
April 9, 2024 Rail Trail Issues Zoom Chat

12:02:52 From Rhonda Rice to Everyone:

I liked the way this topic was broken down into segments. It helped to focus on how we could prepare for our piece of the Flint Hills Trail in Herington.

12:13:24 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

I think Michael's map sources might have been better. But another map I've been using is from the Kansas Geoportal site at <https://hub.kansasgis.org/datasets/KSDOT::abandoned-railroad/about>

Including if you have GIS software, you can download the raw data files.

12:16:33 From Michael Goodwin to Everyone:

Thanks Clayton....that is a really good map of abandoned rail corridors

12:16:38 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

For your inventory map, how fresh how do you recommend maintaining master data over time?

Such as should you re-do a full inventory inspection every X years? This a question for insurance?

12:18:28 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

Extra note on the Abandoned Trail map I linked above, I recommend clicking the More Button>Open in ArcGIS Map Viewer>Click on the Layers heading on the upper left>Expand the Railroads > symbol, and click the icon of the eye with a line through it.

That way, you see both active and abandoned lines at the same time.

12:20:51 From Michael Goodwin to Everyone:

One thing to note on any rail trail map is that some combine "abandoned" corridors that have reverted to adjacent landowners and "railbanked" corridors that are under development. The KDOT map link above combines both types. Further research is often needed to sort out which lines are available for trail building.

12:26:09 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

In regards to sections of trails in wooded areas, what is the minimum clearance you should aim for between the path edge and the tree stumps?

12:33:30 From El Dean Holthus to Everyone:

What was the source of the rock on the trails?

12:38:12 From Rhonda Rice to Everyone:

Is it possible to get cost information from the Marysville Blue River Trail presenter? I'm interested in the different features, like the bottle filler and restroom.

12:38:29 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

When it comes to the ADA/Motorized tours:

1) Have you found overlapping interests to increase appeal of the rides? Such as native flour tours? Or Historical/art themed tours?

2) Have you found any important considerations for the actual vehicles you are using in order to minimize trail damage? Such as weight limits? Or tires should be at least x" wide? Tire pressure?

12:46:52 From Jeffrey Bender to Everyone:

Herington will be a trailhead for the Flint Hills Trail.

12:49:55 From Jeffrey Bender to Everyone:

Kansas Correctional Industries is a good source for steel kiosks and other metal amenities that folks wouldn't think of as a source.

12:51:03 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

That is great info, Mr Bender! Do you know what person or dept groups should contact?

12:52:25 From Nancy Daniels to Everyone:

Some of you have assembled the costs of amenities for grants, etc. If you are willing to share them with me, I can post them on the Trails website.

Clayton Pearson:

I am especially interested in sources/costs for signs. Stop signs, crossing signs, custom branded signs on a standard blank sign that is used for no-parking signs, etc.

12:52:34 From Jeffrey Bender to Everyone:

Just Google up Kansas Correctional Industries- <https://kansasci.com/shop/> they have contact info and products on-line.

12:54:14 From Jeffrey Bender to Everyone:

We just bought trail counters and will install them "soon" on Flint Hills Trail.

12:54:48 From Rhonda Rice to Everyone:

Nancy, what is the website address for the Trails website?

12:55:23 From Nancy Daniels to Everyone:

Public Trails on K-State Research and Extension's website is:
<https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/program-areas/supporting-communities/public-trails/>

12:56:50 From Clark Coan to Everyone:

Railroads have to be willing to railbank an out-of-service line, so it's best to start talking to them early.

12:57:39 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

Kansas Association of Trail Towns is doing an economic impact analysis of rail trails for several towns along Flint Hills and Prairie Spirit... results will be shared on the KSRE First Friday call in November 2024.

12:59:52 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

Just spitballing.... would be interesting to find examples out of state in the urban environment.

Thought comes from visiting Razorback Greenway.

13:00:52 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

Thank you so much to all our amazing speakers!!!

13:01:05 From Elizabeth Weese to Everyone:

thank you!

13:01:15 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

These Tuesday Talks have been extremely helpful. I'd honestly say 80% of what I know about Rails To Trails (and related info) has come from here.