

1. Pause Point #1 - In August 2013, Kaw Nation was awarded a grant from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for a dance arbor and improvements to Allegawaho Park. K-Construction built the arbor which was dedicated April 25, 2015. Public campsites were added with the help of the Young Foundation Grant.

2. Kanza Earth Lodge This 25' diameter replica of a Kanza earth lodge gives park visitors an opportunity to learn about the traditional Kanza life style. Visitors can experience 'first hand' what it was like to live as a Kanza in homes of this type in the Council Grove area. The Kanza used at least two different types of homes. When traveling to hunt buffalo the tipi was typical. The more "permanent" home was a bark or earth lodge. The earth lodge structure, funded through the Atchison County Historical Society Challenge Cost Share Grant and the Kaw Nation, was built over a two-year span of time by volunteers and Kaw Nation staff.

3. Pause Point #2 At the center of this pause point is a cast stone pattern taken from a beaded Kanza belt. Sixteen Kanza clan camp names are engraved in the outer rim of the circle. Interspersed with the clan names, patterns taken from the beaded belt work appear on the north, east, south, and west sections of the rim. All images were engraved in cast stone sections with relief areas filled with color epoxy.

4. Pause Point #3 A bronze plaque of the Kaw Tribal Seal is located at the center this pause point. Cast stone centerpieces contain patterns of ribbon weaving for which the Kanza are famous. Images are engraved in cast stone sections with relief areas filled with color epoxy. A prayer that is written in the outer rim of the circle reads: "Wakanda - Bless all who walk here. May we know and respect all your creation and what you have taught our people. Wíblahaⁿ."

5. Monument to the Unknown Kanza Warrior The limestone tower you see near on the trail was erected by local citizens in 1925. The thirty-five-foot high spire was built as a tribute to the memory of the Kansas' presence in the area. This commemorative act was prompted by the discovery of a warrior's remains exposed by cut bank erosion in a nearby streambed. The warrior and his burial paraphernalia were entombed in the base of the monument in August 1925 during an elaborate dedication ceremony attended by several members of the Kaw tribe. **The Kaw Nation asks that you honor the deceased by maintaining a respectful distance from the monument.**

6. Little John Creek Valley Overlook

The timber stretching north-south in the valley below marks the course of the Little John Creek. This valley offered the Kansas abundant timber, water, grass, and rich soil. During the Kanza occupation of the Council Grove Reservation from 1848 to 1873, they lived nearby in a village. The first village chief, Peg Ah Ho Shee, died in the late 1860s. He was succeeded by Chief Wah Ti An Gah

7. Promontory This highest point in the park affords a wonderful view of the surrounding Flint Hills landscape. You have entered one of the last vestiges of a vast tallgrass prairie that once covered much of the Midwest. As the white frontier expanded west thousands of "sodbuster" plows tilled the prairie grasses under. But here on the western edge of that vanished tallgrass expanse, prairie plants still flourish in regions of thin-soiled uplands known as the "Flint Hills." **Note: Visitors with health restrictions may want to skip the steep climb to the point.**

8. Prairie Restoration The Kaw Nation has converted thirty-five acres of bottomland into tallgrass prairie. Native tallgrasses such as big bluestem, switch grass, Indian grass, and indigenous wildflowers now flourish where farm crops once grew.

9. Grandfather Oak This fabulous bur oak easily pre-dates the Kanza occupation of this valley. The Kanza word for bur oaks is *tta ska hu*. Like the Kansas, Bur Oaks are native to this area. The Bur Oak is a long-lived species; some like this one have survived for more than two hundred years. The resiliency and strength of bur oaks are qualities reflective of the tenacity and purpose of the Kaw Nation in reclaiming a portion of the tribe's former homeland in Kansas.

10. Wah Sko Mi A's Hut These stone ruins are the remains of one of 138 huts the U. S. government built as dwellings for the Kansas in 1862. The stones were quarried from the side of the hill you just descended. The mortar is made up, in part, of the gravel from the streambed of Little John Creek. The measurements of the three huts in this park are 16 by 20 feet. The Kansas chose not to live in these structures, using them as stables for their horses instead.

11. Fallen Cottonwood Today most of this immense cottonwood sprawls across the ground, nurturing the variegated fungi sprouting from its lifeless hulk. The cottonwood held spiritual significance to the Plains Indians. The slightest breeze will make the cottonwood leaves shake and clatter like raindrops. The seemingly constant rustling of leaves reminded them of the wind, which the Indians believed served as the path and voices of Higher Powers. The Kansas are strongly associated with wind, as the original version of the tribal name, *aca*, has been translated to mean *People of the South Wind*.

12. Kick A Poo's Hut Why did the Kansas reject these huts? They preferred round dwellings, such as their tipis and bark-and-mat lodges, in which they had lived comfortably for generations. The huts were designed as single-family dwellings similar to that of the Euro Americans whereas the Kanza had lived communally for centuries with an entire family inhabiting one dwelling. In 1862 the government was assigning 40-acre allotments to each member of the tribe. The whites hoped that the Kansas would spread out over the reservation, farming the land adjoining their new huts in the European way. The Kansas preferred to remain in their three villages, where they could continue to practice their ancient communal traditions.

13. Little John Creek The source of this creek is just a few miles north. Little John Creek is an intermittent stream, with water running through it in wet seasons and after significant rainfall. But even in dry times, you can find a few pools. The Little John joins the Big John Creek less than a mile southwest of this point. Big John Creek shortly flows into the Neosho River, which joins the Arkansas River in Oklahoma. People have mined the Little John Creek in the past for gravel; some of the mounds you have seen along the trail are the residues of these excavations.

14. Ke La Lah Heo's Hut The huts had one room with a fireplace. After the Kansas were forced to leave, the settlers lived in these structures. Later, after they had built their homes, the white people used the huts as outbuildings for their farms. The panels of corrugated metal in the vicinity of the huts are relics of the Euro-American period of occupation.

15. End of the Trail As you leave the park, take a minute to visit the stabilized ruins of the "Agency Building" and speculate on the events which may have occurred there as the Kansas interacted with the government officials. It was at the Kaw Agency in June 1872 that the great Kanza chief Allegawaho made his eloquent protest against his people being forced once again to move from their beloved homeland.

“The White people treat the Konzey like a flock of turkeys: they chase us from one stream and then chase us to another stream, so that soon they will chase us over the mountains and into the ocean.”

Kanza Chief Allegawaho, 1872

Today you have walked in the path of the Kansas who lived here, the farmers who plowed the fields and the deer who created the woodland track. Research will continue to inform and shape our interpretation. We hope you will return to experience the park as it evolves.

Revised May 2016

KANZA HERITAGE TRAIL

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KAW HUTS

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The two-mile long Kanza Heritage Trail loops through the beautiful and historic 168-acre Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park owned and managed by the Kaw Nation, a self-governing tribe of more than 3,300 members. Currently based in north central Oklahoma, the Kaw Nation is actively working to regain its cultural heritage, which was nearly lost when the Tribe was forcibly removed from Kansas in 1873. By walking this Trail, you will engage a wonderful landscape steeped in natural beauty and the rich cultural history of the Kanza people who once lived here.

Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is one of the 25 Historic Sites of Council Grove & Morris County.