



## *2021 Annual Meeting at Overbrook*

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The 2021 Annual Meeting of Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy will be held on **Saturday, November 20** in the Community Room of the Overbrook Library on Maple St. in downtown. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Jeff Carroll, owner of Ottawa Bike & Trail, will be the keynote speak-

er. 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. Social distancing and masks recommended. Please RSVP by Nov. 15 by returning the enclosed form or emailing: [info@kanzatrails.org](mailto:info@kanzatrails.org).

**Board of Directors**  
Nominees to the Board are Scott Allen of Council Grove, Scott Averill of Overbrook, Clark Coan of Lawrence; Owen Harbinson and Brian Patton both of Ottawa; John Payne of Berryton; and, Linda Schneidewind and Cheryl Thomas both of Lyndon. Other candidates may be nominated at that time. After the meeting, you can enjoy the lovely Landon Trail.

### Highlights of the Landon Trail:

- Links both the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails.
- Traverses the 9,000-acre Clinton Wildlife Area.
- Follows picturesque and clear Camp Creek nestled in oak-hickory hills.
- Traverses two wetlands teeming with waterfowl.
- Passes by two lovely waterfalls.

## *New Flint Hills Trail Segment Opens*

A new three-mile section of Flint Hills Trail stretching from just east of Osage City at Indian Hills Rd. to Lewelling Rd. (2 miles west of US 75) opened this past June. This was a key section of the trail to improve since much of the ex-

isting treadway consisted of loose rock ballast fines. "Except for one short two-mile section from Lewelling Rd. to the US 75 bridge, and a 2.3-mile section of the trail west of Ottawa, the trail will essentially be complete from

Osawatomie to Council Grove, a distance of about 94 miles," said KRTC President Scott Allen. This is a key milestone for the newest state park in the Sunflower State. KDWP should be commended for completing the trail.

## *Funding for New Trail Bridge Approved*



The Kansas Dept. of Transportation awarded the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks nearly \$5.6 million in federal Transportation Alternatives funds in February for building a bike-pedestrian bridge on the Flint Hills Trail over the busy BNSF Railroad double tracks west of Ottawa. Currently, there

is a 3.5-mile detour on gravel roads. The funds will also be used to complete a total of 2.3 miles of the trail that remain undeveloped and which lead up to the bridge. This will involve installing crushed limestone and repairs and improvements to three other bridges and drainage structures.

The project is likely to take at least three years to complete. "The bridge will eliminate the annoying detour on dusty roads thereby enhancing the experience of trail users for years to come. It's great that KDWP and KDOT staff are dedicated to making this rail-trail one of the best state parks in the nation," remarked President Allen.

## *National Recreation Trail Designation*



In February, the National Park Service designated the Flint Hills Trail a National Recreation Trail, the highest honor for a trail. The designation brings no monetary prize, but the park can now use signage that denotes its high quality.

The trail will also get special recognition on some maps of America's trails. The designation provides some level of prestige resulting in favorable publicity, community benefits, and added protection for the trail. The Flint Hills Trail built along an aban-

doned railroad line required a tremendous amount of private labor to become reality. Now it is being completed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) using primarily federal Transportation Alternatives funds.

## *Come Join in the Fun!*



Progress on developing the Landon Trail has been fairly slow due to the lack of volunteers even if funds are available. Some directors have left the board due to retirement. We especially need volunteers to work in the Berryton and

northern Osage County areas and south of Overbrook. By joining you will create something tangible on a large scale and participate in a fun and exciting venture. Plus, you will gain a sense of achievement and purpose. You will be enhanc-

ing the quality of life of all Kansans. To volunteer in the Berryton area, contact Keith Payne at 785-862-0533 or [fordracer557@msn.com](mailto:fordracer557@msn.com) or to volunteer south of Overbrook contact Scott Averill at 785-224-3453 or [sgave-rill@hotmail.com](mailto:sgave-rill@hotmail.com).

## *New Landon Trail Sections to Open*

New sections of the Landon Trail will open soon. One goes 1.5 miles from SE 197th south 1.75 miles to Stubbs Rd. at Michigan Valley. It is expected it will open by Thanksgiving. This makes for nearly a seven-mile continuous stretch of trail between Over-

brook and Michigan Valley. Kanza directors and the Overbrook Friends of the Trail developed this section using funds from Sunflower Foundation. This will bring the trail only two miles from Pomona Lake. The extension of the Landon Trail will increase the

range of trail users and provide them with a greater opportunity to exercise for health and fun.

Another section is projected to open by Spring 2022 and essentially completes the Landon Trail within the Clinton Wildlife Area.

The two-mile section will pass by wetlands teeming with waterfowl and traverse the 238-foot-long Wakarusa River Bridge, the longest bridge on the trail. Finally, it is expected that the trail will be extended two miles from the Shadden Road Bridge to the Shawnee Heights Rd. Bridge by the end of 2022.

## *Board of Directors Meeting Held on Trail*

The April Board of Directors meeting was held on the Landon Trail near 237<sup>th</sup> St. in Osage County. Board members Doug Walker and Owen Harbison were camping and working on the Landon Trail. Kareen King

John Payne provided the music! It was actually fun singing songs around the campfire like “*Oh Suzannah*”, “*I Was Working on the Rail-Trail*” and “*This Land is Your Land*”. “It brought back childhood memo-

ries and you never forget those tunes,” said KRTC director Clark Coan. Other meetings may be held on the trail in the future. Members may attend and participate in Board of Directors meetings held every other month.



## *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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**At \$10 per plate**

**Total Amt. Enclosed: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks may be made out to:*

**Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy**

Mail remittance along with this form to: \_\_\_\_\_



**KanzaTrails.org**

**P.O. Box 3863**

**Topeka, KS 66604**

Non-Profit Org.  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 268  
 Topeka, KS 66604

## *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**