



December 5, 2014

Dear Friend,

In March of 2014, the Corps of Engineers (COE) announced that a **new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required to reauthorize dredging permits on the Kaw**. The COE “**was unable to conclude that there are no potentially significant impacts associated with the activities proposed by dredging companies.**” The new EIS is a positive development and a public meeting will be held and comments will need to be submitted in the fall of 2015. We’ll keep you updated! Commercial sand and gravel dredging have seriously degraded the Kansas River and all operations should move to appropriately sited pit mines in the Kansas River valley.

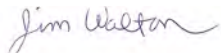
The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism with the assistance of the National Park Service and **Friends of the Kaw** have continued to improve the **Kansas River Water Trail**. With the assistance of Westar’s Green Team informational kiosks have been built at many of the access ramps

In June of 2015, our Kansas Riverkeeper, Laura Calwell, was honored by the River Network as a River Hero. This award is peer nominated and selected and given yearly to five individuals who have dedicated themselves to protecting our most vital natural resource—water. Also Laura will retire in the near future so we are actively seeking applications for a new Kansas Riverkeeper. Check out www.kansasriver.org for more details!

Please send your tax-deductible gift today in the enclosed envelope to help us get these dredging operations out of the river. **Consider giving a membership as a holiday gift!** Over **800,000 Kansans depend on the Kaw for drinking water**, and the river is home to many native plants and animals.

Thank you for your continued support of Friends of the Kaw. Together we are protecting the Kaw for this and future generations.

Warm regards!


Jim Walton, President

P.S. Your gift to Friends of the Kaw helps us keep dredging out of the river, report and follow up on pollution violations, advocate for reduction of stormwater pollution from both urban and rural areas, and demand enforcement of the Clean Water Act. Thank you!



Kansas Riverkeeper@
Laura Calwell

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Friends of the Kaw
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785-312-7200

Report River Pollution:
1-866-RIV-KEEP

Email:
riverkeeper@kansasriver.org

Website:
<http://KansasRiver.org>

2014 FOK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

POLICY & ENFORCEMENT

Friends of the Kaw's first priority is to physically monitor the river, report suspected pollution and mediate a solution.

Dredging

- Documentation and monitoring of sand dredging operations by visually monitoring dredge sites and communicating with the Corps of Engineers. Following progress and publicized decision for new Environmental Impact Statement.

Pollution & Policy

- Responded to eight pollution reports including trash, concrete & asphalt dumping, oil spill in KCK; questionable application of herbicides in Lawrence; questionable waste management practices; and a questionable discharge from a pit mine operation.
- With assistance from Westar's Green Team, KDHE and the City of De Soto cleaned up the area just below the De Soto access ramp. Also made arrangements to clean up 500 tires and other debris below a Westar power line just east of Lawrence for March of 2015.
- Kansas Riverkeeper is a member of the Governor's River Recreation Committee charged with promoting the Kansas River National Water Trail and the Kansas Lower Republican Basin Advisory Committee representing recreation.
- Provided input for the *Vision for the Future Water Supply in Kansas* via the Basin Advisory Committee and a consortium of Kansas environmental organizations.
- Promoted and made comments on EPA's Waters of the U.S. Proposed Rule.

RIVER ACCESS AND OUTREACH

Our goal is to increase awareness of the Kaw as a drinking water source for 800,000 Kansans and access to the river.

- Organized and led twelve educational float trips for over 400 people.
- Provided five Boys and Girls Club paddling experiences in conjunction with day camps organized by the National Park Service and Freedom's Frontier. Thanks to our volunteers who spent the morning paddling with the kids!
- Worked with the KS Department of Parks, Wildlife and Tourism and the National Park Service on promotion of the KS River Water Trail, and helped organize a community float attended by over 50 paddlers on October 8, 2014.
- Presented at over thirty educational outreach events at schools, outdoors shops, churches and community gatherings in the Kansas River valley, reaching over 7,500 people in the community.
- Received six grants for a total of \$33,500 for river cleanups, floats and stormwater education (both urban and rural.)
- Developed the Kids About Water (KAW) project, a water quality issues and actions curriculum for grades 6 -12.
- Recruited volunteers for De Soto Rotary's Winesong event (FOK was one of the beneficiaries!)
- Fundraising Events: Catfish fry in Lawrence and the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction at Olathe's Bass Pro Shop.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Wild and Scenic Film Festival will be held on April 30 at the Glenwood Theater in Overland Park and on May 1 at Liberty Hall in Lawrence.

CONSIDER GIVING A MEMBERSHIP AS A HOLIDAY GIFT!

FRIENDS OF THE KAW DONATION FORM

Clean Water Creates Strong Communities – Support FOK

YES - I will support the Kansas Riverkeeper in advocacy efforts to protect and preserve the Kaw River.

Your tax-deductible contribution to Friends of the Kaw will assure the Kansas Riverkeeper's ability to spend maximum time on river protection efforts.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Enclose your check or

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation \$ _____ OR

Monthly Gift via Credit Card \$ _____

(circle one) VISA/MC/Discover

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date ____ - ____

Make your check out to: Friends of the Kaw -- Mail to: Friends of the Kaw P.O. Box 1612 Lawrence, KS 66044

Friends of the Kaw will deliver email newsletters several times a month to all members with an email address and mail printed newsletters to members without an email address twice a year.