

KTC Spring Newsletter / Membership Renewal

On March 26, volunteers with Trout Unlimited and US Forest Service held a dedication for the “Milepost One” day use area on the Klickitat River. KTC led a walk from the Lyle trailhead and had an informative table. Our own Barbara Robinson shared the history of this site and was honored for her efforts to see this finally accomplished. All involved should be proud of turning a formerly trash-strewn eyesore into a beautiful setting! The site will soon be officially named.



Part of the walking group from Lyle Trailhead to Milepost One event

The replacement of the Suburbia Bridge remains on track, with groundwork scheduled to begin in 2026.

After being closed for upgrades to trestles and trail bed, Swale Canyon will be opening on May 8. KTC will be collaborating with State Parks and the contractor Paragon on an open house! KTC will be leading a guided bike trip. Come join us: more info on our social media. Swale Canyon will close again for the summer on June 21.

National Trails Day is April 26. KTC will be leading a bike trip from Pitt trailhead to Fisher Hill Bridge on April 27. Please sign up through Friends of the Gorge.

Recently, the county conducted a foreclosure sale of a 117-acre parcel in Swale Canyon. This property contains the remains of an unsightly trailside homesite. Purchase and eventual cleanup of this site has been a longtime priority of both State Parks and KTC (the State cannot bid). KTC commented to the Treasurer's Office regarding several concerns regarding failures to provide notice of use and access restrictions. We were ignored.

With unanimous Board support, I bid on this property as a private citizen, with a goal to transfer to State ownership. As predicted, the property sold for a high price. Within hours, KTC heard from the new owner, and he was newly informed of the restrictions. We are now collaborating with our new neighbor on potential appropriate uses and cleanup of the property. The owner is interested in an eventual sale to State Parks.

Other smaller privately owned Swale Canyon trailside properties are also of purchase interest by State Parks. The KTC Board is discussing establishing a funding source and process to facilitate purchase and sale/transfer to State Parks public ownership of other Swale Canyon properties. KTC is interested in membership feedback.

Over the summer, bike maintenance stations are scheduled to be installed at the Lyle and Klickitat trailheads, as well as in Swale Canyon. KTC is planning to support bike maintenance clinics in both communities, specifically targeting local youth. While appreciative of the benches recently installed, KTC is working with State Parks to provide additional benches and picnic tables at appropriate sites along the trail.

At our recent cooperative working group meeting, State Parks reported they have hired additional staff locally, which will allow for more patrol and maintenance hours dedicated to the trail. USFS reports they will likely not be hiring seasonal staff, which should only minimally affect the trailhead. After requests from the Lyle community and with KTC support, USFS has agreed to supply an additional nighttime security light at the trailhead.

KTC has had an interest in better sharing the trail's railroad origin and history story. We will be collaborating with Heather Clemons, a Senior Park Aide at State Parks to develop interpretative materials telling the story of the "Goldendale Spur" route of the "Spokane, Portland & Seattle" railroad company. This will begin with updating the trailhead kiosks. If interested in working on this, please contact us.

KTC is updating and better utilizing our social media platforms to keep our membership and followers fully informed of our plans and activities.

Bill Weiler has recently joined the KTC Board of Directors. Bill is a retired WDFW biologist and is well known in the Gorge for his outdoor education efforts. Welcome Bill!



Barbara Robinson, Sue VanLeuven, and KTC Board member Bill Weiler at the Milepost One event

We appreciate our membership! Please respectfully consider renewing your support for the trail and our stewardship efforts. We value our members and want to hear your thoughts on your Klickitat Trail. Basic membership starts at \$25 per year. Memberships can be mailed to PO Box 512 Lyle, WA 98635 or renewed online at www.klickitat-trail.org.