

# ***KTC 2026 SPRING NEWSLETTER***

Dear Conservancy Members and Supporters,

KTC has a new logo! This was designed by our Board member Anna Marlin.

Here it is:



In March, I attended the annual Cooperative Working Group (CWG) meeting between Washington State Parks, US Forest Service, and KTC. Recognizing the tri-management nature of the Klickitat Trail, these meetings allow sharing of information, staffing, coordination of plans and sharing of results.

The Suburbia Bridge replacement continues to work through design and permitting. State Parks estimates work could begin in early 2027. The trail segment from the bridge to Snyder Creek (along Hwy 142) is progressing in collaboration with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

The cleanup of the 117-acre former "Christianson Property" in Swale Canyon has commenced! During a mid-March survey with State Parks staff, they pointed out all the derelict vehicles had been removed by a vendor (for the junk value!). Demolition of buildings and removal of the remaining debris is scheduled for this Spring/Summer.

After installation of a bike maintenance station at the Lyle trailhead last year, an additional station was recently installed by State Parks in Klickitat, and the concrete pad has been poured in Swale Canyon for the last station, to be installed during summer 2026. After requests from homeowners living adjacent to the Lyle Trailhead, a light was installed at the trailhead by State Parks staff.



**Bench along the Klickitat Trail**

During Fall 2025, after various delays, WSDOT paved the section of the Klickitat Trail in Klickitat. This section is heavily used by locals and kids commuting to/from school.

State Parks staff have developed a draft new map of Klickitat State Park. KTC provided a couple of clarifications and comments on the draft, which State Parks accepted. The new maps will feature our new logo, as a partner with State Parks! To house the new maps and provide for expanded interpretative opportunities, a new large kiosk will be installed at the Harms Road trailhead (hopefully funded by a Park Improvement Project grant through State Parks Foundation).

Using EPA funding, through an agreement between Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Yakama Nation, land owned by WDFW along the portion of the Klickitat Trail from the Fisher Hill Trailhead to the Yakama Nation fish facility has been cleaned up. This area also had a history of vicious dog concerns from the adjacent camps. State Parks staff has asked trail users to report any future vicious dog concerns to them.



**Four KTC Presidents at the recent 75th birthday of Jim Minick.  
L to R: Jim Minick, Second President; Bob Hanson, First President;  
Barbara Robinson, Past President; Ken Hansen, Current President**

KTC members and supporters have been generous in showing their appreciation and support of the Klickitat Trail! Thank you! Our Board has been discussing our desire to ensure we are making tangible and meaningful decisions to continue to improve the Klickitat Trail.

With tight State Parks budgets, the KTC Board voted to fund up to \$5000 for the installation of a kiosk at the Fisher Hill Trailhead! The new maps will be displayed there. KTC has an interest in expanding the railroad origin of the trail. Future grant requests are targeting eventual kiosks at Warwick or Uecker Road trailheads.

While many sections of original railroad ballast were infilled with gravel during the recent trestle work, we have heard a recurrent request from our members and supporters for better surfacing on the trail, especially in Swale Canyon. Efforts to match funding with State Parks for gravel were unsuccessful. The Board voted to fund the addition of more gravel to Swale Canyon for \$5000. In March, I conducted a survey of Swale Canyon with State Parks staff. We marked approximately 2500' in 13 sections of the worst teeth-rattling ballast for gravel infill. KTC is currently contracting with vendors and expects to place this gravel in the next month. This is expected to be the first of a continuing program of surface upgrades. This surfacing will be safer and more enjoyable for cyclists, hikers and equestrians.



**Removing barriers on the trail during Spring survey with State Parks staff**

KTC rents and provides for servicing for porta-potties at the Harms Road and Wahkiacus trailheads of the Swale Canyon section of the trail. Recognizing significant long-term savings, the KTC Board voted to purchase these units versus continued rental. To support wider use of Swale Canyon, and in concert with KTC's long-term plans to improve the Swale Canyon trail surface and access, KTC upgraded to handicap accessible units. These units are larger and sit flush with the ground. We will place our logo and messaging on these units.

Join KTC President Ken Hansen and Board Member Bill Weiler for "Celebrate Trails Day" on Saturday, April 25! We will be leading a 13 mile mountain/gravel bike ride down Swale Canyon. There is a lot happening in Swale Canyon and this ride will provide an opportunity to share with members and trail users! There will be a limited number of shuttle seats for returning to the start. Riders can also ride a portion of the distance and return to the start. We will depart from the Harms Road trailhead at 11AM, riding to the Wahkiacus Trailhead. Questions and RSVP can be sent to [n2fishtoo@gmail.com](mailto:n2fishtoo@gmail.com)

H.R. 4924 the so-called "Rails to Trails Landowners Rights Act", was recently introduced into the House Committee on Natural Resources. In summary, this bill would require support and buy-in from every landowner involved in any potential future rail-trail. (This would not affect the status of the Klickitat Trail.) This potential legislation would effectively curtail any further expansion of rail-trails in the US. KTC forwarded letters of opposition to this legislation to the House Natural Resources Committee members. If you enjoy using Rail-Trails, you are encouraged to reach out to the Committee to oppose this legislation. ([www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/119/hr4924/text/ih](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/119/hr4924/text/ih))



Ken and Barbara manning the KTC table at 2025 Souper Fun Run

KTC is member-driven and member supported! Basic membership is \$25 per year. You can join or renew your annual membership by mailing your tax-deductible contribution to KTC, PO Box 512, Lyle WA 98635.

We welcome your interaction at [www.klickitat-trail.org](http://www.klickitat-trail.org) or email [info@klickitat-trail.org](mailto:info@klickitat-trail.org). Continue to interact with KTC via our website, Facebook and Instagram. We DO NOT share our membership information at any time.

Again, the KTC Board is grateful for the continuing support and enthusiasm for the Klickitat Trail and our non-profit volunteer organization. We will remain steadfast as an advocate for public use and enjoyment of the Klickitat Trail.

Ken Hansen  
President

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All KTC Events are open to the Public.  
No Smoking or Dogs on KTC-sponsored events.  
Visit these links for more info:  
[Trail Use Guidelines](#) :: [Directions to Main Trailheads](#)  
Enjoy !