendars and tell your trail friends about our **free** trail building workshop Saturday, January 22, 2005 from 9:00 to 4:00. The workshop will include classroom sessions and hands-on work on a new trail section.

Registration and classroom presentations will be held in the new KDWP Region 2 Office at 300 SW Wanamaker Road in Topeka.

The workshop will be taught by the IMBA* Trail Care Crew who has trained thousands of trail builders across the country. Although IMBA is a mountain biking organization, it is dedicated to the development of all types of multi-use trails. IMBA works with land managers and volunteers to develop a better understanding of the science of building sustainable trails.

Register by email at goodwinmw@cox.net or telephone at (785) 266-6218. Please refer to the enclosed Trail Building Workshop flier (page 9) for further details. Class size will be limited, so early registration is encouraged.

*International Mountain Bicycling Association

Mobile Trail Team

The KTC trail team is now mobile! We have recently purchased a cargo trailer and an arsenal of trail equipment so that we can develop new trails more efficiently. The cargo trailer became a necessity in order to transport our newest trail tool - a 17 hp, self-propelled, DR brush cutter (shown below).

The brush cutter opens a basic trail corridor by marching through small trees and shrubs at a walking pace. Work that previously took many hours of manual labor with smaller equipment can now be accomplished in a fraction of the time. The brush cutter made easy work of clearing the shoulder high grass from Ike's Trail at Eisenhower State Park recently (see photo on page 5).

We are in the process of fitting out the cargo trailer to hold all of the new equipment. Then we will add the new KTC logo on the sides (see graphic in the lower left corner of this page). Watch for photos of the trailer and the new equipment in the next issue.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 Trail News and Issues
- 4 Board Perspectives – Going Home
- 5 KTC Trail Reports
- 6 Board Meeting Minutes
- 9 Trail Building Workshop Information

Happy Holidays!

The KTC Board of Directors would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. We look forward to working with you to promote the development and enjoyment of Kansas Trails in the future. We thank you for your continued support in this effort and hope you will take time in the coming year to enjoy a nearby trail!

Trail News and Issues

Recent Press Release From North Carolina Department of Transportation

Bicycling Facilities Proven to Boost North Carolina's Economy

New Study Shows Bicycle Facilities Generate Tourism Money and Jobs

RALEIGH—Transportation Secretary Lyndo Tippettt today announced the results of a new study that shows bicycling facilities boost tourism dollars and jobs. The study focused on the northern Outer Banks, where it was projected that bicycling tourists make an annual economic impact of \$60 million and generate support for 1,400 jobs for the region.

The study, Pathways to Prosperity, was commissioned by the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation (DBPT) to help the department better assess the value of their investment in bicycle facilities. According to the study, each year an estimated 680,000 tourists bicycle while in the Outer Banks, making a significant impact on the state and local economies. In addition, the study found that bicycle facilities are an important factor in the decision of many tourists to visit and return to the Outer Banks region.

“NCDOT has long recognized the important physical and environmental benefits of bicycling facilities,” said Secretary Tippettt. “Pathways to Prosperity reinforces the many benefits of bicycling by providing concrete evidence that the availability of bicycling opportunities is an important component of North Carolina’s economy. We already have a vigorous bicycle and pedestrian program, the first comprehensive state program of its kind in the nation, and I am committed to expanding this effort even further through innovative programs like N.C. Moving Ahead!”

According to the study, about \$6.7 million in municipal, state and federal funding was used to construct the bicycle facilities currently in place on the northern Outer Banks. Thus, the annual **\$60 million** economic impact of cyclists is estimated to be **nine times** greater than the one-time expenditure of public funds to construct the facilities.

NCDOT is placing an increased emphasis on multimodal transportation across the state with a \$70 million investment being made through N.C. Moving Ahead!, a two-year transportation and economic stimulus package signed into law by Gov. Easley this past summer, and

also through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The DBPT also recently announced a new grant initiative designed to help municipalities throughout the state fund the development of comprehensive bicycle or pedestrian transportation plans. Through the grant program, a total of \$750,000 will be made available over the next two years, and about 15 municipalities will be awarded grants each year.

Pathways to Prosperity also highlights other economic benefits that may result from the presence of bicycle facilities, including the enhancement of nearby property values, the reduced healthcare costs that may result from increased opportunities for exercise and increased preservation of the state’s highway infrastructure resulting from the presence of wider paved shoulders. Other studies have also demonstrated that bicycle facilities improve the overall quality of life in a community.

An electronic version of the study overview and summary can be accessed on NCDOT’s website at www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/safety/safety_economicimpact.html.

Hard copies will also be distributed throughout the state free of charge, upon request.

For more information on the study or a copy of the full technical report, contact Mary Meletiou at (919) 515-8771 or mpmeleti@unity.ncsu.edu.

Kansas State Parks Faced With Funding Issues

By Leann Schmitt, Special Assistant to the Secretary

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks’ state park system is facing a budget crises in the coming fiscal year. While selective fee increases will get the parks through another year, a stable long-term funding solution is needed.

In August the KDWP Revenue Task Force issued a report recommending that the Department pursue a \$5.00 fee to be added on to the motor vehicle registration fees paid by car-owners annually. If approved by the governor and state legislature, anyone with a valid Kansas license plate would have free year-round entrance to all state parks. Currently residents

Trail News and Issues – Cont'd

Kansas State Parks Faced With Funding Issues

(Continued From Page 2)

pay \$6.50 per day to enter the park or \$35 - \$45 annually.

Camping and other fees would still apply, and out-of-state residents would still have to purchase daily vehicle permits.

The fee would be used to fund the state parks system and the Local Outdoor Recreation Grant Program, which has not been funded for several years, and helps communities improve their parks and other outdoor recreation facilities.

In the past 10 years, state general fund ("tax money") support of the parks has been steadily reduced from 65% to less than 15% of the state parks' operating budget. The bulk of the state parks' budget comes from user fees.

It is estimated that the state parks have as much as a \$685 million economic benefit to the state.

Re-printed with permission from The Tuttle Tattler - November 2004.

Trail Volunteers: What's Your Time Worth?

Members of the KTC contribute thousands of hours each year building and maintaining trails in Kansas. Many other organizations' members also donate their time and efforts to our nearby trails.

Why do we volunteer? Because of the sheer enjoyment of creating and preserving trails. Trails are a natural resource used by millions of our neighbors and friends. Consider the case of one of our KTC trails. In the month of November, the Clinton Lake – North Shore Trail was used by 1400 hikers, bikers or runners. They are the reason we do volunteer trailwork.

And we are not alone. Across the country numerous organizations are also dedicated to volunteer trailwork. KTC Board member Olivia Huddleston reports that volunteer members of Back Country Horseman of America have, over the past 9 years, contributed 948,680 hours which were valued at over \$18 million.

How ever you measure the value of your volunteer trailwork, it is definitely worth your time.

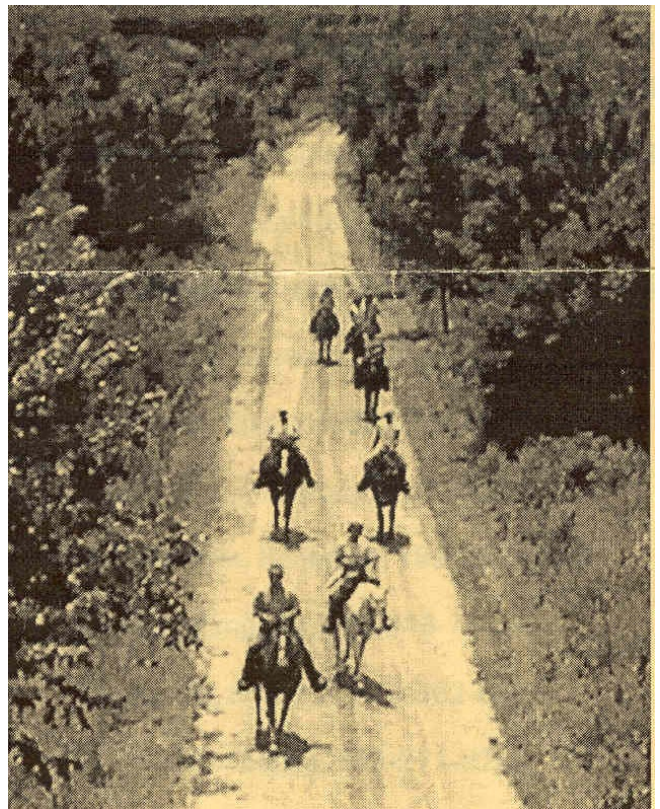
Review Time. Just What is the Plan Anyway? Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy, Inc.

An occasional reminder is appropriate. The long term goal is the development of the entire 117 mile Flint Hills Nature Trail from Osawatomie to Herington and the connecting 35 mile Landon Nature Trail from Topeka to Lomax Junction. Lomax Junction, where the two trails connect, is southeast of Pomona Lake. KRTC plans to carry this out by developing small sections of the trails, generally around communities, and then connecting it all together over a period of 10-15 years. To accomplish this we will need to develop and open between 10-15 miles of trail per year.

Volunteers are asked to participate in light trail maintenance by adopting sections of varying length. Can you help? Think about it.

In the photo: Six wagons with teams and several individual riders enjoyed a ride on the Flint Hills Nature Trail near Vassar on July 3rd.

Re-printed with permission from The Flint Hills & Landon Nature Trails Newsletter – August 2004.



Board Perspectives

GOING HOME

Visits to my boyhood hometown in the Ozarks of Southwest Missouri have become more pleasurable for me in recent years. It's not that my return trips were ever bad or difficult. For many years a trip home has typically focused on a holiday or family function -- eating Thanksgiving Dinner and visiting with family, enjoying the Christmas Eve candlelight service and visiting with family, attending a wedding or funeral and visiting with family, partying at my high school reunion and visiting with family, ogling the newborn niece or nephew and visiting with family.

My enjoyment of these trips back home has increased measurably the past 3 to 4 years by the addition of one simple ingredient – a trek through a nearby woodland or a bike ride down a scenic back road. My new habit when traveling back to the Ozarks is to take along my hiking shoes or one of my bicycles, and make time for a brief getaway or interlude from family time.

Neosho Missouri is officially on the fringe of the Ozarks -- where the prairie gives way to rolling hills broken by steep draws and hidden valleys. The narrow roads begin to wind around the hills and the yellow traffic signs frequently display an S or a series of curved arrows with the speed posted at 20 or 25. Grey and black limestone bluffs are visible along the many creeks and river valleys.

The town of Neosho was built on steep hills, now covered with enormous maple, elm and oak trees. The historic Big Spring Park, with its crystal clear namesake bubbling from the mouth of a small cavern and feeding into a stone-edged pool filled with captive trout, is a couple of blocks from the town square and county courthouse. As a child, I remember the city's claim to fame was its designation by President Eisenhower as "The Flower Box City".

Now, when I hike a local trail or bicycle down a narrow back road I am blessed with memories and pleasant recollections of those days-gone-by. At the same time, I am treated to the beauties of the present. In spring -- blooming dogwood, redbud and forsythia. In summer -- the raucous buzzing of cicadas. In fall -- the brilliant splotches of yellow, orange and red that adorn the hillsides. In winter, the giant old Oak and Sycamore trees stand sentinel along the road or trail.

After a brisk hike in the woods or a cycle-ride down memory lane my head is usually cleared and I can return to family-time with renewed energy. After downing a plate piled high with smoked meats (my brother-in-law's specialty) and the typical holiday side dishes and

desserts, I am always in need of burning a few (thousand) calories. For those of you who developed this healthy habit many years ago, I say "congratulations." For the rest of you couch potatoes, I hope you have already started thinking about some hometown park or trail or memory lane that you can visit during your next trip back home.

Stephen Garlow
KTC Board Member since 2003



Editors Note: Here is a review of a trail Stephen explored on a recent trip home.

BICENTENNIAL CONSERVATION AREA NEOSHO, MISSOURI

How to get there: 3.5 miles east of Neosho on Hwy 59, south on Route HH, then right on Route TT.

Recently, I explored the Bicentennial Conservation Area near Neosho, Missouri. BCA is maintained by the Missouri Department of Conservation and is 720 acres of forest (95%) and grassland (5%). The trailhead parking area has a privy, picnic pavilion and 8/10th mile of paved pathway (disabled accessible). The pathway, dubbed the Mort Walker Trail, loops deep into the woods with a spur that takes you to an elevated wildlife overlook (viewing platform).

Fans of the Beetle Bailey cartoon strip will recognize the trail's namesake. Walker survived the Army's basic training at nearby Camp Crowder in the 1940s.

A 4.5 mile multi-use trail (hike/bike/horse) has 3 main loops, with a mixture of rocky ascents, descents and rolling singletrack. The terrain is wooded hills, with elevation changes of 80 -100 ft. from highest to lowest point. The intersection of old fire roads running north-south and east-west create opportunities for mountain bikers to add some fast roller-coaster riding. The technical difficulty of the trail for mountain biking is novice to intermediate. The overall quality of the trail experience would be a 2.5 on a 5 point scale.

A small spring can be found at trailside, beneath a towering ash tree. Primary species of trees include white, black, post, blackjack and red oaks, hackberry, elm, ash, black walnut and hickory. Abundant wildlife includes deer, turkey, gray and fox squirrels, quail, rabbits, doves and red-headed woodpeckers.



Trail Reports

Perry Lake Hiking Trails (East Side)

As of Nov. 7 over 150 hours of volunteer labor have been put to good use during the Fall '04 maintenance season. Over half this time has been spent mowing trail, the balance has been work crews using loppers and bow saws.

Section 1 (from Slough Creek to Longview) has been cleared by KCOC work crews from Slough Creek northward, mowed near 66th Street and mowed near Lakeside Village. Section 1 is in good condition throughout. There is a pending Boy Scout and Westar bridge project for the 66th Street stream crossing. A memorial park bench for park ranger "Mobe" Rucker was installed north of Lakeside Village boat ramp last spring.

Section 2 (from Longview to Old Military Trail) has been cleared from Old Quarry Road to OMT. The section between Longview and Old Quarry Road has seen only light maintenance this fall. New paint blazes are in place in the Old Quarry Road area. A new bridge was put in last year at Old Quarry Road by Boy Scout and Westar volunteers. The bridge at OMT is still in good shape with some new limestone rock placed (this year) on stream banks for erosion control. Section 2 has seen heavy use this fall by day hikers and folks camping at the designated hiker's campground (at OMT). A memorial park bench for Dorothy Moore will be installed west of OMT this fall. There are also plans to install a memorial park bench for Richard Douthit north of Longview Park along the trail. The COE has provided the park benches.

Section 3 (from OMT to Kiowa Road) was cleared on Nov. 6 by Sierra Club volunteers. This section is in good condition throughout. A new bridge for the 94th Street stream crossing was put in place earlier this year by Boy Scout and Westar volunteers.

Section 4 (Slough Creek and Audubon areas) has seen light maintenance this fall.

Plans For 2005 include:

- Completion of the 66th St. bridge and park benches.
- A new trail map/brochure.

For more information check on-line at:
www.perrylaketrail.net

Kevin Otterman

Perry Bike Trails (West Side)

Perry received several heavy rains during summer and early fall. For the most part the trail held up great under the extreme conditions. There were several areas throughout the trail that showed slight damage and were corrected immediately by adding dips, nicks and armoring. The only areas that received notable damage are the hills on the Skyline section and the entrances from Skyline to Great White. These are the same areas that have required erosion repair several times since the trail was built. The first area, a 1/2 mile extension/re-route to the mid section of Skyline was completed Oct. 30. A 1/4 mile re-route to the west entrance to Great White was re-routed and completed Nov. 6 with help from 18 skilled trail builders with the Earn Your Dirt program. The East entrance to Great White is the next area to re-route. This too should be completed sometime this winter.

Lyle Riedy

Ike's Trail (Eisenhower State Park - Melvern Lake)

A second loop was laid out this fall and work on it has begun. The new brush mower was used to do some of the clearing (see below) and the Park's Americorps



crew helped scrape and tamp all of the trail sections in the wooded areas. Work on the new loop will continue through this winter. The new loop will add another mile of trail. The new mower was also used for a maintenance mowing on a section of the first loop, widening out the corridor and cutting back the woody invaders. Several more maintenance mowings are planned for this winter.

Ed DeTrude

Trail Reports (Cont'd)

Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails

The shoreline trail is still under construction with over 600 hours work to date. Some remedial work was necessary on the eastern $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section as a result of the heavy summer rains which caused the lake level to rise to its highest point in many years. In two sections on the east end we have now created high-water and low-water routes. We are now working every weekend on the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. Our goal is to complete the western section by year-end.

On the existing trails, we have rerouted several sections which were located in areas flooded or eroded by the recent high lake levels. These sections will now remain above the highest possible lake levels. The Mud Creek rock crossing sustained some damage from floating logs that will be easily repaired. We removed 40-50 trees which had fallen on the trails during the heavy snows in November.

Mike Goodwin

George Latham Trail (Clinton - Woodridge Park)

Conditions at the George Latham Trail are still ideal for a primitive hiking experience prior to the winter season. The first snow of the season has brought down some trees around the trail providing a minor obstruction, but hikers will have no difficulty negotiating the path. In fact, the fallen trees accompany a great view of the water for a good part of the hike. Early in the new year, after the brunt of the winter weather has passed, the trail will be cleared to prepare for spring. In addition, some minor repairs will be made to the benches overlooking Clinton Lake.

Brandon Cherry

Board Meeting Minutes

The KTC Board met at Perry Lake State Park, November 7, 2004 with all members in attendance. The minutes, treasurer's report, and investment report were all approved.

Continuing Business

- Website Update - An experienced website manager has been engaged to take over the KTC website. The

plan is to keep the current website running while constructing a new website. There was discussion on standardizing trail info for the new website and how to rate trails for various users. Terra World will be kept as the server.

- Newsletter - Mike will continue to act as editor. There was discussion about different ways to obtain new material. Articles for the next newsletter in December are needed as soon as possible. The newsletter will be re-evaluated at the next Board meeting.

- Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with parks - A sub committee has been formed to develop long term MOUs with KDWP and the Corp of Engineers for the various KTC trails.

- Trail Building Workshop & 30th Anniversary - The first choice for location is Trail 24 (Menninger), with the second being Melvern.

- Business cards - The merit of using business cards for various purposes, including conveying work dates, etc. was discussed. Jim Thomas volunteered to design and print some KTC business cards.

New Business

- Equipment purchase - A discussion was held on the concept of a KTC mobile trail building unit. It was proposed that a trailer be equipped with a DR brush cutter mower, as well as other various hand tools. It was moved that the DR mower be purchased now and that a committee list the other equipment that would be included. The committee will get back with the Board with all info for discussion and approval.

- Property Taxes - It was shared with the Board that items purchased over a certain dollar amount will require KTC to file personal property tax reports and pay tax. It may be possible to file for an exemption.

- Letters of Appreciation - Letters prepared for departed Board members were signed by all.

- Trail Reports - Due to time constraints the trail reports were submitted in writing, to be read on our own. Discussion of any pressing issues will be brought up later.

- Next Meeting - January 16, with backup date of January 23. The place will be either Topeka or Melvern, depending on the trail building workshop date confirmation.

Susan Haynes, Secretary

Contact Information

2004 KTC Board of Directors and Officers

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Tuttle Creek Lake Trails - Olivia Huddleston
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The Kansas Trails Council supports the following organizations through annual contributions:

- The Santa Fe Trail Association
- International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA)
- American Hiking Society
- Kansas Horse Council
- Friends of the Kaw

KTC Membership Form

I would like to join (or renew my membership in) the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2005

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Note: It is the KTC's policy that mailing and email address 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 may now be received by email and by a download from the KTC website. If you prefer to continue receiving the newsletter by mail please check here _____.

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Membership Dues and Contributions

Amounts

Annual Dues (Circle one): Individual - \$10 Family/Corporate - \$25 Lifetime - \$100 _____

Optional "Friend of the Trail" Contribution *

Friend of the Clinton Lake North Shore Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the George Latham Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Eagle Rock Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Ike's Trail (Eisenhower State Park)	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Eisenhower State Park Equine Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the El Dorado Lake Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Elk River Hiking Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Perry Lake Bike Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Perry Lake Hiking Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Tuttle Creek Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Cross Timbers St. Park Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____
Friend of the Toronto State Park Trail	(Any Amount is appreciated)	_____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

* 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.

Please Mail To: Kansas Trails Council, Inc.
 Jim Copeland, Treasurer
 1415 Chelle Court
 El Dorado, Kansas 67042



Trail Building Workshop

When: Saturday - January 22, 2005 – 9:00 to 4:00

Where: Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
Region 2 Office
300 SW Wanamaker
Topeka, Kansas

Cost: Free!

Lunch: Free!

Registration: Phone – 785-266-6218
Email - goodwinmw@cox.net

The Kansas Trails Council is sponsoring a trail building workshop for anyone interested in learning more about building trails in Kansas. The workshop will be conducted by the IMBA Trail Care Crew and will include classroom presentations and discussions as well as hands-on work on a new trail.

Whether you are interested in hiking, biking, equestrian or other types of trails, this workshop will acquaint you with the science of trail building. IMBA has taught thousands of trail builders how to build sustainable multi-use trails across the country.

Register early because space is limited to 40 participants!

The KTC is dedicated to promoting the development and enjoyment of trails in Kansas. For more information check out our website at:

www.kansastrailscouncil.org

New KTC Website Design

The new KTC website design is now on-line. Log on to www.kansastrailscouncil.org and check it out! Some pages are still under construction so we appreciate your patience. We hope you enjoy the new design.

Trail News By Email

Many of our members supplied email addresses on the membership renewal form this year, but we are still lacking a few. If you would like to receive up-to-date information about the KTC and Kansas trail matters please send your email address to: goodwinmw@cox.net. Please be assured that your email address will only be used internally by the KTC and will not be provided to any other entity.

January 2005 KTC Meeting

The next KTC Board meeting will be held in the new shelter house at Eisenhower State Park (Melvern Lake) on Sunday, January 23, 2005. We hope you can join us for a pot luck lunch at 12:00 and meeting at 1:00.

Kansas Trails Council, Inc.
3819 SE 31st Street
Topeka, KS 66605-2109

