

*News from the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter*

# Waypoints

SIERRACLUB.ORG/KANSAS

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*Wyandotte, Rock Island Bridge  
Photo: Eliese Holt*



# Earth Day Party on the Rock Island Bridge

Celebrate Earth Day at a special **Sierra Sessions fundraiser & appreciation event** on **Wednesday, April 22 from 4:00–8:00 P.M.** on the newly opened Rock Island Bridge in Kansas City, KS.

You don't want to miss this joint Kansas-Missouri Chapter event that'll feature live music, **FREE** entry and appetizers, and drinks available for purchase; *donations are warmly welcomed.*

Straddling the Kansas-Missouri state line, the bridge makes for a fitting backdrop to honor the environmental work happening on both sides. The event is open to all Sierra Club members, supporters, and partners. [RSVP today to reserve your spot!](#)

**Find Sierra Club at Earth Day events near you!**

**Wakarusa Group**

[Earth Day Fair in Lawrence](#) April 18 1:00–4:00 P.M.

Sierra Club will be tabling!

### **Topeka Network**

[Topeka Zoo's Party for the Planet](#) April 18 9:00 A.M–3:00 P.M.

Sierra Club will be tabling!

### **Flint Hills Group**

[Sunset Zoo's Party for the Planet](#) April 18 10:00 A.M–1:00 P.M.

Sierra Club will be tabling!

### **Kanza Network**

[Earth Day Party on the Rock Island Bridge](#) April 22 4:00–8:00 P.M.

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## **Action Alert!**

# **Tell Lawrence City Commissioners to Protect the Wakarusa Wetlands**



Drone capture of animal tracks on proposed development location | Photo Eric Dyck

**Tell Lawrence City Commissioners to Protect the Wakarusa Wetlands and vote "NO" on the amendment to the comprehensive plan (AMDT-25-0006) that would allow the development of floodplain for a project called Ten59, a 178 acre commercial complex that could include hotels,**

restaurants, a convenience store, and a mega sports complex which would irreparably harm the Haskell-Baker Wetlands.

**SUBMIT A LETTER TO COMMISSIONERS NOW**

## Another Wonderful WEALTH Day!



Zack Pistora, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Director

On March 23rd, over 200 Kansans and 20 organizations came together in support of **Water, Energy, Air, Land, Transportation, & Health** at the Kansas State Capitol. This year's day of education and advocacy on environmental issues was themed "the Power of Kansas" and featured a youth panel discussion, a rally, networking, and visits with state legislators. We advocated for more state efforts for water, wider use of affordable clean energy, protections against harmful pesticides, and more.

**Thank you to the many Sierra Club members** and other environmental do-gooders who joined us, including some first-time WEALTH Day attendees! Your help in advocating for a better Kansas in such a visible way is so important.

**Here are a couple news clips featuring WEALTH Day:**

- KSNT: [Kansans gather at the Capitol to advocate for environmental issues](#)
- WIBW: [Environmental advocates gather for 10th annual Wealth Day at Kansas Capitol](#)



Sierra Club Kansas Chapter volunteers and staff at WEALTH Day | Photos Matt Kleinmann

## TUNE IN FOR THE **2026 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP**

**Wednesday, April 8**

7:00pm - 8:00pm

[RSVP here for the webinar link](#)

Come to one of our final SierraKan meetings to hear from our Chapter Director, Zack Pistora, on what legislation passed, what didn't, and how we can provide a final impact upon our policy interests.

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**Status Update: Kansas Water Program Task Force**



Tuttle Creek, Manhattan | Photo Eliese Holt

Craig Volland, Agriculture Committee Chair, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

After reading the March 20 edition of *Policy Watch*, I wanted to share key points provided by Paul Johnson regarding *water quality* in Kansas streams and lakes. Read the full *Policy Watch* article [here](#).

Johnson notes that **1,766 (86%) of the state's 2,049 stream segments are currently impaired** for one or more uses by pollutants. He says, '*Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems.*' NPS refers to contaminants that enter streams from

poorly controlled runoff from fields as opposed to out the end of a pipe at a municipal or industrial waste treatment plant. Thus 54 years after the passage of the federal Clean Water Act, the waters of Kansas are still unclean. A major source of this NPS pollution is the vast quantities of manure produced in the state's animal factories or CAFOs. Read more about Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) [here](#) and [join our CAFOs Team](#) to help us build our **Sierra Club campaign in Kansas!**

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# EXPLORE KANSAS

## **Join the KDWP 250th Anniversary Recreation Challenge**

Stuart Bolt, Chapter Outings Chair, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

The Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club is thrilled to invite you to participate in KDWP's (Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks) 250th anniversary challenge, a one-of-a-kind recreation challenge, running until July 4th.

**This is your chance to get outside, discover the beauty of Kansas, and make unforgettable**

**memories.** Whether you're visiting a Nature Center, exploring a State Park, camping under the stars, or planting native wildflowers, every adventure counts.

**Do it! You'll receive a gift from us!**

**What we'll need from you:**

- A photo/scan of your KDWP completed challenge certificate
- A selfie (or a few!) at your favorite Kansas destination(s)
- A short write-up about your favorite experience

*\*Submission link to receive the gift will be provided on future Waypoints and other communications.*



Gift options | Adventure Bucket List: Kansas Edition & Book "Kansas Landscapes" by Keith B. Miller & Scott Bean

## Get Started

Ready to begin? Visit [the official challenge page](#) for activity ideas, rules, and registration.

Let's make this a year to remember—get out, explore, and enjoy everything Kansas has to offer. We can't wait to see where this challenge takes you!

**REGISTER NOW FOR THE KDWP CHALLENGE**



Kanza Network Walk & Talk event at Wolf Creek discussing Blue River conservation | Photo courtesy of Bill Roush

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# Join a Sierra Club Committee: **Fill out our Survey!**

Yvonne Cather, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Chair

**The Kansas Sierra Club is growing — and so is the opportunity to make a real impact.**

From protecting air and water to advancing clean energy, organizing outings, shaping public policy, and building community, our work is powered by volunteers. If you've been looking for a meaningful way to plug in, this is it.

We're actively building capacity across our Chapter committees and teams — and **we'd love for you to join us.**

**COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE**



Legislative Committee meeting over Zoom | Screenshot by Zack Pistora

## Why Join a Committee?

- Connect with fellow Kansans who care deeply about our environment
- Help shape Sierra Club priorities across the state
- Gain insight into issues affecting your local community
- Develop leadership skills and relationships

- Make measurable change happen

**All committee meetings are held via Zoom**, so you can participate from anywhere in Kansas — whether you prefer to listen in or take an active role.

[Take the survey now.](#)

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## More Events Coming Up!

### **Saturday, April 4**

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

#### [KC Eat Local and Organic Expo](#)

The Sierra Club will be present at the Expo, supporting local and sustainable agriculture, anti-CAFO (concentrated animal feeding operations) farming, and organically grown, free range food products.

#### [Sign up to Volunteer](#)

- Set Up (7:00-9:00 am)
- Event Support (9:00-11:00 pm)
- Event Support (11:00-1:00 pm)
- Take Down/ Clean Up (12:00-2:00 pm)

### **Monday, April 6**

9:00 – 10:30 A.M.

**Flint Hills General Meeting at Bluestem Bistro, Aggieville**

Join us for our monthly gathering where Flint Hills members come together to learn about and discuss current environmental issues, including air quality, CAFOs, Kansas legislation, green energy, and more.

## **Tuesday, April 7**

7:00–8:00 P.M. (Online - RSVP for the webinar link)

### **[Flint Hills Smoke Monitoring Program](#)**

With prairie burning season underway, we'll cover the Sierra Club's air quality monitoring network designed to alert the public to hazardous smoke conditions. We'll also walk through tools for real-time air quality monitoring to help keep you safe.

## **Wednesday, April 8**

7:00–8:00 P.M. (Online - RSVP for the Zoom link)

### **[2026 Legislative Wrap-up w/ Zack Pistora](#)**

While the KS Legislature recently adjourned its regular session, there are a few days remaining - per the Veto Session - for the Legislature to finalize its business for the 2026 session. Come to one of our final SierraKan meetings to hear what passed, what didn't, and how we can provide a final impact upon our policy interests.

## **Tuesday, April 14**

6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

### **[Kanza General Meeting: Protect the Boundary Waters](#)**

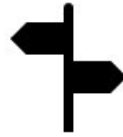
Kanza Network Vice Chair, Fred Hopkins, will provide a presentation regarding the recent and recurring attempts by a mining company to obtain leases for copper and nickel mining on federal land in the same watershed as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) in northern Minnesota.

## **Thursday, April 16**

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

## [Topeka General Meeting: City of Lawrence Sustainability Coordinator Speaks](#)

Kathy Richardson will tell the Topeka Network how the Sustainability office in Lawrence, KS got established, along with the policy efforts over the years.



## *what is a* **WAYPOINT?**

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**Waypoint:** *noun.* A stopping place on a journey; an endpoint of the leg of a course, especially one whose coordinates have been generated by a computer.

## **Submit Waypoints** **Content**

*Waypoints* is the monthly newsletter of the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter.

Articles are edited for style and content and may be rejected at the discretion of the editors.

Editors: Eliese Holt and Mimi Moffat.

[Events Calendar](#)

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