

Dear Klickitat Trail enthusiasts and supporters!

It has been a very busy summer along the Klickitat Trail!

With funding from Columbia Gorge Tourism Alliance, the Klickitat Trail will join others in "Gorge Audio Trails". Small QR codes will be placed on existing structures along the trail. I recorded the first message, to be placed at the Lyle Trailhead, describing the rail origins of the trail and KTC's creation and today's efforts.

A recurring request from trail users is placement of seating along the trail. At a recent "Cooperative Working Group" meeting between State Parks, Forest Service and KTC, State Parks has agreed to locate 3 rustic benches at appropriate locations; KTC will work with them on placement.

Our contact with the State Parks planning office reports the Suburbia Bridge replacement project is slowly moving forward. Due to design complexity and delays, additional funding was required for design completion. Bridge designs are now being considered and if all goes well the bridge is scheduled for completion in 2027. State Parks has also put out a public request for proposals to select a design consultant to start working on the trail segment from the Suburbia Bridge to Snyder Creek. Swale Canyon is expected to remain closed into Spring 2025 while the contractors continue trestle and surface upgrades. KTC continues to lobby public officials to keep attention on these projects!

The Forest Service continues to improve the former "Milepost 1" site along the trail. They are soliciting public input on naming the park. Suggestions can be sent to Stephen.elgart@usda.gov

Recognizing her contributions to both the Gorge and KTC, the KTC Board nominated past-president Barbara Robinson for WA State Trails Coalition "Lifetime Achievement" Award. From among a field of 6 deserving nominees, Barbara was recognized for the award! In October, I and Board member Anna Marlin had the pleasure of introducing Barbara at the award ceremony. While at the conference in Wenatchee, we all attended several seminars of value to our KTC Board service and made/renewed valuable contacts.

KTC Board members have been collaborating with the Lyle Community Council and State Parks staff to respond to adjacent neighbor nighttime security concerns at the Lyle trailhead. KTC volunteers joined agency staff in placing designated parking spaces at the Lyle Trailhead.

On November 9, KTC supported the return of the "Klickitat Trail Soup-er Fun Run" ½ Marathon & 5-K. We provided drinks and enjoyed chatting with the runners.

Over the last year, KTC has been collaborating with WA State Parks staff on placing trail-counters at select locations on the Klickitat Trail. KTC recently received a report on the results of these counters. These efforts will be useful for many purposes, including allowing developing defensible estimates of trail use, for purposes such as lobbying for funding, etc.

This Fall, the KTC Board contracted the County Noxious Weed Control Board to spray trailside blackberries, poison oak and other weeds from the Lyle trailhead to north of Pitt, (and select other locations). Initial follow up indicates a good kill! KTC funds port a-potties at remote trailheads as well as projects such as graveling at trailheads. Thank you for your membership to help fund these and other ongoing trail improvements.

KTC is slowly making improvements to our website and social media presence. At the recent annual meeting, the Board renewed our current slate of officers, with the VP position being vacant due to a recent board resignation. If you are a trail user and want to have a voice in the future of the Klickitat Trail, we would like you to consider a Board position.



KTC Board member Anna Marlin, Barbara Robinson, KTC President Ken Hansen, WSTC President Lisa Black, at award ceremony.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to seeing you on the Klickitat Trail!

Ken Hansen - President