

Trail Talk Tuesday 3-12-2024

11:57:24 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

FYI for Leahy, looking at visiting your trail this spring. Ping if there's something in particular I should be on the look out for.

11:57:47 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

"Your trail" = Prairie Spirit and Flint Hills Nature trails.

11:58:36 From Mary Marrow to Everyone:

Am staying off camera so I can eat my lunch. Love the discussion about the Grand Canyon!!

11:58:56 From John Leahy to Everyone:

Hi Clayton, PST and Flint Hills are great! If you get a chance shoot me an email @ johnl@thriveallencounty.org and I'll send you some information on the area.

11:59:36 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

Reacted to "Hi Clayton, PST and ..." with 👍

12:16:52 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

John, I noticed you have a "come and go" method on your set trail maintenance days. Do you plant someone at the trailhead who directs people as they show up? How do you manage fluctuating group sizes? And finally, has this method proven to be more effective in volunteers showing up than having a very set start time? You can answer at the end verbally or in the chat, or both! thank you!

12:21:50 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

The administrative aspects of a trail nonprofit is a great task for someone who loves trails but cannot physically help build or maintain trails due to schedule, capability, or personal preferences.

12:21:57 From John Leahy to Everyone:

Yes, we do have a "come and go" method. This has been very efficient at getting folks out with pretty tight time constraints.

We generally have temporary signage that directs users who may not come right away. We also put out messages on our Facebook to direct latecomers. Additionally my contact information is posted at our trailheads if folks get lost.

Our volunteer base has stayed pretty consistent at about 10-15 volunteers per workday. During colder weather or hot weather we drop significantly. This is when we pivot to inside orientation events which have also been similarly attended to a "regular" workday.

12:30:24 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

Following up on Mike's comments about trail nonprofits, here is a pretty good webinar (American Trails) called "Building a Trail Foundation from the Ground Up"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBiF5VhuONg>

12:32:04 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

However, if you ARE thinking about forming a trail nonprofit, I would advise against putting "foundation" in the name... people will think you have money to give away!

12:38:55 From Mary Marrow, Seed 2 Roots to Everyone:

Do you provide any notice to trail users that there are cameras in use? It feels a bit weird to think of being on camera when out hiking.

12:44:11 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

The GPS Data Loggers, have you found cities adopting those for multiple purposes?

For example, maybe Trail Managers, Planning Managers, and Health Department Managers could share the Data Loggers with each other, including back-end services.

12:45:27 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

Also, have you been using Strava Heatmaps (or other 3rd party tracking) for tracking trail use patterns? If yes, what utility did you find from that use?

12:50:21 From John Leahy to Everyone:

To add to Brett's point, we've had a lot of luck reaching out to content creators who might have an interest in what we have here in Allen County.

12:51:25 From Brian Peterson to Everyone:

For trail cameras, notice is typically not given because it's a public location with information gathered from a distance. But to deploy them, I do have to get Institutional Review Board approval, but they have never asked me to provide public notice.

12:52:52 From Brian Peterson to Everyone:

For GPS data loggers, we use them for a variety of projects. Typically, they are used for multiple purposes. For example, we have used them for trail users to mark the waypoint of locations with litter.

12:52:55 From Chris Tilden to Everyone:

We encourage our board members to engage with social media content of Friends of Lawrence Area Trails, but we do have a "communications coordinator" who is compensated (hourly) who helps manage content. Her work has been invaluable enhancing our online presence.

12:53:12 From Brian Peterson to Everyone:

For 3rd party data, I regularly use purchased mobile device data.

12:53:36 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

Chris, how many hours/week does your SM coordinator work? FLAT has awesome FB and other SM presence

12:53:47 From Mary Marrow, Seed 2 Roots to Everyone:

Replying to "For trail cameras, n..."

Thanks for that information. Appreciate that there is an IRB process - important part of the process. Seems like that type of technology could be misused.

12:54:04 From Brian Peterson to Everyone:

Mobile device data has several limitations but are a good method for capturing data for a large area. I'm currently using mobile device data to understand trail use across four National Forests in California.

12:55:07 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

I can say that at least for Wichita in the urban areas, there are occasions where the general public quietly demand cameras. And some formally discrete cameras were converted to very obvious camera mount posts. As people felt more secure by their presence.

12:56:15 From Brian Peterson to Everyone:

Clayton, it might also be useful to use a survey to understand how to boost trail users' perceived safety. That's very important.

12:58:47 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

Replying to "Clayton, it might al..."

In terms of camera installs, location, and use within Wichita within trails and pedestrian zones, most of the feedback (right or wrong) has been coming from Police Department's Community Officers, Businesses, and Neighborhood Associations.

12:59:42 From Tim Kaiser to Everyone:

Great content today, thank you.

13:00:20 From Michael Goodwin to Everyone:

If you're looking for a gps logger like Brian showed, that is a Canmore gps logger....a google search will bring that up.

13:00:54 From Clayton Pearson to Everyone:

I've held the personal (and unproven) opinion that frequent use of wet trails could be a sign that the trail is functioning as a transportation route. Especially if the wet trail use is in sections instead of the entire trail.

Has your experience shown this to be valid, unsupported, or mixed?

13:02:18 From Gary Smith to Everyone:

how important is professional design to the success of a trail design and signage?

13:02:34 From Brian Peterson to Everyone:

Replying to "Clayton, it might al..."

KDWP has reached out to us and recognized that the same thing occurs at State Parks. Part of our program at K-State is training Park Management and Conservation undergrads as law enforcement of protected areas. That way they synthesize both conservation and law enforcement outlooks together.

13:03:58 From Elizabeth Burger to Everyone:

if you put a question in the chat box and don't feel it was adequately answered, last chance to speak up now!

13:04:40 From Gary Smith to Everyone:

thank you all!!