



Sunflower Foundation

*Paving the Way: From  
Blazing Trails to  
Building Community*



*Trail Blazer Learning Series*

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**Supports communities that are exploring the creation of their first public trail. Through a structured virtual learning series and early planning funds, it strengthens local leadership, fosters community engagement, and lays the groundwork for a sustainable, well-designed trail.**



# *Session 2: Land, Routes & Partnerships*

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*Mostly focused on **your** questions related to planning your trail project*

- Mapping potential routes (parks, rail lines, rivers, connectors)
- Understanding land ownership and easements
- Building partnerships with government, nonprofits, schools, and businesses
- Working with landowners respectfully and effectively (including private landowners)



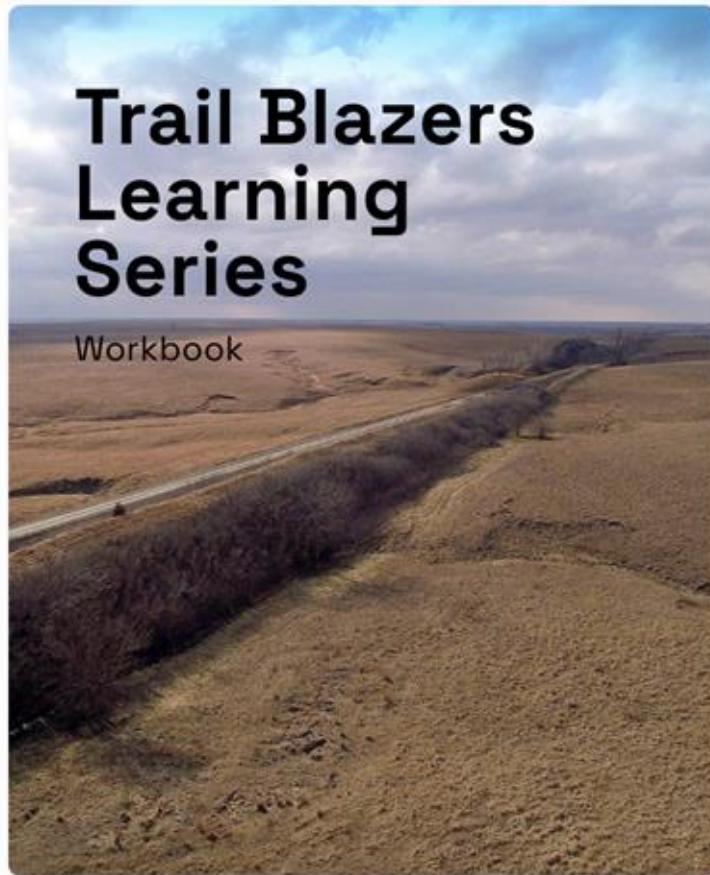
# *A few details*

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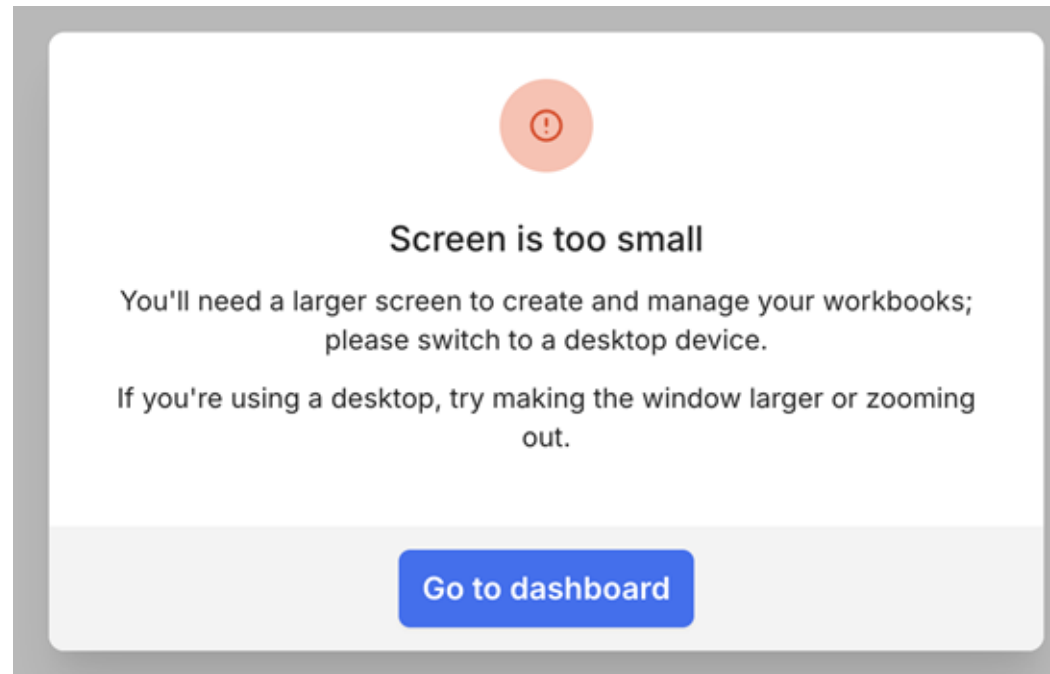
- Paving the Way Learning Library — Have you been in there?
- *Deciding on Trails* — Team leaders, did you receive your book?
- We're all friends here. Please turn your camera on, but mute your audio. Questions? Jump in, unmute yourself or raise your hand. Use the chat if you have a question on a different topic.

# Workbooks

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- Did anyone *not* receive my invitation?
- Anyone have trouble getting in?



# Joining us today

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Mike Goodwin



Mike Scanlon



Kelli Mark



Myron Leinwetter  
Rossville  
Toadstrangler Trail  
(really)



Nancy Nelson  
Chanute  
Osage Cuestas Trail



# First up — tales of two trails



## Toadstrangler Trail

Toadstrangler Trail is a public trail on privately-owned land that runs along beautiful Cross Creek in southwest Rossville, Kansas. Partners: Toadstrangler Farms, the Rossville Community Foundation, and the City of Rossville.

## Osage Cuestas Trail

A rail-trail project being developed between Chanute and Fredonia on the right-of-way of the former South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad. It will be about 19 miles long. It's a critical link between the southern end of the Prairie Spirit Trail / Southwind Rail-Trail corridor in Humboldt, and the eastern end of the Redbud Trail corridor in Augusta.



Sunflower Foundation

# *Planning trails 101 with Mike & Mike*

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# 10 BASIC TRAIL BUILDING STEPS



*Our focus today is on steps 1 & 2. Getting a good start is key.*



# Open Records for Kansas Appraisers [ORKA]: <https://www.kansasgis.org/orka/>

*Using ORKA  
to determine  
land  
ownership.*

The screenshot displays the ORKA web application interface. At the top, a black header reads "Open Records for Kansas Appraisers - Hodgeman County". Below the header is a map showing a property boundary outlined in red. The map includes labels for "SW 208 RD", "SW 209 RD", "SW 210 RD", and "NW Highway 156". A "Parcel Summary" window is open on the right side of the map, providing the following information:

- Parcel Summary (For [Full Report](#) click here)**
  - [View Multi-Parcel Report](#)
  - Parcel ID : 0421721000000001000
  - Owner Name : PAWNEE WATERSHED DIST #81
  - Location : 19005 SW HWY 156, Jetmore, KS 67854.
  - Boundary Desc : S10 , T23 , R25 , ACRES 618.8 , ALL OF SEC LESS R/W.
- Owner Information**
  - Owner : PAWNEE WATERSHED DIST #81
  - Mailing Address : PO BOX 367 JETMORE, KS 67854-0367
- Property Details**
  - Property Type : Exempt
  - Property Status : Active
  - Taxing Unit : HALLET-025
  - Neighborhood Code : 555

At the bottom of the summary window, there are links for [Building Sketch](#) and [Google Map Street View](#), and icons for [Zoom to](#), [Full Report](#), and [Clear Multi Report](#).

# *Route-planning tools*

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## **Digital Tools**

### **Smart phone gps apps**

- ❖ **Android: GPS Logger**
- ❖ **Apple: myTracks**
- ❖ **Generic: MapMyRide, Walk, Run**
- ❖ **Cloud: Strava, All Trails, etc.**

## **Digital Tools**

### **Google Earth**

- ❖ **Scouting: feature locations, pins**
- ❖ **Recording gps track**
- ❖ **Importing gps tracks**
- ❖ **KML, KMZ, GPS, GPX**
- ❖ **Route editing**
- ❖ **Route reversal:  
<https://bikehike.co.uk/mapview.php>**
- ❖ **Annotations**
- ❖ **Export to graphics software for maps**



# *Get your ducks in a row before you put in too much effort*

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- Location (public land? private land?)
- Permission (not necessarily to build something specific, but to start your exploration)
- Agreements (something written that reflects your shared understanding and commitments)



# *A little terminology*

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## **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Agreement (MOA)**

- Spells out who does what between a trail group and a landowner or partner
- Usually non-binding or lightly binding; good for early-stage working relationships

## **Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)**

- Formal contract between two or more public bodies (city, county, school district, etc.)
- Required when public entities share costs or responsibilities; in Kansas, must be approved by the Attorney General (K.S.A. 12-2901)



# *A little (more) terminology*

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## **Licensing Agreement**

- Permission from a landowner to build, maintain, and use a trail on their property under defined terms
- Common Kansas workaround: two public bodies can use a license instead of an interlocal agreement to avoid AG review

**Bottom line:** Most trails need more than one. Start simple, and get legal counsel before signing anything binding.

# Examples in your workbooks

## Memorandum of Agreement By and Between Expert Trail Builders And City Park

This Agreement is made by and between Expert Trail Builders (hereinafter referred to as Expert) and City Park (hereinafter referred to as Park) on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, for the purpose of providing trail design, construction and maintenance upon the Land Manager's property known as City Park.

The point of contact for the Land Manager shall be \_\_\_\_\_.  
The point of contact for Expert shall be \_\_\_\_\_.

This Agreement provides for recreational trail(s) to be built and maintained upon Park property (hereinafter referred to as Trail) for the public's use and enjoyment.

### A. Expert Agrees:

1. To oversee design, construction, and maintenance of Trail with the Land Manager's approval.
2. To act as a liaison between trail users, volunteers, workers and the Land Manager.
3. To routinely apprise The Land Manager of work activities and trail conditions.
4. To obtain approval from The Land Manager before any significant construction, alterations or redesign work is done on Trail.
5. To provide an annual report to the Land Manager on the number of volunteer hours worked on the trail, general conditions of the trail, a yearly summary of maintenance activities and any future improvement plans to the area.
6. To inform trail users of Trail conditions and possible Trail closures as necessary per the Land Manager.
7. To immediately notify the Land Manager's personnel and emergency officials in the event of an emergency where life or property is in danger, including but not limited to, vehicle accidents, suspicious persons, domestic disputes, search and rescue, or wildfires.
8. To comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and ordinances.

### B. The Land Manager Agrees:

1. To involve public citizens and Expert members in the Land Manager's planning and maintenance of Trail.

## USD 367 LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF OSAWATOMIE (For Flint Hills Trail access across School Property)

This LICENSE AGREEMENT is made March 1, 2021 between the City of Osawatomie, a City of the Second Class of the State of Kansas, show address is c/o City Manager, 439 Main Street, PO Box 37, Osawatomie, KS 66064 (Grantee) and the Osawatomie Unified School District (USD) 367, whose address is 1200 Trojan Drive, Osawatomie, KS 66064 (Grantor).

### RECITALS

1. Grantor is the owner of property known as the Trojan Elementary School located at 1901 Parker Ave, Osawatomie, KS 66064.
2. Grantee is the owner of property known as the Flint Hills Trail, as depicted in Exhibit B. A portion of the existing trail is located or planned to be located on land that's part of the Trojan Elementary Parcel Shown on Exhibit C.
3. Grantor has agreed to grant a temporary construction license and minimum 10-year license, with automatic extensions on a portion of the Grantor's Property for the benefit of Grantee and subject to the terms and conditions herein. The purpose of this License Agreement is to permit Grantee to construct, maintain, repair, and replace railbed that currently cuts through the property and turn it into a multi-use trail.

### AGREEMENT

1. Grant of Temporary Construction License. Grantor hereby licenses to Grantee a temporary construction license over and across the lands shown in Exhibit "C" attached hereto and made a part hereof within the Trojan School Property ("Temporary Construction License").
2. Grant of Licenses. For an annual license fee of one dollar (\$1.00) due on the annual anniversary of this Agreement, Grantor hereby grants to Grantee a license over and across the lands shown in Exhibit "C" attached hereto and made a part hereof within the Trojan School Property (License Area) until March 31, 2041. Subject to termination by either party as provided in Section 4 below. The License shall be used by the Grantee for public access to the trail and for the maintenance of the trail for pedestrian use. Pedestrian use shall be broadly defined to include foot traffic, horses, bicycle, e-bicycle, wheelchair, manually-powered mobility aids and other power-driven mobility devices used by individuals with disabilities. No other motorized access shall be permitted except for vehicles operation by the City of Osawatomie (and their contractors) and Kanza Rail-Trail Conservancy for maintenance and repair. The Grantee shall pay



# *What about you? What's on your mind?*

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What are your burning questions about trail planning?

We're going to take this one trail/community at a time and talk about where you are with trail planning.



# Workbook & homework

**Wobo** 11:52 PM  
Your instructor has shared a workbook with you  
To: Michele Archie

Welcome back to Wobo!

**wobo**

Let's get started,

Your instructor has invited you to use Wobo during your online course to help you take notes and work through exercises. Looks like you've used Wobo before, so simply log in to get started.

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 Sunflower Trail Blazers Learning Series  
April 19, 2026

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**wobo**

Sunflower Trail Blazers Learning Series

Workbook cover page

Session 1: Why Invest in Trails?



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**wobo**

Sunflower Trail Blazers Learning Series

Workbook cover page

Session 1: Why Invest in Trails?

- What's your vision for your trail? Why do...
- What's you being about your trail? Why do...
- How do you plan to fund your trail? Why do...
- Do you have a permit, what do you need?
- Our May session will focus on Land, Routes & Partnerships.
- What's one small, specific way you could...
- How do you plan to use your trail for pe...
- Name one group of potential users you'd l...
- What's one thing you'd like to see added to...
- What's one resource you brought to the m...

100 = Our community came up with this idea together

1 ————— 100

**Our May session will focus on Land, Routes & Partnerships. Which of these do you most want to learn about? (Check all that apply.)**

- Mapping potential routes (parks, rail lines, rivers, connectors)
- Understanding land ownership and easements
- Building partnerships with government, nonprofits, schools, and businesses
- Working with adjacent landowners respectfully and effectively
- Other...

What's one small, specific way you could invite community input in the next 60 days — even if you're not planning big community...

[Back](#)

# *Thank you!*

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