The 2018 Annual Meeting of Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy will be held on Saturday, November 3 in Overbrook in the Community Room of the Brookside Retirement Center, 700 Seventh Street. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m., with registration beginning at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Jonathan Conard co-author of “Kansas Trails Guide” will be the keynote 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. 1 by emailing info@kanzatrails.org or returning the enclosed form.

Board of Directors

KRCT members will elect directors to the Board of Directors. Nominees are Kareen King; Jay & Linda Schniedewind; Keith Payne and Julie Castaneda, both of Berryton; and Russell Smith and Scott Averill both of Overbrook.

Around 2:00 p.m. we will adjourn to enjoy the Landon Trail’s glorious autumn beauty.

Flint Hills Trail Becomes State Park

The Flint Hills Trail officially became a state park on July 1! This means that the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism will be operating and maintaining the trail—much like it does for the Prairie Spirit Trail. Nevertheless, Conservancy volunteers will still be involved in providing some maintenance including spraying weeds and removing downed timber. It is expected that the agency with its experienced employees will be able to maintain the trail in a superior condition. The bill designating the trail as a state park also changed the name from the Flint Hills Nature Trail to the Flint Hills Trail.
$3.6 Million Grant for Flint Hills Trail

The Kansas Department of Transportation announced in June that it has awarded a nearly $3.6 million federal Transportation Enhancement grant to Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for continued development of the Flint Hills Trail. KDWPT later provided a nearly $1 million match. The funds will be used to install a crushed limestone surface on the uncompleted portions of the recreational trail. KRTC has developed about 60 miles of the rail-trail using donated funds and volunteers.

“This large grant will assist with the realization of the dream to complete one of the nation’s premiere trails,” said President Doug Walker. It is expected that there now will be sufficient funds to complete the trail from Allen to at least the Osage county line (two miles east of Miller) and possibly to Osage City, a distance of 13-19 miles. Construction could begin as early as April.

Grants Received for Landon Trail

In May, Kanza received a $10,000 Healthy Lifestyles grant from the Topeka Community Foundation. The funds will be used to help complete the 38-mile Landon Trail south of Overbrook. This is Kanza’s first grant received from the foundation. A hard-packed, crushed limestone surface will be installed on a 2.25-mile stretch from 165th Rd. to 181st Rd. “We appreciate the generous support provided by the Topeka Community Foundation,” said Conservancy President Doug Walker. It is expected that there now will be a continuous three miles of rail-trail in Osage County for the enjoyment of walkers and bicyclists.”

Cont’d on Page 3

Ottawa’s Legacy Square

The people of Ottawa are planning to build Legacy Square at the intersection of the Flint Hills Trail and Prairie Spirit Trail (at First and Walnut Streets). It will feature a large pavilion for events such as concerts, art fairs, competitive running/bicycling events and a farmer’s market. The park will also feature a children’s play area. The total cost of the park will be $4.3 million with most of the funds being raised privately. The King family, which owns Image Resource Group, will build and donate all of the structures for the project (with a retail value of $2.3 million). A key purpose of Legacy Square is to entice trail users to explore the park and downtown.
**Trail Destination of the Year**

On July 13, Jonathan and Kristin Conard, authors of *Kansas Trail Guide*, presented the Flint Hills Trail and Council Grove with the *Trail Destination of the Year* award. The trail, chosen by online voting, is featured in the guide which is an excellent resource for information on all trails in the Sunflower State. You can obtain a copy here: [https://kansasrailguide.com](https://kansasrailguide.com).

The trail is becoming so popular that businesses catering to trail users are opening. For example, there is the new Ottawa Bike & Trail (130 S. Main) which offers bike rentals, sales and repairs, and a shuttle service and even an on-the-trail side repair service. In addition, one business man is considering opening a combination bike/horse tack/coffee shop in Rantoul which is located between Ottawa and Osawatomie.

**Landon Trail Grants Cont’d**

The Conservancy also received an anonymous $2,000 grant provided through the Topeka Community Foundation which will also be used for the Landon Trail. It should be noted that the Conservancy’s Board of Directors voted in August to reallocate most of its financial and labor resources from the Flint Hills Trail to the Landon Trail since the Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has assumed responsibility for the Flint Hills Trail. The department has been gradually completing the trail using federal Transportation Alternatives funds.

The Board also voted to change the name of the Landon Nature Trail to the Landon Trail to better reflect the broader use of this scenic 38-mile-long recreational trail.

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**KRTC Annual Meeting RSVP Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KRTC</th>
<th>City: ______________________</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 3863</td>
<td>State: _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topeka, KS 66604</td>
<td>Zip Code: ______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Complete, enclose check, and mail to KRTC**

**Number of persons attending Luncheon:** ________

**At $10 per plate**

**Total Amt. Enclosed:** $____

**Checks may be made out to:**

Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy

Mail remittance along with this form to:
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