

Rockefeller Prairie Trail student projects: Trailhead shelter



This shelter, known as the Rockefeller Prairie Trailhead shelter, was the second project commissioned by the KU Field Station through the KU School of Architecture, Design and Planning. It was built by 15 students in the design-build Studio 409 course in spring 2009 under the direction of Prof. Nils Gore. The students who created the shelter understood that the trailhead would serve a public outreach function, inviting the public to enjoy the lands of the KU Field Station and gain an understanding of the research being done here by KU scientists and students, as well as visiting scientists.

The shelter was conceived as a pre-fabricated structure. It was built of galvanized steel tubes and wood in the school's warehouse on west campus, then transported here to the Rockefeller Prairie Trailhead for installation. Students in the class also worked with a local millwright to saw recycled telephone poles to specifications.

In fall 2009, the shelter received one of three Design Excellence Merit Awards from the Kansas City chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The shelter competed with about 70 other projects, from across the region, designed by professional architects and built by professional contractors.

The following students, who worked on the trailhead structure, took the course through KU's master of architecture professional degree program, a five-year undergraduate degree that includes a year of graduate study.

Sam Avery
Sarah Brengarth
Cade Brummer
Brian Kelly
Molly Kinsella

Jenny Kosobud
Matt McKillip
Amanda McVey
John Myers
Teresa Owens

Michael Prost
Alex Rea
Charley Russell
Tricia Shaw
Angela Wright



Photos: KU School of Architecture, Design and Planning, and Kansas Biological Survey