

News and Notes

KU Architecture Students Design and Build Structure for Trailhead Signage

Students from the KU School of Architecture and Urban Design have designed and built a trailhead structure for a new nature trail at the KU Field Station. Situated on the Rockefeller Experimental Tract, the trailhead structure will include display panels about the trail and the surrounding area and also will serve as a place to sit, rest, and enjoy the landscape. Funding for the project was provided by Dick and Sue Himes through the KU Endowment Association. The lumber used to build the structure was provided by Westar Energy and Kaw Valley Electric from recycled utility poles.

Photos of the new trailhead.



This structure will contain information about the trails and surrounding area, as well as provide a resting spot for visitors.



KU architecture students pictured here with miller Nathaniel Bauman, milling the telephone poles into lumber for the project.

Kaw Valley Overlook

As previously reported, KU architecture students spent the Fall 2008 semester designing and building a structure at KSR that would overlook the Kaw River Valley. The overlook is now complete except for some concrete work. The structure is made from recycled telephone and power poles and was designed to symbolize the waving grass of the tallgrass prairie. Its low profile and wood construction allows it to blend with the natural landscape. A half-mile concrete, wheelchair accessible trail will follow the eastern and southern edges of the Rockefeller Native Prairie from the trailhead (see above) to the overlook. Funding for the overlook project was provided by Dick and Sue Himes through the KU Endowment Association. Funding for the concrete trail was provided by the Sunflower Foundation.



Pictured: The view from the overlook, facing south towards Lawrence. Also pictured, the completed overlook.



A Note from the Director

It is a pleasure to summarize the progress on the development of facilities at the Field Station during the spring and summer of 2009. The excitement generated by student and volunteer participation is contagious. The new facilities are excellent and represent commitments from not only students and volunteers but also generous donors, foundations, and agencies. We hope you will join us in extending our sincere thanks to all who have made this possible.

Edward A. Martinko, Director

For additional information, please contact Scott Campbell, Kansas Biological Survey, 2101 Constant Ave., Lawrence, KS swcamp@ku.edu, 785-864-1502

Thank You, Students!



A big thank-you goes to students in the KU Alternative Weekend Breaks program for their clean-up efforts at KSR. The students, coordinated by Aleese Kopf and Scott Campbell, cleaned up a pickup-load of trash along both sides of Wild Horse Road for about 2.2 miles--in the rain--on April 18. Student volunteers included Julia Barnard, Jen Berman, Whitney Bloom, Beth Boomstein, Gina Goldman, Sam Littman, and Andrea Wilensky. Our thanks to these volunteers for their hard work!

Field Station Trails!

New hiking/walking trails are being constructed at the Field Station and Ecological Reserves headquarters. A half-mile concrete, wheelchair-accessible trail leads from the newly established trailhead on the Rockefeller Tract to the new overlook structure. The trail follows the southern edge of the Rockefeller Native Prairie, a remnant of original prairie that has remained unchanged over the last 200 years. Other new, primitive trails have been built by area Eagle Scouts.

Kansas Biological Survey employees Scott Campbell and Mark Jakubauskas have mapped these trails using GPS technology and are producing a map of the location and length of these trails. As the new trails are completed, they will be open to public use.

Pictured to the right is the most recent map of the KSR trails that are being constructed. In the past, the trail maps have been estimations and approximations. This map was made by taking a Global Positioning System (GPS) device and walking the trail route, then overlaying it with an aerial image of the area. The location data collected by the GPS displays the area that was covered. The existing Fitch Nature Trail is also shown.

Trails of the Kansas Field Station

