

Kansas Trails Council

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Newsletter

June 2007

Kansas Trails Summit

October 19, 2007

Lawrence, KS

Advocates in the on-going effort to develop a comprehensive state trails plan, including expansion and improvement of all types of recreational trails, will host a one-day workshop October 19 in Lawrence.

The event - *Kansas Trails Summit: Vision, Planning and Building* – is scheduled for the Lawrence Holidome and sponsored by the Kansas Recreation and Park Association (Park and Natural Resource Branch) in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and other state recreational trail groups.

The event is designed for land managers, designers, trail builders and maintainers, trail advocates and community decision-makers and embraces all users: walkers/hikers, cyclists, equestrians, canoe and kayakers, off-road motorized vehicle riders and those with disabilities.

The workshop schedule will include 14 sessions covering three tracks of educational opportunities – (1) Vision, (2) Planning along with (3) Building and Maintenance. There will be special presentations on rail trail and urban trail development plus a session on seeking grants and outside funding opportunities.

Sid Stevenson, professor in the division of recreational services at Kansas State University, will lead focus group discussions designed to develop a comprehensive state trails plan for Kansas. An off-site equipment demonstration is also scheduled as part of the activities.

Registration will be \$25 per person and includes lunch. Information on how to register for the Kansas Trails Summit, along with session descriptions, will be available in the near future.

Among other groups or organizations involved in the planning and presentation of the Kansas Trails Summit are the Kansas Trails Council, Kansas Whitewater Association, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kanza Rail Trail Conservancy, Kansas Department of Commerce (Div. of Tourism) and Kansas Horse Council along with Lawrence Parks and Recreation, Topeka Parks And Recreation and Johnson Country Parks and Recreation District.

For more information, contact Doug Vance, executive director of KRPA (doug@krpa.org) , or Sid Stevenson (ss Stevens@ksu.edu).

Ditch Witch Progress

We are continuing to work toward our goal of raising funds for the purchase of new trail equipment including a Ditch Witch SK650 mini-loader (pictured below) with trail building attachments.



Since receiving the pledge to fund one-third of the project from the Edward Mosby Lincoln Foundation, we have received about \$800 in donations from our members and friends. We also have several funding requests in process from various potential funding sources. We hope to be able to purchase the Ditch Witch by September for the fall trail building season, so we still need your help! If you know an individual or a business who would be interested in donating to the project, please contact Mike Goodwin by email at goodwinmw@cox.net or by calling 785-221-1794.

Tax deductible donations may be mailed to the Kansas Trails Council at PO Box 695, Topeka, Kansas 66601 (see the form on page 8).



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Board Meeting Minutes

- The KTC Board met at NIBS House of Coffee in Topeka on April 22, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by Lyle Riedy, President.
- Board members present were Lyle Riedy, President; Bob Nicholson, Vice President; Mike Goodwin, Treasurer; Susan Haynes, Secretary; John Haynes; Olivia Huddleston; Doug Palen, Chris Kaegi-Stephens, Neil Taylor, Jim Thomas, and Amy Thornton. Terry Plenart, Wichita area resident and new Trail Coordinator at Fall River Lake, was present as a guest and prospective Board member.
- Mike nominated Terry Plenart to fill the vacancy left on the Board by Kevin Otterman. Doug seconded the nomination. Motion carried.
- Mike presented account and Friends of the Trail balances and recapped investment activity. He also discussed preparation of IRS Form 990, which is due May 15th.
- According to IRS Form 990 instructions, the Board needs to adopt a "conflict of interest policy" resolution. A preliminary draft was discussed and will be revised.
- \$50,000 Ditch Witch project: Mike reported on the progress of fund-raising for this project. So far \$16,887 has been raised.
- Sanders Mound Recreational Trail Grant project update: Expenses to date were recapped. Almost \$3,000 is still outstanding. The project is expected to be within the grant budget.
- Wilson Lake trails: Over \$5,000 in project expenditures have been submitted, but not yet reimbursed. Purchases include trailer, hand tools, and trimmers. 267 hours contributed to date are sufficient to meet our 20% match for the whole project. The State Park is working on signage.
- Statewide Trail Guide Grant project: Work will begin this summer. In the meantime Mike will look into having about 2,000 KTC tri-fold flyers printed for distribution to state parks, affiliated businesses, and any other appropriate venue. Chris is looking into printing for a more formal booklet to be used in fund-raising, etc.
- Topeka-Lawrence Trail/Landon Trail update: Working group is meeting about every two weeks to select the most viable route.
- Fall River Lake project update: Phase 1 is continuing. About 4.5 miles of corridor is open; tread work will begin when all six miles of corridor is open.
- Statewide Trail Summit (October 2007): A planning group is meeting in Lawrence to plan the agenda, invitation list, sponsors, location and other logistics for a one-day conference. Representatives in the planning group include KTC, Kanza Rail Trail Conservancy, State Parks, Kansas Recreation and Parks Association, city and county parks directors. Some of the conference proceeds will be directed toward the NGOs involved.
- Wilson Trailer and Equipment ownership: The question was raised as to whether or not KTC should retain ownership of the Wilson trailer and equipment and the resulting financial and liability responsibilities. It was suggested that this topic be tabled for an indefinite time until more is known about other prospective usage, etc.

Contact Info

- Trail Day on private ranch near Medicine Lodge: Chris proposed a special trail day for all types of trail users at a 6,000 acre ranch near Sun City. Discussion ensued regarding how the different types of trail users can cooperate on trails.
- IRS Form 990: Mike reported that he had several questions regarding the IRS 990 form. Olivia moved and Neil seconded that we seek professional advice. The motion passed. Doug will do some research as to a possible contact.
- Lyle suggested that we look into a possible event at Medicine Lodge in the fall. Chris will look into this.
- Next meeting: August 5, 2007 in El Dorado - location to be announced.
- John moved and Olivia seconded a motion to adjourn. Motioned carried unanimously and meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM. - Susan Haynes, Secretary

2007 KTC Board of Directors and Officers

Lyle Reidy, President [9] (Mountain Biker)

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Amy Thornton [7] (Mountain Biker, Hiker)

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[Positions 1-6: 2006-2007 term; Positions 7-12: 2007-2008 term]

KANSAS TRAILS COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2007

I would like to: Join Renew my Membership in the Kansas Trails Council for Calendar Year 2007

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

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 resources (time, postage, copying, etc.) and being more environmentally friendly, the KTC newsletter is primarily distributed by email. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by regular U.S. mail, please check the box on the right and your name will be added to the newsletter mailing list.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

AMOUNT

Lifetime Membership: (One-time payment, no annual dues) \$100.00

Annual Dues: Individual \$10

Trails Supporter \$101 - \$249

Family \$25

Trails Patron \$250 - \$499

Affiliate \$25

KTC Sponsor \$500+

(groups, clubs, etc.)

\$ _____

Optional "Friend of the Trail" Contribution (any amount is appreciated)

\$ _____

Please designate the trail(s) you would like to support with your Friend of the Trail donation.

Clinton Lake - George Latham Trail

Perry Lake Bike Trail

Clinton Lake - North Shore Trail

Perry Lake Hiking Trail

Elk City Lake - Eagle Rock Bike Trail

Tuttle Creek - Carnahan Trail

Elk City Lake - Elk River Hiking Trail

Tuttle Creek - Randolph Trail

Elk City Lake - Table Mound Hiking Trail

Topeka - Dornwood Park Trail

El Dorado Lake Trail

Topeka - MacLennan Park Trail

Fall River Lake Trails

Toronto Lake Trails

Melvern Lake - Crooked Knee Horse Trail

Wilson Lake State Park Trails

Melvern Lake - Ike's Trail

(Annual Dues + Friend of the Trail Contribution)

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

KTC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Friends of the Trail donations are used directly to maintain the selected trail(s) and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please mail to: Kansas Trails Council ■ PO Box 695 ■ Topeka, KS 66601-0695

Website: www.kansastrailscouncil.org

KTC Trail Reports

Clinton Lake – North Shore Trails

High water levels in early June covered some existing trails leaving much debris, but little trail damage. Some sections of the Shoreline Trail were under about 5 feet of water (see photo), but survived well because of the extensive armoring.



A Lawrence Boy Scout is planning an Eagle Scout project for late July to clear debris and create rock barriers in several sections to protect the trails in the future.

Work continues on the Skills Loop as we add new features like teeter totters in the coming months.

Mike Goodwin

Dornwood Trail (Topeka)

The trails at Dornwood are in the best condition they have been in for sometime now. Repairs were made to damage from flooding and the area is dry and usable. The new trail to the north and west is complete. The entire trail is mowed and trimmed up. After the bicycle race from last week the tread is packed and very smooth. Thanks to Mike, Lyle, Gene, John for their help.

Tom Travis

Eagle Rock Mountain Bike Trail (Elk City Lake)

Eagle Rock has been too wet, too muddy and too under water to ride (or work on for that matter) from late winter to the present. The Park is going to help us get it mowed

and cleaned up, if it ever stops raining long enough for the trail to dry out and not be partially under water from heavy releases of water at the outlet. We had rain 18 out of 31 days in May alone.

Rocky Shire

Eisenhower State Park (Melvern Lake) Crooked Knee Equine Trail

Eisenhower State Park Crooked Knee Equine Trail survived this spring's high water in pretty good condition. Some flooded areas still need a little clean up of left over debris. A benefit trail ride for the Wright Flight Program was held on Memorial Day with about 40 riders. The day began with a trail riding safety clinic given by Cindy Branham, then riders headed out for a leisurely three hour ride. Riders enjoyed a beautiful day of riding and only had to skirt around a couple of high water areas. The equine camp and trails are receiving regular use from Kansas and Missouri riders. The well-known phrase of "if you build it, they will come" sure holds true for the excellent facilities now offered. Riders often comment to me that Eisenhower State Park now has one of the best equine camps and trails in Kansas. Once again, don't forget to stop in or drop a note to the ESP managers and thank them for this great equine opportunity.

Jim Thomas

Eisenhower State Park (Melvern Lake) Ike's Trail

What a wet spring. My guess is that our time has been spent like everyone else's – busy mowing and grooming the trail. Parts of Osage County had over nine inches of rain in one day last month. Needless to say there was some major water moving through the county and some of it managed to back up over the trail. It was easy to tell the part of the trail that ran level, as that's about were the trash line wound up being when the Melvern Lake rose to its highest level. My boy Luke has decided to expand the length of the trail by two miles as his Boy Scout Eagle project. So we spent some time at the beginning of the month marking off about a mile of the new trail and scouted the other mile. It will bring length of the trail up to a little over four miles. He has scheduled June 23 from 9:00 – noon as his first work day. I hope that we have a good bit of the new addition done by the time the news letter comes out. I've also been working on a map and a brochure that will be placed at the trail head.

Tim Gogolski

KTC Trail Reports

Fall River Lake Trails

The Kansas Singletrack Society, with the help of the Kansas Trails Council, has begun an aggressive trail building program at Fall River Lake. Fall River is located approximately 75 miles east of Wichita in what is known as the Cross Timbers area of Kansas. The site has open, rolling grass covered prairie with sandstone outcroppings, mixed with stands of old growth hardwood forest. Work started on the current trail project, phase one, in January of this year. Designed to flow on the contour, the trail is laid out to stay above the flood stage of the lake with some nice, minor elevation changes throughout. The trail is designed to be single-track for hiking/biking use. The thin soil cover in this area covers a lot of loose and broken sandstone as shown in the photo after the spring burning.



The workday parking area can be eventually used as the trail-head and is located on the east side of the lake along Badger Creek Road. The trail will be roughly eight miles in length, connecting this trail-head with the Corps Whitehall Bay Campground. The phase one trail rolls along the lake while snaking out and back around a series of small gullies or ravines. We hope to begin work on the tread by the fall of this year. With the spring rains and early season rapid growth, keeping the corridor open is a concern. We hope to get that in check with a mowing and spraying project as soon as possible.

This trail is designed to be hiked or biked in both directions as an out-and-back, or will connect with other future trails to be built in the Park. An area known as Badger Creek will be the site of phase two and should be really fun to work as well as ride or hike. It features large old-growth, mostly oak trees that form a full canopy cover along a series of ravines that connect to Badger Creek. Rocky ledges

connect to make up a series of terraces, natural corridors for some great trail. In some spots, large boulders have calved off the side of the rock ledge to form a kind of a natural canyon. The trail currently under construction meets up with the Badger Creek area at around the six mile post. This will make it possible to link the trails together or ride each one individually. We hope to be able to start a trail project in the Badger Creek area sometime next year.

It's been a good year for trail-building at Fall River Lake. Next year should be even better.

Terry Plenert

George Latham Trail (Clinton Lake)

Several sections of the trail were under water during the June flooding. Aside from the log debris that floated in, the trail was left undamaged.

Sam Gleeson, who has served as the trail coordinator at the Latham trails for the past two years, has resigned so he can focus more of his energy on his studies at Kansas University. We would like to thank Sam for his hard work on the trails.

If anyone is interested in taking over the trail coordinator position for the Latham trails, please contact us at: goodwinmw@cox.net

Mike Goodwin

MacLennan Park Trails (Topeka)

Spring trimming went well the past two months although recent rains continues to encourage rapid growth. The new trail section in the northeast section of the park is open, but still needs some tread work. This section will be completed this fall.

Mike Goodwin

Perry Lake Bike Trails

As of summer all is good. The new sections added this winter have broken in real nicely. The first round of mowing is done and appears to be holding up well. About 10 miles will need to be mowed and trimmed again soon as weather conditions caused underbrush and grasses to grow quickly.

Lyle Riedy

KTC Trail Reports

Perry Lake Hiking Trails

Spring 2007 work fell into the normal areas: general clearing, limbs and saplings, blazing, and adding rock on a steep section. Recent high lake levels have put water over the trail in susceptible locations. We have our full complement of trailwatchers and still get emails from others willing to help.

Dave Brackey

Tuttle Creek Trails

Randolph State Park - We have a young man working on his Eagle Scout project. Along with a crew of help he is doing maintenance and reblazing Randolph State Park. The water level of the lake has been high, so there is damage to the north L-LL loop.

Carnahan Trails - The high water level of Tuttle Creek Lake has left a lot of driftwood for us to move. Maintenance is progressing.

Olivia Huddleston

Wilson State Park Trails

In March at our semi-annual trail workday, we built 0.7 mi new single-track on Tower Hill. We had about 15 volunteers over the two-day event (see photo).



New trail on north face of Tower Hill looking west

Thanks in abundance to Brian, Mark, and Erik for an outstanding dinner. Since then, we've had tons of rain out there, so the grass is high, but well under control on the

bike trail thanks to our new equipment from the grant. The trail has been mowed 3 times, which is about the usual number of times for a full year. Poison ivy growth has been rampant, but prudent application of Crossbow has done a job on it. Spring runoff has caused some erosion damage, but most of the trail is in excellent condition.

Our equipment inventory now includes a 24' enclosed trailer that is housing a 61", zero-turn mower, a 21" push mower, 2 string trimmers, a backpack sprayer, a backpack blower, a 16" chainsaw, and numerous hand tools. The trailer is conveniently parked in the fenced compound at the KDWP Area Office.

We are making good progress on linking and re-routing sections to create an entry level ride of about 5 miles. Most of this loop will use existing trail in the Switchgrass area where the official trailhead is located. Park Manager Jeremy Zimmerman and crew are in the process of building signs and a trailhead kiosk. We look forward to providing user information and registration to get a better idea of trail usage.

Tentatively we plan to have our 2007 Fall workday on the weekend of November 3-4.

Bob Nicholson

Trail Building Efficiency

Why do we need the Ditch Witch? This 200 foot benchcut section of the new Fall River Lake Trail was built with about 20 volunteer hours of labor. We should be able to build this much trail in 2 to 3 hours using the Ditch Witch (see page 1). This efficiency will help us build more trails in less time without much of the back-breaking digging involved in a benchcut.



Other Trail News

New KTC Members & Support

The KTC would like to welcome the following new members who have joined recently: Penny Guy, Kevin & Julie Harris, Patti Herbster, Erik Peterson and Les Rader.

We also have a new affiliate member – Iliff Commons. Iliff Commons is an 80 acre privately owned hiking and mountain biking park near Topeka that is open to the public. For more information about Iliff Commons and our other affiliate members, please explore the links on the Affiliates page on the KTC website:

www.kansastrailscouncil.org

We would like to express our appreciation for the generous contributions by our members to the Friends of the Trail Program and for their contributions to the Ditch Witch project.

New Board Member

The KTC would like to welcome Terry Plenert as our newest Board member. Terry is a mountain biker and experienced trail builder from Wichita. He has worked for many years on trails in the Wichita area, including Horizon, Santa Fe Lake and Miller's Meadows.

Board of Directors Election

Ballots have been mailed for the election of Board of Directors positions 1 – 6 for the 2008-2009 term. If you have not yet received your ballot, please contact us at: goodwinmw@cox.net or 785-266-6218.

If you have received your ballot, please return it by August 1, so that your vote can be counted!

KTC Participates in KDHE Workshop

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is hosting a Physical Activity and Nutrition Training workshop on July 11, 2007, at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, as part of the Chronic Disease Risk Reduction (CDRR) and Leadership to Encourage Activity and Nutrition (LEAN) Grants program. KTC Board Member, Mike Goodwin, will be presenting a session about building trails.

Trail Documentary

During our June workday at Fall River Lake, KTC and Kansas Single Track Society trail volunteers were filmed as they built a section of new trail. The Geary County film

crew is developing a documentary video highlighting many outdoor recreational attractions in Kansas.

American Hiking Helps Hikers Go Carbon Neutral

American Hiking recently teamed up with Sustainable Travel International to enable hikers to neutralize the impact of carbon emissions associated with travel to hiking destinations or Volunteer Vacations. An online calculator determines the CO₂ emissions released during one's travels and offers an option to neutralize this impact on climate change by investing in MyClimate carbon offset projects, which meet the highest international criteria.

Carbon offsets include renewable energy such as wind and solar power, energy efficiency, and reforestation projects. One carbon offset is produced for every metric ton of CO₂ that is either not released into the environment or is absorbed from the air that otherwise would have remained in the atmosphere. For a small price, hikers can reduce their impact and increase their piece of mind. For more information, visit www.AmericanHiking.org.
American Hiker, Summer 2007

Trail Accessibility Guidelines Open for Public Comment

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has released for public comment new accessibility guidelines for Federal parks and recreation areas, including access to new or altered trails. Specifications for trails address firmness and stability, running and cross slopes, width, and other characteristics. The guidelines apply to trails that already connect to designated trailheads or to existing accessible trails, and they include exceptions where compliance would be difficult due to factors such as topography or conflict with prevailing construction practices.

The guidelines apply to sites developed or altered by federal land management agencies. The Board intends to develop guidelines for outdoor developed areas controlled by non-Federal entities at a future date. The guidelines are available for comment until October 18, 2007. The Board will hold public hearings on the guidelines in Denver on July 24 and in Washington, DC on September 6. American Hiking Society and partners are currently reviewing the guidelines.

For more information and to read the guidelines, visit the Access Board's outdoor developed areas homepage:

www.access-board.gov/outdoor/index.htm.

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

\$1 for \$2 Challenge Grant



Ditch Witch with Backhoe Attachment

I would like to help with the \$1 for \$2 Challenge Grant to purchase the Ditch Witch and other trail equipment with my donation of:

\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Checks may be made out to the Kansas Trails Council, Inc. and mailed to PO Box 695, Topeka, KS 66601-0695

The KTC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.