

Annual Report: Ken-Caryl Trail Club

In lieu of the cancelled Trail Club Annual Meeting due to COVID-19, this note serves as the Trail Club Annual Report to the Master Association Board of Directors. As we continue to navigate our way through this unprecedented time, we are committed to keeping you informed of the work we've done in 2019 and the plans we have for 2020. Please let us know if you have any questions via KCTrailClub@gmail.com

Each year, everyone who volunteers for the Trail Club signs a commitment to be good stewards of our open space and adhere to practicing good trail etiquette. With an increasing number of residents enjoying our open space this year, we all need to be role models for appropriate behavior on our trails. The Trail Club has asked its constituents to educate their friends and neighbors who may not be familiar with proper etiquette, and to continue practicing respect and courtesy for other trail users. Suggested trail etiquette and other information can be found on our web page: <https://ken-caryl ranch.org/community-news/community-organizations/trail-club/>

In March, the Trail Club held a virtual leadership meeting, and given the unusual circumstances, decided to forego a 2020 election for leadership positions. We believe it is important to maintain some consistency in the leadership team until the next Annual Meeting in 2021. The Trail Club Leadership team for 2020 is as follows:

- President - Josh Holmberg
- Vice President - John Hamilton
- Corresponding Secretary - Anna Gardner
- Membership Coordinator - Mel Stockwell
- Social/Special Projects Chair - Gary Salter
- Treasurer - Rusty Spinney
- OSC Liaison - Tracy Soukup

Thanks to our volunteers, we had a very productive 2019. Trail Club volunteers donated 1,233 hours of volunteer time to our community. And thanks to their generosity, we were able to match 50% of MA funds appropriated to trails, or a minimum Trail Club donation of \$2,500 to the community. We would also like to thank Brian Firestone and Curtis Crites for their contributions on the Trail Club in Leadership team in 2019.

Some highlights in 2019 include the following:

- 107 different households contributed volunteer hours in 2019
- Trail Club volunteer opportunities supported several other Ken-Caryl groups, including the Ken-Caryl Historical Society, the Ken-Caryl Conservation Club, our local Boy Scout Troop, and Bradford schools.
- Trail Club Adopt-a-Road continues to grow with 157 volunteer hours toward reducing trash and debris along our roadways.
- Although not a Trail Club program, Trail Club volunteers again contributed significantly to the Volunteer Trail Patrol program by logging the majority of patrol hours.

- Other projects included tree planting, the Christmas tree sale, and support of Bradford's Walking & Wheeling program

In 2020, the general structure of Volunteer Trail Coordinators (VTC) along with Volunteer Crew Leaders (VTL) will continue. We thank Jeff Lyslo for his many years of irreplaceable service to the community. Dan Mullins will now lead the VTC effort and Mark Celusniak will join him.

The majority of activity for Trail Club volunteers this year will be vegetation maintenance, including clearing of sight lines to enhance safety. A big upgrade this year will be a new set of tools with new ways to access them, and a new storage location. We will have four tool boxes located in the backcountry, hidden from view, that will house all of the major equipment needed to perform maintenance. The tool caches will also have new battery operated tools to eliminate the need to transport fuel - reducing the effort to only bringing a fully charged battery.

The contractor, Single Track Trails, will be doing annual machine and hand-based work starting in May, focusing on those tasks that are more technical in nature or require the movement of larger amounts of dirt.

The only major trail project on the calendar currently is a reroute of the Lark Bunting connector on the south end of the trail, where it goes uphill to tie into the ridge. Timing on this project is uncertain because of restrictions on gatherings, both for the Open Space Committee (OSC) to approve the project, and for the actual work. We have various other maintenance projects planned across the trail system.

While the Trail Club has not yet been directly involved, the Metro District is considering options for the South Hogback open space that is owned by them. As the new Westerly apartment complex fully opens, the concern is around social trails forming through sensitive habitat and whether a more formal trail to direct usage through a safe zone would make sense. The Trail Club would only get involved if called upon, and supported by the Open Space Committee and the Master Association Board.

Total available volunteer hours are expected to be down again this year as work evolves to mostly maintenance mode. Independent trail work is encouraged - if a volunteer sees something that needs a minimal fix - like vegetation, raking cobbles off trail, or filling in ruts - they can work independently and record hours. We have a new online reporting system for volunteers to self-report hours, with verification coming from Trail Club leadership in conjunction with the VTCs. A signed 2020 waiver is required prior to any volunteer work taking place. A total of 10 hours (family total) is required in the current year to obtain a tag for Willow Springs access and use for the subsequent year. Any tags left over for the current year will be distributed on a first-met-requirement basis for those that have not yet received a 2020 tag.

The Trail Club is implementing a Trail Ambassador program. We are often contacted by new residents asking various questions about the trail system. Likewise, we are contacted by existing residents who haven't utilized the trails until recently. To support the overall community,

anyone can request a Trail Ambassador show them around the trails, answer any questions, and to improve their enjoyment, regardless of how they recreate on the trails. This is also an opportunity to reinforce the Open Space regulations and to encourage good trail etiquette.

We are very proud of our collective accomplishments in 2019, and we look forward to working on our trails and in the broader community in 2020.

Ken-Caryl Trail Club

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