

KRRC NEWSLETTER

Knife River Futures: Community Updates from ESMC & KRRC

August 5th
Knife River Rec Center
2 Separate Sessions:
4pm & 7pm
See you there!



Lake County Board of Commissioners Meeting

August 19th
Knife River Rec Center
6pm-8pm
All are welcome to attend!

Community Picnic

August 26th
Knife River Rec Center
Starts 5:30pm
Let's celebrate all KRRC
members, volunteers and
new neighbors!
Games, music and freshly
picked sweet corn from
WI will be provided.
Thank you to the Bujold's
for the sweet corn!

Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) Grant Update

The KR committee formed to study a new community center with the Empowering Small Minnesota Communities Grant, through the U of MN Extension, has been holding bi-weekly Zoom meetings. On Monday June 30, we welcomed Senator Grant Hauschild, Commissioner Rich Sve, Commissioner Ida Rukavina and Community Development Director Whitney Ridlon, from IRRRB, as well as representatives from the Empowering Small MN Communities Program from the U of MN for a tour of Knife River. Tour included the beach, KR Heritage Center and the Viking boat, with a Q&A after the tour. We shared a slide presentation of Knife River that showed all the aspects of the KRRC and volunteer run projects.

The August community meeting is to share findings from the ESMC work so far, and to learn more about the context, site possibilities, and funding strategies for a new community center and other projects.

Please refer to kniferiver.org 'news tab' to refresh on key themes from previous October's listening sessions.

Committee members are Patricia IngleMeyer, Lee Bujold, Keri Cavitt, Steve Carlson, Jodi Anderson, Chris Skadberg.

Soccer Updates

KR kids soccer has received a facelift this summer. The goals have been repainted and new nets installed. The field is chalked for a 'near' regulation size U10 game.

Thanks Ryan Cavitt for heading this project!



The **Weed Whip Relay Team** have been keeping our trail beautiful and accessible! Two featured workers: Lee Cohen and Tom Peterson. Not shown Scott Jaspersen, Steve Hatton and Steve Betzler. Many thanks for your hard work!



Knife River Stormwater Planning Update

Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and Lake County Highway engineers continue to review the proposed locations and design. The potential Alger Smith Project needs further consideration of the stormwater outlet options to avoid Knife River.

Community input "wants and goals" regarding this project can be passed along at the August 5th ESMC listening Sessions.

If unable to attend, email ideas, questions and concerns to krrcemail@gmail.com



WHO USES THE KR TRAIL?



The Knife River Hiking Trail is a six mile, double loop, foot traffic only, year-round trail maintained by the KRRRC. Have you wondered who hikes the Knife River Trail? Let's take a look at the trail registries located at the Shilhon and Hawk Hill Trail to see what we can learn. *NOTE: As we look at the numbers it's important to remember that this 'analysis' is not scientific, not all trail users register (local, regular users particularly).*

What stands out for June, a wet and muddy month on the front end of the tourist season?

43 Groups Forty three groups of hikers tromped on the trail (12 groups entered at Shilhon and 21 groups at Hawk Hill).

64 - 100 Hikers Sixty four people registered their names. Since we don't record group size we estimate that the 43 groups represent approximately 100 registered hikers. How many unregistered users?

Hometowns A surprise and a mystery. June records show that all 12 registered groups entering at the Shilhon trailhead were from Minnesota (Duluth, MPLS, St. Paul, Winona, Roseville etc.) The 21 registered groups of hikers at the Hawk Hill recorded predominantly national and one international hometowns: Iowa, North Dakota, Texas, St. Paul, MPLS, Italy, California, Wisconsin, etc.

What Did They Think? Looking at the comments, sounds like people enjoyed their time:

"Good trail and Overlook!" "Hiked barefoot!" "Did the whole trail this time!" "We hiked in rain!" "Muddy @ parts, gorgeous views!" "Yes!" "Thank you..."

Summing up our informal survey, we can conclude that the Knife River Hiking Trail is enjoyed by our community and its visitors. **Take a Hike!** And if you'd like to get involved in on-going trail maintenance projects send an email to the KRRRC: krrcemail@gmail.com All welcome!

Pickle Ball Clinic Reminder: Every Thursday through August

9am at the John Geist Tennis Courts *paddle and balls available

Bring- court shoes, hat, sunglasses, water bottle

Court reserved for 1 1/2 hour of play!

Call for volunteers

We are well underway in planning for 2025, but would love to have a few more general volunteers and chair positions covered as part of that planning. Contact chair hhedlund.dl@gmail.com or volunteer coordinator, randi.alreck@gmail.com if interested. We are specifically looking for

- Co-chair for security
- Additional crew for event set up and tear down Weekend event workers

A special shout out to Lovin' Lakes County for their sponsorship and to the KRRC Board for their continued support of this event. Helene Hedlund, Event Chair hhedlund.dl@gmail.com



Greetings JB Volunteers and KRRC Members

The big news is Lovin Lakes County has approved our grant proposal for \$20,000 and the Knife River Rec Council has designated \$5,000 in funds as required by LLC. We have received the first half of the grant to help fund expenses as they arise.

What's back for 2025?

- The always popular Bakeri that includes all-day lefse and krumkake demonstrations
- The indoor craft market, that will feature a \$1.00 table for youth to be able to shop for family and friends
- The outdoor market is always extraordinary ... showcasing upscale artisan products... Check out our webside julebyen.us for participant details.
- The Live Nativity organized by Knife River Lutheran Church will be back, but with a new time. Mark your calendars for 11:00 on Sunday to be here and see the story of Jesus' birth. JOYFUL choir will be adding to the story with musical offerings.
- Our customary youth crafts and outdoor youth games – free of charge
- Troll Village will add to the excitement with the Troll Train, Two Harbors Farmers Market full of local vendors, food trucks and much more.
- Odyssey (Larsmont) will again donate all supplies, prepare and deliver the popular rice pudding. Thank you for that.
- Veteran sponsor New Scenic picnic tables will be on site again to add to outdoor seating at the primary event site and Troll Village. Thank you.
- You can find a full list of sponsors, vendors and activities on our website.

KRRC 4th of July Fun!

Thanks to Polly Sannes and Anne Skadberg for putting the picnic together and special thanks to Andy and Chelsea from Great! Lake Candy Store for handing out candy and Randy Ellestad for driving his vintage truck for candy distribution. It always takes a village and ours always steps up!



2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Member(s) Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Membership: Family @ \$25/yr. _____ Individual @ \$15/yr. _____ Additional Donation
\$_____ Make checks payable to: KRRC

If you'd prefer to use a credit or debit card, please complete the following:

Card Type: Mastercard Visa American Express

Card Number: _____

Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing Address (if different than listed above): _____

Signature Authorizing Payment: _____

Mail completed form to: KRRC, PO Box 266, Knife River, MN 55609

KRRC
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