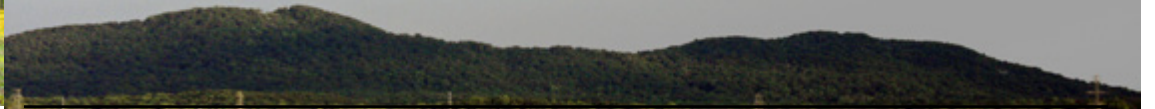




EARTHWORKS



Volume 18, Issue 7

July, 2024

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Photos - right, by Fred Feltmann

160th Anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain Highlights

See the August issue for additional Photos of the weekend's events!



August Newsletter Deadline

If you wish to have an article published in the August Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than July 21st!

Calendar of Events - Friends/KMTC

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|---|---------------------------------|
| July, 2024 | | | |
| 7/13 | 8:00 am - noon | Parking area on Gilbert Rd., across from 24-Gun Trail Head - See page 14 | July, 2024 Work Day |
| August, 2024 | | | |
| 8/10 | 8:00 am - noon | Picnic Area adjacent to the Visitor Center - Park in field adjacent to the Picnic area | August, 2024 Work Day |
| September, 2024 | | | |
| 9/14 | 8:00 am - noon | Cheatham Hill Rd.. Parking Lot (Field across the Rd.) | September, 2024 Work Day |

Current Status Of Park

All NPS outdoor events at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park are being conducted.

All trails are open, except as noted, below. All parking lots are open. The Mountain Road parking lot is open when the Mountain Road is open.

Visitor Center is now open; masks are **optional**.

The Visitor Center theater is open - the movie is being shown.

The Mountain Rd.. is open to motorized vehicles on weekdays only (excluding major holidays)

The shuttle bus is now transporting visitor to/from the Visitor Center/Kennesaw Mountain Top Parking Lot on weekends.

Trail closures

The horse trail crossing on John Ward Creek on the Kolb Farm East Trail is closed until further notice because of the treacherous creek crossing there.

See pages 7 for a listing of NPS-sponsored events for the month of July.



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Guidebook

The Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Guidebook sponsored by the Friends of KMNPB is now available on Amazon.

“Earthworks” is published monthly jointly by the Friends of KMNPB & the Kennesaw Mountain Trails Club.

Editor: Fred Feltmann
678-315-5888

E-mail: faf1948@bellsouth.net

Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

List of Abbreviations

FOKM - Friends of Kennesaw Mountain

KMNBP - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

KMTC - Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club

NPS/KEMO - National Park Service/Kennesaw Mountain

VHP - Veterans History Project

VC - Visitor Center

Newsletter Sign-up

Would you like to receive our newsletter? To sign up, click on the following link: <http://eepurl.com/gKjX1n> Complete and submit this form. You'll be added to our subscription list.

Wish to unsubscribe? Simply follow the instructions at the bottom of the email forwarding the newsletter link, and you'll be permanently removed from our mailing list. To re-subscribe, you will need to use a different email address - removal is permanent for the original email address!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park
900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive
Kennesaw, GA 30152

(770) 427-4686 phone
www.nps.gov/kemo

National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30152, (770) 427-4686 phone,
www.nps.gov/kemo

Kennesaw Mountain News Release

Release Date: Immediately

Contact: Marjorie Thomas, Marjorie_thomas@nps.gov, 770-427-4686 x 231

John Ward Creek Crossing Closed to Horseback Riders

Kennesaw, GA – Effective immediately, the John Ward Creek crossing just south of the Illinois Monument is closed to horseback riders until further notice. This closure stems from a safety concern due to hazardous conditions relating to an unstable streambed. The closure affects the creek crossing between Milepost 3.5 and Milepost 4 of the Kolb’s Farm East Trail.

Superintendent Patrick Gamman states, “We are concerned for the safety of all park users. Crossing John Ward Creek at this section of the trail poses a risk that we want to alert our horse community to, as it could potentially cause harm to both horse and rider. We will be working as quickly as possible to mitigate this problem.”

Please contact the park at 770-427-4686 or visit the park’s website at www.nps.gov/kemo for further information.

[The National Park Service](http://www.nps.gov)

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at the [NPS website](http://www.nps.gov), and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nps), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/nps), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/nps), and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/nps).

July, 2024 Update
Work on the bridge replacement is previously scheduled to begin in August, 2024 has been indefinitely postponed.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Newsletter 3

<http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>



Purpose and Need

The Park is redesigning the Kennesaw Mountain Drive to decrease user group conflicts and allow for the safe operation of a shuttle bus to transport visitors to the top of the mountain.

Background

Currently, Kennesaw Mountain Drive is a two-lane, asphalt-paved roadway, approximately 20 feet wide, with 10-foot-wide lanes, sustained grades exceeding 12% and one foot or less of shoulder for approximately 80% of its length of 1.2 miles. There are 9 blind

curves and steep drop offs. These conditions, in addition to high use by pedestrians and bicyclists has resulted in safety concerns. Planning and civic engagement efforts were conducted by the Park in 2017 to propose the use of parking fees and a shuttle system to transport visitors up to the top of the mountain rather than private vehicle use in order to decrease conflicts between vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. The Park is now in the implementation stage, designing the shuttle stop area and determining appropriate bicycle use times for when the shuttle is not in operation.

Project Description

The proposed changes would include expanding shuttle bus operations to be daily, a pedestrian lane, and limited bicycle access to the road (subject to certain hours). The proposed redesigned road would have a 10-foot shared bus/bike lane on the inside curve with 2-way traffic and a 10-foot pedestrian lane on the outside curve. New pavement markers would be painted along the 1.2 miles of road to delineate separation between pedestrian and bike/bus lanes. In addition, a shuttle stop would be constructed at the base of Kennesaw Mountain Drive next to the Visitor Center.

Engagement Opportunities

The Park is seeking feedback on the time of day, days of the week, and seasonality of bicycle use for Kennesaw Mountain Drive. Bicycle access is proposed to be permitted from 8:00AM to 9:00AM and 4:30PM-5:30PM.

Comment online from June 10, 2024 to July 12, 2024: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/KennesawMountainDrive>

The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically through this website. Click on the “Open for Comment” link on the left side of the screen to submit a comment.

Written comments can be submitted by mail and must be postmarked by July 12, 2024, to:

Superintendent
Attn: Kennesaw Mountain Drive Redesign
900 Kennesaw Mountain Dr
Kennesaw, GA 30152

See the hyperlink on the next page for a direct link to the comment page.



Next Steps

The Park intends to cover the proposed work through a categorical exclusion anticipated to be completed this fall (2024). Construction and implementation is expected to begin Spring of 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why are bicycles being restricted during shuttle hours?

The shuttle bus would share a lane with bicycles. Due to blind curves, sustained grades, and steep drop offs, it is unsafe for bicycles and the shuttle to utilize the road at the same time.

- Why could the road not be widened to accommodate the shuttle and bicycles?

Widening the road would be costly and require significant changes and infrastructure in the adjacent land features, having the potential to impact the cultural and natural resources at the Park.

- Would pedestrian access to Kennesaw Mountain Drive be limited?

Pedestrians will be permitted on Kennesaw Mountain Drive when the Park is open but restricted to the pedestrian lane. Pedestrians will also have access to the summit of Big Kennesaw Mountain via Kennesaw Mountain Trail.

- What will the policy be regarding other wheeled modes of transportation such as skateboards?

Other wheeled modes of transportation are not permitted on Kennesaw Mountain Drive.

***Comments may be submitted through the following link
(by no later than July 12, 2024):***



<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=137589>

Park Moments

A pair of young bucks near the 24 Gun Trail Head on Gilbert Road - 6/8/24. Photos by Fred Feltmann.



Mountain Store Trailer Is Now Open.

Eastern National has opened the Mountain Store Trailer in the parking area at the top of Kennesaw Mountain, and it will remain open on weekends and major holidays until the last weekend in September (September 29th). The store will be open from 10 am until 5 pm and have hats, t-shirts, snacks, water, Powerade and ice cream for sale for our hikers and other visitors to the mountain.



Newsletter 6

<http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org>



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Interpretive Programs for **July**

*The Calendar of events will be sent out separately when it becomes available.
In the meantime, please go to www.nps.gov/kemo and then go to the
calendar tab. Select "July" and then "search." It should bring up all of the
events currently planned for July.*



The Friends Of Kennesaw Mountain

The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Your Membership helps to fund this mission.

Please join us.

Our Mission:

The mission of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and the local community to provide volunteers and raise funding to support activities such as:

- Visitor & Away Events
- Transportation, Housing, and Feeding of volunteer groups (example: Living History, Student Conservation Association, Invasive Plants Team)
- Museum Upgrades and Indoor and Outdoor Exhibit Additions (& the Wallis House)
- Restrooms, Parking, and Picnic Area Facilities
- Trails, Fire Roads, and Bridges Maintenance
- Educational Day Trips and Vacation Camps
- Volunteer-In-Park Training Programs

The ultimate goal is to create endowments for the most significant expense items and move them toward a sustainable and perpetual self-funded status that reduces the need for these items to rely on federal budget support.

The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Webstore

The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is excited to announce our new webstore! Our first product is a unisex T-shirt, which is 100% cotton. The design on the back of the shirt shows Kennesaw Mountain and the Visitor Center. It is inspired by the New Deal travel posters from the 1930's. The shirt can be purchased online for \$20 at <https://friendsofkmnbp.org/shop/>. Visit our website! *New items have been added!*

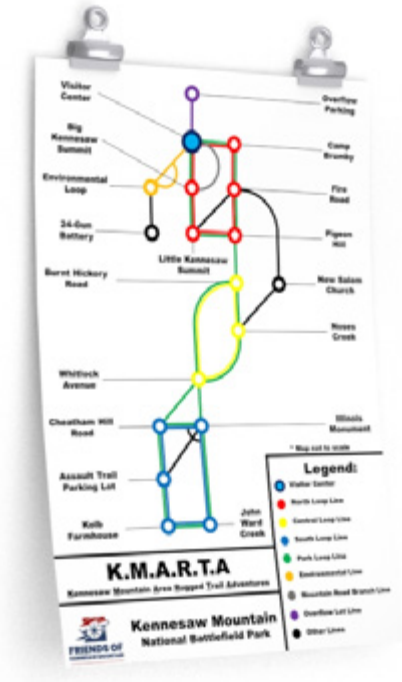
Andrew Bramlett



Some of the items for sale.



Front



Back



Become a supporting member of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP)

The Friends of KMNBP's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

These include:

Hiking/Equestrian Trail improvements and Maintenance

Museum improvements and expansion

Living History Demonstrations

Additional parking and restrooms

Guest speakers

More

Our long term goal is to establish endowments to provide perpetual sources of funding for the programs that make the park special for all of us and generations to come.



Your annual membership will help us achieve our goals. We are a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization. 100% of all funds received are put to use for and at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Annual membership levels:

- Hiker up \$249
- Trail Guide \$250
- Peak Performer \$500
- Superintendent's Circle \$1,000
- Canine Corps \$120
- Park Sustainer \$10/mo+ (\$120 Annually)
- Tribute Salute – Amount given in honor/memory of someone



Six Ways To Donate

You can support the Friends in 6 ways:

1. Directly through our website - <https://friendsofkmnbp.org/giving-membership/donate/>
2. Through PayPal - <https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/3750205>
3. Through Guidestar (Network for Good) - <https://www.nfggive.com/donation/83-4627827>
4. QR Code:



5. DipJar located in the Visitor Center - New!



6. Or, by mailing to:
 Friends of KMNBP
 905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive
 Kennesaw, GA 30152

Thanks for your support!

Please Use the pledge card on the following page when mailing in a donation.

Please check with your company to see if they will match your gift.



2024 Pledge Card

Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 2024 Pledge Card

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

- Hiker up \$249
- Trail Guide \$250
- Peak Performer \$500
- Superintendent's Circle \$1,000
- Canine Corps \$120
- Park Sustainer \$10/mo+ (\$120 Annually)
- Tribute Salute – Amount given in honor/memory of someone

Complete and mail to:

Friends of Kennesaw Mountain
 Attn: 2023 Pledge
 905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive
 Kennesaw, GA 30152

| <u>Pledge:</u> | <u>Amt</u> |
|--|-------------------|
| General Fund - Friends | _____ |
| Trail Club - | _____ |
| Living History - | _____ |
| Endowment Fund | _____ |
| <i>Check one or designate amount for each.</i> | |

One Payment _____
 Quarterly Payment _____
 Monthly Payment _____
 Does your company match? Y__ N__
 Invoice me _____
 (Monthly__ Quarterly__)
 Check enclosed _____
 (Payable to "***Friends of KMNBP***")
 Credit Card Number: _____
 Expiration date _____
 Security Code _____
 I wish to remain anonymous _____



EARTHWORKS



06-08-24 Workday

This work plan covered the removal and replacement of the bridge going from the end of the 24 Gun Trail to where the trail meets Gilbert Road, building a berm about halfway down the hill, and trimming branches sticking out into the trail so that they do not touch visitors as they walk though.

On Friday, June 8, Aron P, Bill, Mark, Stewart, Tom, and I reviewed the work with David at the work site.

We had 13 crew leaders for the workday. The Crew Leaders were Aron P, Bill, Curt, Donald, Fred, Geoff, Mark, Rich, Robert, Scott, Stewart, Tom, and Mike. We had 3 Crew Leaders under instruction; they were Aashrith, Aaron O, and Jenny and we had 3 Ambassadors; they were Laurie, Katherine, and Wendy. They did registration, directed the volunteers to the parking area, and assisted with directing visitors around the work area. We had 4 volunteers. The volunteers were from the Atlanta Outdoor Club (3, Mark and I were both) and individuals.

On Saturday, I welcomed the volunteers, conducted the safety briefing, and split our Crew Leaders and Volunteers into teams.

Continued on Page13



Crew Leader & Trail Ambassador Positions Available!

Contact Mike Collett (regarding Crew Leader positions) or Kathy Van Valkenburg/Wendy Turner (Trail Ambassador positions) if interested.

A training class for prospective Trail Ambassadors will be announced shortly.

Mike Collett - trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Kathy Van Valkenburg/Wendy Turner - ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

7-13-24 Work Day

We will again meet at the field across from the 24-Gun Trail head on Gilbert Rd.. Registration will open at 8 am. Temporary parking passes will be provided. Long pants and close toed shoes are required for the work day. Recommend you also bring water and gloves. We will be rebuilding another bridge on the 24-Gun Trail. See page 14 for map for parking.

A Special Thanks!

Each year we have various groups who come out and help us. Henceforth, we will make every attempt to list your group here for the current/past fiscal year. If you are participating as a group, be sure to let us know when you are registering!

Following is a list, in alphabetical order, of the groups who participated during Fiscal 2023 (October 2022- September 2023 and Fiscal 2024 (October 2023- Present):

FY 2023

- ALLATOONA HS NJROTC*
- ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB (AOC)*
- GA TECH ROTC*
- HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL*
- HILLGROVE HS NJROTC*
- KING'S ACADEMY HS AJROTC*
- KSU*
- KSU, ALPHA PHI OMEGA*
- KSU VOLUNTEER DAY STUDENTS*
- MARIETTA HS SPORTSMANS CLUB*



FY 2024

- ALLATOONA HS NJROTC*
- ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB*
- ETOWAH HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE SERVICE CONNECTION CLUB*
- HILLGROVE HS NJROTC*
- KSU*

This Past Month's Volunteers

For the June Work Day, we had 13 Crew Leaders, 3 Trail Ambassadors and 4 volunteers - One group was represented:

- ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB (AOC)*

06-08-24 Work Day Continued from Page 12

Fred took pictures and Geoff directed visitors around the work area while the trail was closed.

Donald built the berm and Curt assisted the clearing of branches and did minor trail maintenance for about a quarter of a mile from the bridge with 2 of the volunteers and one under instruction.

The rest of us worked on removing the old bridge and building the new bridge.



Before.



During.



After.
(Photos by Mike Collett)

Three hours and fifty minutes later we opened the new bridge.

Mike Collett
Trails Director



Location of Temporary Parking for July 13th, 2024, Work Day.

Parking will be in the field adjacent to the Trail head for the 24-Gun Trail. This is a temporary parking for the Work Day only!!!!

Register for Our Work Days!

Be sure to register online for our Work Days:



July 13 Work Day - 24-Gun Trail Head on Gilbert Rd. - <https://signup.com/go/hC4Ys9>

August 10 Work Day - Visitor Center Field Parking Area - <https://signup.com/go/aEsyFCA>

By registering, we can be better prepared with the amount of tools, bottled water, gloves, etc. on hand.

Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming Work Day Schedule:
See the sign-up links, above.

The Trail Club will provide supervision and tools. Volunteers should wear long pants and closed toed shoes. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water, work gloves and masks (Masks are a personal preference.) The NPS Volunteer Service Agreement and COVID forms are required, signed by a parent or guardian, if the student is under 18 years old. The forms are available on the trail club web site: <http://www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/volunteer.php>

For **July's** work day, parking will again be in the field across the street from the 24-Gun Trail Head on Gilbert Rd.. See page 14. Vehicle Entrance Passes will issued at registration.

For **August's** work day, parking and registration will be in the field near the Visitor's Center, adjacent to the picnic area. Vehicle Entrance Passes will issued at registration.

If your school, church, business, or community organization

would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity, e-mail us at trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org at least 4 weeks in advance. Trail work can be performed any day of the week.

We work closely with the Park Service and assist the park staff by providing critically needed volunteer effort to install signs, build bridges, and maintain the 20+ miles of trails. Since our beginning in 2002, the Trail Club has donated over 281,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

We hope to see you at a work day as soon as we return to our normal work days.

Cancellation policy

If rain is forecast for the work day, we will issue a cancellation notice on our website at least 24 hours before hand. In addition, during the winter months, if the temperature is forecast to be below 40 degrees, we will also issue a cancellation at least 24 hours prior to the work day.

KMTC Contact List - Updated 4/16/24

| POSITION | NAME | E-MAIL |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Trails Director | Mike Collett | trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org |
| Community Volunteer Director | Vacant* | volunteerdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org |
| Newsletter Editor | Fred Feltmann | comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org |
| Information/Technology Director | Jerry Givan | webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org |
| Trail Ambassador Co-Director | Kathy Van Valkenburg | ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org |
| Trail Ambassador Co-Director | Wendy Turner | ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org |
| Plants Director | Danny Leigh | plants@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org |
| KMTC Website | http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/ | |
| NPS Website | https://www.nps.gov/KEMO | |
| Facebook Page | http://www.facebook.com/kmtcsocial | |
| Volunteer Sign-up website* | See article, above. | |

* updated

6/8/24 Work Day Photos

Photos, below, by Fred Feltmann

Photos, below, by Scott Mackay



Sponsors/Partners Corner

Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!



<http://americanhiking.org>



KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Trail Maintenance Map

