

Prairie Travelers Update Dec 2011 & establishment of an Andover-Augusta Trail Group that needs your involvement ASAP!!

This fall has been a busy one for a handful of volunteers. In early July, the framed bridge suffered wind damage that left much of the wood frame in the creek below. We basically had to start from scratch and take it apart and build up the side rails once again. Because we have not ruled out vandalism as part of the bridges problems we have decided to move the "**Cecile Kellenbarger Memorial Bridge**," to the west end of the **Prairie Sunset Trail** next to Garden Plain. The base and structure of the sides of that bridge is more secure making it a better location. Depending on the weather, we hope to have the covered bridge completed before spring.

We have been water sealing the bollards & and bridges hoping to finish before the cold and wet weather arrives. In the last 8 weeks we have gone through 28 gallons of sealant and hope to wrap it up with an additional six! Tim Hansel, a local boyscout has just completed his **Eagle Scout project** by making and installing a bench at each half mile point along the Prairie Sunset Trail. That makes 3 eagle scout awards completed for projects along the trail!

Now that the west side has an established trail with wonderful volunteers we are establishing an **Andover-Augusta Trail Group** to insure the continuation of the **Red Bud Trail** out of east Wichita completing a **20 mile linear parkway**. Aprox eleven of those miles are in **Butler County** and it has come to our attention that if we as a community want this then we need to do some **grassroot campaigning**. The potential this trail offers is irreplaceable. We cannot let this slip out from under us. So if you are an east sider that would ride, walk or jog to Andover or Augusta, or if you are a Butler County resident, ***we need your help!!***

Please contact Butler County Commissioners and relay your excitement about the potential this trail offers. As we understand it the Butler County Commission wants to make its decision whether they should hang onto the rail-banked section or not by the end of this year. That is **NOW** folks, so here are names, e-mails and addresses, feel free to cut and paste. Here are two versions, whether you live in Butler or Sedgwick Co.

Dear Butler County Commissioner,

We ask that you preserve Kansas' recreational opportunities by continuing to rail bank the BNSF corridor between Andover and Augusta. The economic impact a trail would bring for these two cities as well as healthy lifestyle opportunities and recreational resources are immense. As a Butler County resident I can assure you I would use it weekly if not daily. This linear park is a wonderful living history we can experience with our children and grandchildren.

Dear Butler County Commissioner,

We ask that you preserve Kansas' recreational opportunities by continuing to rail bank the BNSF corridor between Andover and Augusta. The economic impact a trail would bring for these two cities as well as healthy lifestyle opportunities and recreational resources are immense. As an avid outdoor lover I can assure you I would use it weekly if not daily. This linear park is a wonderful living history we can experience with our children and grandchildren.

Butler County Commissioners are as follows:

Jeff Masterson jmasterson@bucoks.com
Peggy Palmer ppalmer@bucoks.com
Bruce Harris bharris@bucoks.com
Mike Wheeler mwheeler@bucoks.com
Dan Woydziak dwoydzia@bucoks.com

Butler County Commission
205 W Central
El Dorado, Ks. 67042

Additional e-mail addresses to key decision makers would be to:

Will Johnson (Butler County Administrator) wjohnson@bucoks.com
David Alfaro (Director of Economic Development for Butler Co) dalfaro@bucoks.com
Kristey Williams (Augusta Mayor) kwilliams@augustagov.org
Ben Lawrence (Andover Mayor) blawrence@andoverks.com

Let us work together to achieve the Red Bud trails future! Please **call or e-mail** if you want to be part of this endeavor. We are planning a meeting mid December, so please help us and be involved.

Larry Hatfield, Pres
316-253-1807

Ruth Holliday, Sec
316-685-4545

Prairie Travelers

www.prairietravelers.org
prairietravelers@yahoo.com