

*News from the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter*

# WAYPOINTS

SIERRACLUB.ORG / KANSAS

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Kill Creek Park, Olathe  
Photo | Eliese Holt

# Be a Leader with the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

We encourage members from across Kansas to consider running for leadership positions within the Kansas Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) and our local groups: the Southwind Group, Wakarusa Group, and Flint Hills Group.



Chapter ExCom Meeting in April 2026 | Photo Gerry Snyder

# Why Run?

Serving in a leadership role is an opportunity to help shape the future of the Sierra Club in Kansas. Whether your passion is clean energy, public lands, environmental justice, political engagement, outings, fundraising, or membership growth, your voice and experience can make a difference.

## Executive Committee and Group leaders help:

- Set priorities and goals for the organization.
- Support local conservation and environmental justice campaigns.
- Build relationships with communities and partner organizations.
- Strengthen membership engagement and volunteer development.
- Ensure that Sierra Club remains a strong advocate for a healthy, sustainable future.

You do not need previous board experience to serve.

## Key dates to consider NOW

- **July 1** - Candidate Application Period Opens.
- **August 18** - Candidate Application Deadline.
- **September 2** - Official Nominees Announced.

# "Super-sized Solar" is starting to shine in Kansas



Photo | Stockpack

Zack Pistora, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Director

Kansas has continually ranked in the bottom for installed solar power, despite being positioned as a top state for solar resource potential. Utility-scale solar, or “solar farms,” are (finally) taking hold in Kansas. Just this week, two new conditional use permits were approved in Finney and Ellis counties, adding 575 more megawatts (MW) to the budding Kansas solar portfolio.

[Read about it here.](#)

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## Action Alert!

# Support Solar Siting in Sedgwick County

[As a Sedgwick County resident, sign on to say YES to solar siting in our county!](#)

Currently, TWO solar farm projects are being proposed for Sedgwick County ***and we're rallying around both.***

- The **Galena Solar and Storage** project is a 535 MW solar and battery energy storage project in between Haysville and Clearwater.
- The **Branch Line Solar and Storage** project is a 130 MW solar farm and battery storage facility near Clearwater.

Both solar projects will help stabilize energy prices, support farmers and their property rights, and fund community needs like roads, bridges, and local schools through millions in tax revenue.

[Sign our petition now to show your support.](#)



**And SHOW UP at the next  
Metropolitan Area Planning  
Commission (MAPC) meeting:**

+ [June 11 at 1:30 P.M. Galena MAPC  
hearing](#)

+ [June 25 at 1:30 P.M. Branch Line MAPC  
hearing](#)

Let us know you're planning on going so we can organize effectively. **We're bringing t-shirts for participants so we can demonstrate unity and strength in numbers!**

# Making Solar Accessible in Kansas

Bill Roush, Energy Committee Chair, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

Lack of knowledge and advocacy have hampered solar options for Kansans. Now, we have a great opportunity to change that. **The Kansas Chapter Energy Committee is moving forward with these six actions to make solar more accessible in Kansas.**

1. Legalize and popularize Balcony/Plug & Play solar.
2. Ease restrictions on Community Solar.
3. Remove unreasonable HOA restrictions on rooftop solar.
4. Encourage local governments to adopt SolarApp+ for instant solar permitting.
5. Help small business claim 100% bonus depreciation for new solar investment.
6. Continue support for utility-scale solar, wind and batteries.

[Join the Energy Committee](#) or [reach out to me](#) to help us achieve these solar goals in Kansas.

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**Help Shape Our Political Program: [Join the Political Committee](#)**

*Are you passionate about helping elect leaders who will protect our environment and advance our values?*

The Political Committee is looking for new volunteers to join our team and help strengthen our impact in upcoming elections. You do not need prior political experience to participate.



**By joining the Political Committee, you can:**

- Help influence our endorsement decisions.
- Support fundraising efforts that strengthen our political impact.
- Learn more about local, state, and federal candidates.
- Connect with fellow advocates who are committed to creating positive change.
- Play a direct role in advancing our mission through the electoral process.

Together, we can build the resources, relationships, and political power needed to create lasting change. [Join here.](#)

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## Action Alert!

### Is turtle racing happening in your area?

Margaret Kramar, Turtle Team member, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

**Ornate box turtle numbers are declining** and county fair turtle races have a lot to do about it. [Read more here.](#)



Severy, KS Turtle Race Labor Day Weekend 2025 | Photos Felix Revello

**There are many ways you can help.**

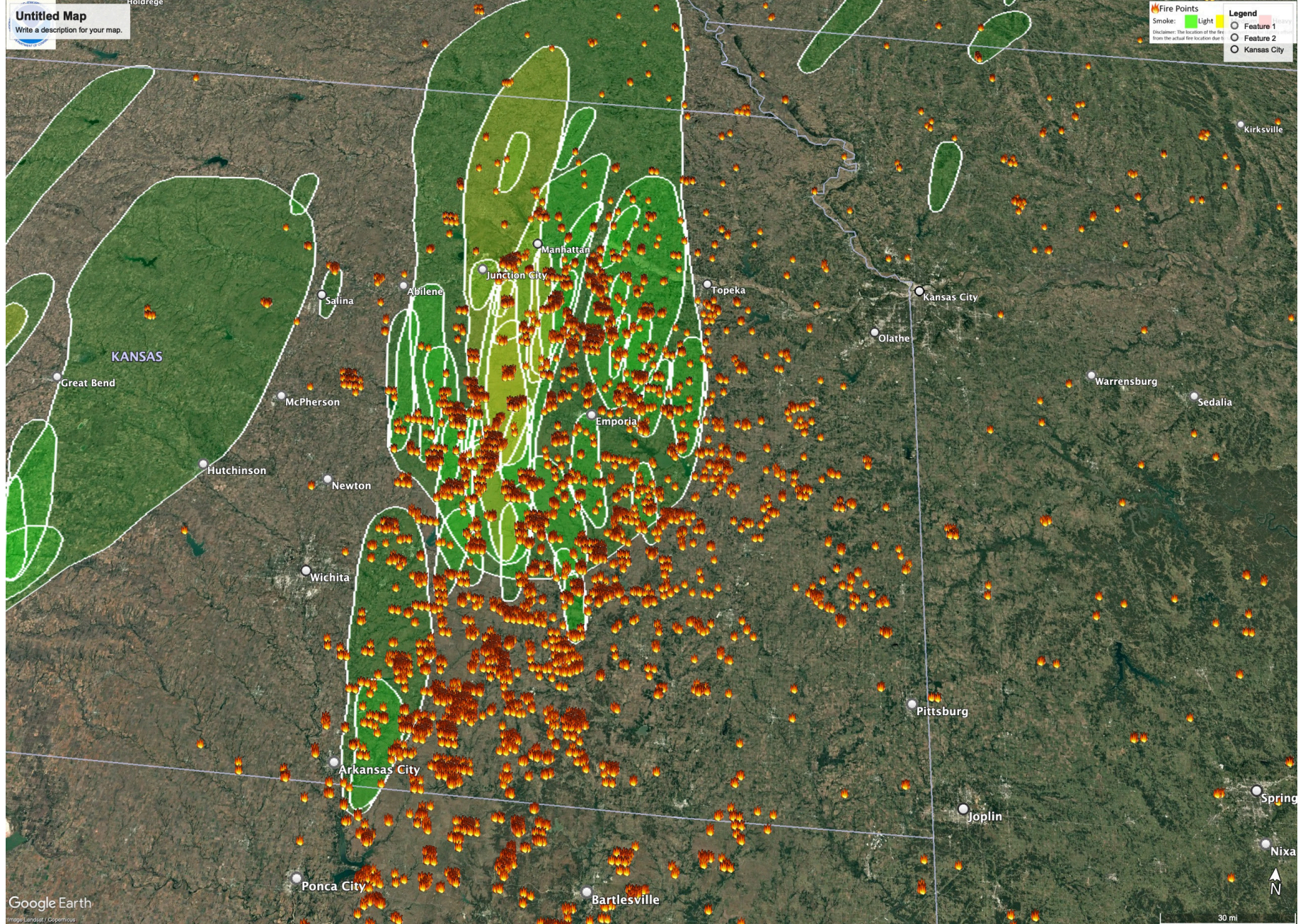
1. Express your opposition to turtle races by [signing our petition](#) or send a letter directly & make a call to the [Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission](#).

2. [Rally with other Sierra Club members June 18 at 12:00 P.M. at the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission meeting.](#)
3. Investigate whether your county or city is planning any festival or fair this summer that features turtle races and express your opposition directly to those responsible.
4. [Join our turtle team](#) for more opportunities to save the ornate box turtle.

**Turtles are NOT toys.** Our state reptile deserves better protection.

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## **The 2026 Flint Hills Burn Shows Lack of Attention to Kansan Health**



Craig Volland, Air Quality Committee Chair, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter

Big Smoke Days are frequently impacting the public health of Kansans, especially in the northern reaches of the Flint Hills. Some progress is being made in convincing ranchers to burn in the late

summer or early fall, but KDHE is reluctant to fill in the regulatory monitoring gaps. So, while the annual burn helps preserve the tall grass prairie, its current method of practice is just another example of the health impacts of industrial agriculture.

[Read the full 2026 Flint Hills air quality report here.](#)

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## **Sierra Club Midwest Regional Gathering Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Ohio, Indiana, and Minnesota Chapters under ONE roof**

Eliese Holt, Sierra Club Kansas Chapter Coordinator

Three months of planning resulted in two jam-packed days of organizing and fundraising training, campaign and base-building strategizing, and cross-state community-building. May 12-13, Kansas Chapter Conservation Chair, Patrick Ross, and I had the pleasure of traveling to Cleveland, Ohio to meet up with and *learn from* five other Sierra Club Chapter representatives and our respective Regional Directors. Listen in at the next [Kansas Chapter ExCom meeting June 20th](#) (in-person in Lawrence or over Zoom) to hear more about our experience.



Sierra Club staff and volunteers in Cleveland, Ohio for the Midwest Regional Gathering | Photos courtesy of Eliese Holt

# There's still time

## 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.

**REGISTER NOW FOR THE KDWP CHALLENGE**



Kanza Network May Walk & Talk | Photos courtesy of Eliese Holt

# More Events Coming Up!

## **Sunday, June 7**

5:00 P.M. (Lawrence)

### **[Wakarusa Potluck & Postcards](#)**

Join the Wakarusa Group at their annual potluck and postcards event. Share food and thoughts as we write postcards to encourage city and county leaders to support local causes.

## **Friday, June 12**

6:00 P.M. (Wichita)

### **[Southwind Annual Potluck Picnic](#)**

Bring a dish to share and your own table service, and come ready for a fun-filled evening of food, fellowship, and fresh air! Relax with fellow Sierrans, enjoy the beauty of nature, and celebrate summer together.

## **Saturday, June 14**

2:00 P.M. (Kansas City)

### **[Kaw River Clean Up](#)**

Join the Kanza Network and the Missouri Chapter on a joint venture to clean up the Kaw River. We'll be walking along the trail less traveled at Kaw Point Park to pick up trash items and would appreciate all the help!

## **Saturday, June 14**

6:30 P.M. (Kansas City)

### **[Documentary Film Screening & Sustainability Panel](#)**

Join the Kanza Network and the Missouri Chapter for a screening of the documentary film Cresta Alta, followed by a Q&A panel with local sustainability leaders. The film follows the

commitment of scientists who travel deep into the wilderness to gather field data that informs our collective understanding of climate change impacts on our planet.

### **Thursday, June 18**

7:00 P.M. (Topeka)

#### **[Topeka General Meeting: Micro Plastics](#)**

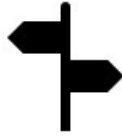
For this month's general meeting, the Topeka Network will be hosting Evelyn O'Connor who will present on the NRDC's work on micro plastics.

### **Saturday, June 27**

10:00 A.M. (Kansas City)

#### **[Kanza Walk & Talk at Cedar Niles](#)**

Join the Kanza Network in Olathe for an opportunity to walk on the newly reopened trail and get to know some fellow community members!



## *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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