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The 2019 Annual Meeting of Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy will be held on Saturday, November 9 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. Lisse Regehr, President and CEO of Thrive Allen County, 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. 4 by returning the enclosed form or emailing: info@kanzatrails.org.

Board of Directors

KRCT members will elect directors to the Board of Directors. Nominees are Clark Coan of Lawrence, Kareen King of Osage City, John Payne and Keith Payne of Berryton, Jay Schniedewind of Lyndon, and Doug Walker of Osawatomie. Around 2:00 p.m. we will adjourn to enjoy the Landon Trail's glorious autumn beauty.

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 teaming with waterfowl.
- Passes by two lovely waterfalls.

New Flint Hills Trail Segment Under Construction

State contractors are upgrading the Flint Hills Trail from Allen east to Osage City, a distance of about 19 miles. This is a key section of the trail to improve since much of the existing treadway consists of rock ballast fines. Construction should be completed by spring of 2020. Further, contract bids are expected to be let this fall for the Osage City to S. Lewelling Rd. (2 miles west of US 75) section. "When these two sections are finished, the trail will essentially be complete from Osawatomie to Council Grove, a distance of about 90 miles," said KRTC President Doug Walker. This will definitely enhance the experience of trail users in our newest state park."
Swiss Billionaire Donates $30,000 for Landon Trail

Swiss billionaire Hansjorg Wyss of Jackson, WY has donated $30,000 to KRTC for development of the Landon Trail between Overbrook and Michigan Valley. "Mr. Wyss has pledged to spend $1 billion on protecting natural lands, especially in the American West," said Director of Development Clark Coan. With this donation he is helping to conserve the 450 linear acres of open space lying within the Landon Trail corridor. Mr. Wyss should be commended for his vision." Natural lands along the Landon Trail include wetlands, native bluestem prairie and oak-hickory forest.

The trail can be considered part of the American West because it links the Santa Fe Trail with Oregon-California Trail. It should be noted that in 2014, Mr. Wyss gave Kanza $25,000 for building a trail segment just west of the Clinton Wildlife Area south of Topeka.

Osawatomie Trail Section to Open

A connecting trail to bring the Flint Hills Trail into Osawatomie from near John Brown Hwy. to the sports complex will open by January. Phase I of the project is building the connecting trail. The land has been acquired, a rock base of AB-3 rock has been laid down and the seeded grass is growing where the soil was disturbed. Next for this phase is to purchase a bridge and install abutments. After the bridge is lowered into place and secured, a crushed limestone surface will be installed on the rock base. Phase II is a trailhead and improved parking and horse access. There will then will be a safe trailhead with parking available to all trail users.

Ottawa’s Legacy Square Opens

Ottawa’s Legacy Square at the intersection of the Flint Hills Trail and Prairie Spirit Trail (at First and Walnut Streets) opened in September. It features a green space of over 20,000 square feet, covered canopies and a large pavilion for events such as concerts, art fairs, competitive running/bicycling events and a farmer’s market. The park also features a children’s play area. The total cost of the park was $4.3 million with most of the funds being raised privately. The King family which owns Image Resource Group donated 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 Ottawa.
Osage City Trail Segment to Open in 2020

Contract bids are expected to be let this fall for the Flint Hills Trail segment lying within the city limits of Osage City. Construction could be completed by the summer of 2020. The concrete recreational path will allow residents living in the northeast part of town to travel safely to the downtown area. The City received a $1 million federal Transportation Alternatives grant for this project and the City provided a 20 percent match. The trail utilizes the railroad right-of-way and then a new path is being built along streets to provide access to the downtown. This ten-feet-wide concrete recreational path will benefit Osage City walkers, bicyclists and joggers for generations to come.

The project could serve as an example to other communities along the trail such as Ottawa and Herington.

Longtime Trail Supporter Passes On

Longtime Kanza supporter Virgil Scheid passed away on October 7, 2019, at age 87. Virgil served on the KRTC Board for many years and put in countless hours in maintaining the Flint Hills Trail near the Vassar area. A park bench will be installed in his memory.

Virgil will be missed!

$20,000 in Grants for Landon Trail

The Conservancy has received a $14,745 grant from the Walter S. and Evan C. Jones Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee and $5,000 from the Lattner Family Foundation of Delray Beach, FL. The funds will be used to help complete the Landon Trail south of Overbrook to Michigan Valley which is only two miles from Pomona Lake. Both organizations have provided funds to KRTC in the past. “We appreciate the generous support provided by these funders,” said Conservancy President Doug Walker. Thanks to their support, there will be a continuous 6.9-mile section of the trail in Osage County for the enjoyment of walkers, bicyclists and equestrians for generations to come.” The two funders have been extraordinarily generous to KRTC over the years.

KRTC Annual Meeting RSVP Form

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-Trail Conservancy

Mail remittance along with this form to:

KRTC
P.O. Box 3863
Topeka, KS 66604

Name:____________________________________

City:____________________________________

State:_____

Address:________________________________

Zip Code:________________________