As people across the country protest in defense of Black lives, the Sierra Club recognizes the need to dismantle systemic racism in the United States and within our own organization. We must reckon with how white supremacy -- both past and present -- has shaped our institutions and do the critical anti-racism work necessary to repair the harm done. The environmental movement does not exist in a vacuum, and it is our responsibility to use our power to help abolish systemic racism, which is destroying lives, communities, and the planet.

Kansas Sierra Club releases Racial Justice Statement

Kansas Sierra Club stands in solidarity with those standing up for racial justice amidst the tragedy of George Floyd’s murder. Read the official Kansas Sierra Club Racial Justice statement here:
With So Much in Common, C’mon!

**ZACK PISTORA**

With recent protests for racial justice amid the tragic deaths of Black Americans killed by police, the Kansas Sierra Club reflects on its commitment to racial justice, nonviolence, and environmental justice.

*Full Story*

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July update on COVID-19 and Sierra Club Outdoors

**STEVE HASSLER, CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR**

July update on Sierra Club Outdoors’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, both nationally and locally.

*Full Story*

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Stay Safe - VOTE BY MAIL

**MIMI MOFFAT**

Keep your family safe and skip the lines! Learn more about what you need to do to vote by mail.

*Full Story*

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‘Zombie Power Plant’ recounts the Kansas Chapter’s Holcomb saga

It took fifteen years, rulings from the Kansas State Court of Appeals and US Supreme Court, and a lot of grit, but the Sierra Club successfully prevented a billion tons of CO2 from polluting Kansas and planet Earth. Learn more in this new publication by Kansas Chapter member Robert F. Sommer as he recounts the Chapter’s epic battle to prevent construction of new coal-burning utility plants in southwest Kansas.

*Full Story*
kansas sierra club

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

2020 Legislative Session = Mostly A Dud; Election Holds Policy Future

Lobbyist, Zack Pistora, presents his analysis of the conclusions of the 2020 Legislative Session in this edition of the Kansas Legislative News. Although many topics were discussed this session, the Legislature again failed to take meaningful action to improve the environment.

Read Now

conservation news

Delaminating The Myth

KENT ROWE, CONSERVATION CHAIR, SOUTHWIND GROUP

When we take notice of our commodification "way of life" the truths of our brutal realities come to light. Very often, the money we spend goes to defeat everything our 'ideal' self detests.

Read Article
Senate passes the Great American Outdoors Act

ELAINE GIESSEL, CHAPTER CONSERVATION CHAIR

In an historic 75-21 vote, the Senate recently passed the Great American Outdoors Act, which permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and raises $9.5B to cut into the national park maintenance backlog. Sen. Roberts supported, but Sen. Moran did not. The House should pass the GAOA Act in July. **Now is the perfect time to address exclusion, discrimination, and racism that have long existed on public lands.**

Learn More

Railroad Destroys Flint Hills Native Prairie

HAROLD DRAPER, KANZA CONSERVATION CHAIR

BNSF is constructing a second main line of track between Cottonwood Falls and El Dorado, paralleling State Route 177. The 42-mile-long corridor is on private land and involves 8 wetland fills, 3 stream relocations, 7 new bridges and 36 culvert extensions. The work was approved under a Nationwide Permit, without public notice and cumulative effects analysis. BNSF states that it will work with the Nature Conservancy to restore the area to native grass. It is estimated that only 4 percent of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem remains, most of it in the Flint Hills.

WOTUS Rule Goes into Effect

ELAINE GIESSEL, CHAPTER CONSERVATION CHAIR

The new Trump Administration rule that redefines the jurisdictional "Waters of the US" protected under the Clean Water Act went into effect on June 22, 2020. The Sierra Club joined a coalition of Native American Tribes in a legal challenge that the regulation fails to consider scientific and technical information, including from the government's own advisers. Many wetlands and headwater streams in Kansas that provide wildlife habitat and serve as safe sources for affordable drinking water may lose protection. Take action now!
**kanza group**
Kansas City and eastern Kansas

**“Beyond Coal Campaign: New Focus on Kansas”**
July 14 via Zoom, 6:45 - 8:30 pm (RSVP required) 9, 2020, 7:00 PM – [RSVP Here](https://view.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=f9e80f17766431903b30aef74863c5e42b3ff57c7988b2a8e00c265a0d16c57d6ad8f896cde4c833f3484d4b4808cc9ab)

Closing coal-fired plants helps curb the climate crisis. It also saves lives by cutting toxic emissions which disproportionately impact minority and low income communities. The Sierra Club has been working to move beyond coal for over a decade. Ty Gorman, the new Kansas Beyond Coal Campaign representative, will discuss national progress to date, and goals and priorities in Kansas.

**RSVP required for login info:**
[RSVP NOW](https://view.emails.sierraclub.org/?qs=f9e80f17766431903b30aef74863c5e42b3ff57c7988b2a8e00c265a0d16c57d6ad8f896cde4c833f3484d4b4808cc9ab)

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**“Code Talk: Supporting Increased Energy Efficiency Through Building Codes”**
Save the Date: August 11, 2020 via Zoom, 6:45 - 8:30 pm (RSVP required)

According to the Climate Action KC “Playbook,” buildings contribute nearly 40 percent of climate change pollution and consume over 70 percent of electricity used in the US. As cities update their building codes, it is critical they adopt strong efficiency provisions. Learn what’s going on with codes in the Metro area.

**Speaker:** Jeremy Knoll of BNIM, an innovative KC architecture firm.

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**southwind group**
Wichita and southern Kansas

**All Wichita-area events are canceled or postponed by the Southwind Group and respective hosts in order to comply with national Sierra Club policy and to keep our members safe. Thank you for your patience in this difficult time.**
Pioneer Bluffs — Preserving a Unique Heritage

July 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. | Zoom | Members will receive an email prior to the meeting with Zoom login.

When visitors arrive at Pioneer Bluffs, they step into a classic rural family farmstead setting where surprisingly little has changed over the last century. Our program will be presented by Lynn Smith, who has been Executive Director of Pioneer Bluffs since 2008, helping it grow from a new, fledgling nonprofit to a strong community resource. MORE INFO

Save the Date: Topeka Group Annual Fall Float Trip with Friends of the Kaw

Saturday, October 17, 2020| St. George, Kansas to Wamego on the Kansas River

Save the date for our annual fall float trip with Friends of the Kaw. We will paddle from St. George, Kansas to Wamego for a day trip on the beautiful Kansas River.

All Lawrence-area events are canceled or postponed by the Wakarusa Group and respective hosts in order to comply with national Sierra Club policy and to keep our members safe. Thank you for your patience in this difficult time.

Show us your favorite Kansas nature or wilderness area!
Submit a small description and a photo (if possible!) to communications@kansas.sierraclub.org
what are WAYPOINTS?

Waypoints: 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.

The COVID-19 crisis has not passed and continues to disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people and other communities of color. The pandemic has revealed how the communities hardest hit are often the same communities that suffer from high levels of pollution and poor access to healthcare. The fight for environmental justice cannot be separated from the fight for racial justice.

sierra club has gone DIGITAL
sign up today to receive our communications.

This email was sent to: communications@kansas.sierraclub.org

This email was sent by the Sierra Club Kansas Chapter
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