

FLINT HILLS TRAIL STATE PARK *Awards Celebration*

October 29, 2022 | 10:00 am

Mile Zero Trailhead

1400 South Street, Osawatomie, KS

Welcome and Introductions: **Linda Lanterman**
Director, State Parks Division
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks

Remarks by: **Brad Loveless**
Secretary
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks

Remarks by: **Richard Backlund**
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Environmental Excellence Award

Remarks by: **Honorable Sharice Davids**
United States Representative
Congressional District No. 3
RAISE Grant Announcement

Closing Remarks by: **Jeffrey Bender**
Region Supervisor, State Parks Division
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks

Gathering and Great Departure

Thank you for attending this event and celebrating positive change in our communities. We cannot move forward without you.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE *Flint Hills Trail State Park*



**Celebrating the Environmental Excellence Award and
2022 RAISE Grant for the Flint Hills Trail**

"This crown jewel of Kansas trails."

Since 1995, the **Environmental Excellence Awards** have recognized leaders across the country who make outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and partnerships above and beyond traditional transportation project outcomes. The winning projects and programs exemplify Federal Highway Administration's priorities of climate change and sustainability, equity and environmental justice, complete streets, economic strength, and safety for all road users. The 2022 awards were coordinated with FHWA's Offices of Human Environment, Natural Environment, and Project Development and Environmental Review to reflect the notion that "environment" means a connection to both human and environmental systems.

Primary Project Partners

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
Kansas Department of Transportation
Kanza Rails-Trails Conservancy
Cook, Flatt & Strobel Engineers
RDG Planning & Design
Sunflower Foundation
Osawatomie Trail Task Force

Project Contributors

City of Osawatomie
City of Ottawa
City of Osage City
City of Admire
City of Council Grove
City of Herington
Ottawa Chamber of Commerce



"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

-John Muir



Flint Hills Trail: Connecting Communities, Cultures, and Landscapes

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Grant Funding: \$24,821,705

Estimated Total Project Costs: \$27,208,907

Project Description: The project will construct approximately 40-miles of the Flint Hills Trail in Kansas, nearly completing this 118-mile linear park "railtrail". The project includes drainage improvements, pipes, culverts, bridges, base improvements, limestone surfacing, fences, gates, bollards, safety improvements and signage.

Project Benefits: The trail will offer an alternative to driving as well as provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a rural area that is currently fragmented with very few public outdoor recreational areas. There is also opportunity for the project to boost recreation and nature tourism, as evidenced by establishment of ten new businesses related to the trail in the past three years. Planning efforts have considered inputs from the communities being served through four workshops, and the trail will use inclusive interpretative signage and storytelling strategies that portray history and respect the Kaw Nation

More than \$2.2 billion from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program were awarded to help urban and rural communities move forward on projects that modernize roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports, and intermodal transportation and make our transportation systems safer, more accessible, more affordable, and more sustainable.

Projects were evaluated on several criteria, including safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness and opportunity, partnership and collaboration, innovation, state of good repair, and mobility and community connectivity.