

February 7, 2023

Rep. Ken Rahjes, Chairman
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Kansas State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Topeka, Kansas [66612]

Chairman Rahjes,

Ken – Bret Greenwood here – when I said, “talk with you soon,” after our conversation during the Trails Appreciation Day on January 30, I had no idea it would be this soon!

I understand that the gifting of the Lehigh Portland park to Kansas Wildlife and Parks was hush-hush back then. Now that it’s out in the open, I want to lend my support to its receipt and designation as a Kansas State Park.

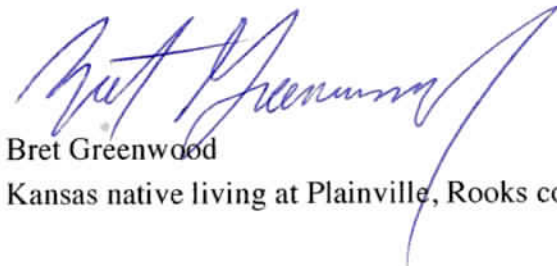
If you remember my story, I moved out to Plainville almost nine years ago to be closer to my retired parents. The first thing that I noticed, and missed, was the easy access to trails that I enjoyed in the eastern part of the state, especially Topeka and Lyndon. There simply was no place close by out here to cycle safely and easily (gravel grinding is not restful to me).

What’s been accomplished with the Lehigh Portland trails is simply delightful and inspiring for other counties and organizations across the state. It’s not about east-vs-west, but about showcasing our rural landscapes with trails and amenities that are popular with the masses.

I’m sure you’ll receive other letters which speak to the impact parks and trails have on commerce, tourism, healthy living and so on. All true! I want to emphasize the importance of this park as being accessible – a rural, or at least “small town,” destination within easy reach of other larger communities.

The initial phase of heavy lifting is complete: a beautiful location, with trails and amenities built with the local, and larger, community in mind. As a Kansas State Park, the uniqueness of the Lehigh Portland will be preserved and augmented for even greater access by all Kansans and beyond.

Please share my support with the other members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. I thank you for your consideration!



Bret Greenwood

Kansas native living at Plainville, Rooks county