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2011 Annual Meeting at Osage City

The 2011 Annual Meeting of Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy will be held on Saturday, November 5 in Osage City. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m., and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. The President's remarks, division reports, and election of board members will take place at noon. Lunch is \$10.00 per person. The meeting will be held in the Osage City Senior Center which is located

at 604 Market Street. New attendees will receive a KRTC t-shirt and window decal. Please RSVP either by emailing fsmeyer@tctelco.net or returning the enclosed form. Around 2:00 p.m. we will adjourn to enjoy the Flint Hills Nature Trail's magnificent autumn beauty.

Come learn more about the two trails and join in the fun!

Board of Directors

The KRTC membership will elect new directors for the Board of Directors at our 2011 Annual Meeting. Directors whose terms expire in 2011 are Scott Allen, Ed Baker, Clark Coan, Owen Harbinson, and Doug Walker. All will be re-nominated by the Board. The floor will also be open for nominations.

Highlights of the Flint Hills Trail:

- Longest trail in the Sunflower State.
- Seventh longest rail-trail in the America.
- Follows the Santa Fe Nat'l Historic Trail.
- Forms a component of the American Discovery Trail.
- Longest rail-trail being developed by a private organization.

55-Mile Trail Segment on Flint Hills Trail to Open

The Conservancy is planning to open a **55-mile stretch** of the Flint Hills Nature Trail between Council Grove and Vasar by spring of 2012. KRTC has been able to develop one section between Bushong and the

Kaw Heritage Park using a \$76,000 grant from the W.S. & E.C. Jones Testamentary Trust. The Miller-to-Admire section is being developed using a \$30,000 Trustler Foundation grant. If all goes as planned, construction

will be completed in the next few months. The Bushong-to-Kaw Park section is particularly scenic as it cuts through tallgrass-covered hills and passes high over scenic Rock Creek via a magnificent bridge.



Conservancy receives \$30,000 grant

The Conservancy received a \$30,000 grant from the Trustler Foundation of Emporia in February to support the development of a section of the Flint Hills Nature Trail. The trail segment stretches 5.5 miles between Miller and Admire. “We greatly appre-

ciate this very generous support for our recreational trail project,” says Karen DeOrnellas, Lyon County Division Superintendent of the Conservancy. If all goes as planned, construction on this trail segment will be completed by next spring. “Since the trail

segment will cross the Kansas Turnpike we expect that the Kansas Turnpike Authority will place informational signs along the road announcing the Flint Hills Trail. This should boost trail awareness and use.” said DeOrnellas.



Wetlands Along the Conservancy's Trails

Three wetlands lie along the two trails the Conservancy manages. The largest is in the Clinton Wildlife Area (north of the Shaddon Rd. overpass. Just west of the wildlife area is another marsh on private land.

Finally, the ten-acre Salt Creek Marsh is adjacent to the Flint Hills trail north of Quenemo and is owned by KU. The Conservancy strongly supports the restoration of wetlands and has given permission to the

three landowners to use the old railroad bed as berms to hold water for the marshes. They are great places for wildlife viewing and especially bird watching. Ducks, rails, herons and shorebirds visit regularly.



Topeka Landon Trail Section Nearing Completion

President John Purvis reports that the Landon Trail from 25th south to 45th Street is nearing completion and should be finished this fall. Work crews have finished laying the ten-foot-wide concrete

path. The City of Topeka leases 4.6 miles of the Landon Trail from the Conservancy and the City plans to complete the path to KRTC's section next year. The trail crosses the Union Ferry Branch of the Oregon

Trail. Usage of the Conservancy's section is expected to soar as Topeka trail users continue south out of the city on the Conservancy's section to the Clinton Wildlife Area.

Magnificent bridges on the trails

The Flint Hills and Landon Trails have several long railroad bridges which are outstanding architecturally or span scenic streams. In recognition of contributions of \$100,000 or \$250,000, Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy will name a bridge in honor of the donor or

designee. Large plaques will be installed on both ends of the bridge. Below are two examples.

Rock Creek Bridge (230')

Built on a sweeping curve in a very picturesque area surrounded by a canopy of large trees. On Flint Hills Trail

east of Council Grove.

110 Mile Creek Bridge (280')

Overhead lattice steel beam girders make up arch supports. White limestone rock masonry pilings. Absolutely a great piece of railroad history on the Landon Trail.



Waterfalls along the Landon Nature Trail

There are two lovely waterfalls along the Landon Trail. The largest is on scenic Camp Creek one-half mile north of the old whistle stop of Swissvale (SE 129th St.) Here sparkling water rushes over a long rock slab into a

quiet pool. Since the Conservancy controls the land around the cataract, it could be turned into a picnic area. The other waterfall, lying north of Overbrook (south of SE 149 St.), tumbles down a rock

outcropping. These falls are seasonal and the best time to view them is a couple of days after a good rain. There is something magical about waterfalls & nothing beats their beauty and soothing sound.



KRTC Annual Meeting RSVP Form

Complete, enclose check, and mail to KRTC

KRTC

**P.O. Box 3863
Topeka, KS 66604**

City: _____

of persons attending Luncheon: _____

At \$10 per plate

Name: _____

State: _____

Total Amt. Enclosed: _____

Checks may be made out to the:

Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy

Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Mail remittance along with this form to:



KanzaTrails.org

P.O. Box 3863

Topeka, KS 66604

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Membership Renewal Form

Name: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip** _____

Address: _____ **\$** _____ **\$15/household**

_____ **\$** _____ **\$50/business**

City: _____ **\$** _____ **Other**

Mail remittance along with this form to:

KRTC
P.O. Box 3863
Topeka, KS 66604