



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

December 9, 2022

Newsletter

550 New Members This Year

Welcome...LET'S RIDE!

**Fifty Attend
Successful Legislative Summit**
(Club Resolutions Prioritized, Important Issues Discussed)



Fifty people attended the ATV Minnesota Legislative Summit, held December 3rd at Grand Casino Hinckley, in person or with Zoom. Including members of many ATV clubs, lobbyists, and DNR Parks & Trails staff.

Last year's resolutions were reviewed, including those that made it into bills but not acted upon by the State Legislature. Revising the ATV definition remains a top priority, dropping "low pressure tires" and increasing the maximum weight to 3,000 pounds. Last Session, it made it through the Senate but didn't get a hearing in the House. See the complete list of resolutions carried over from 2022 in the November 17th ATV MN newsletter, at atvmn.org under the "News" tab.

During Saturday's 4-hour meeting, previous and new resolutions were discussed, prioritized and voted on. Updates by ATV MN lobbyists, DNR staff and club members addressed a number of issues and challenges ahead for ATV MN and its member clubs.



New club resolutions for 2023, submitted and approved include:

•**FireFrost ATV Club:** \$100,000 from the ATV dedicated account, to complete engineering inspections, permitting and design work for two existing trestles on its trail system. (Photo: FireFrost members Ed Bergseid (center) and Carl Stoll (left) discuss their resolution with Ken Irish.

•**Northwoods Regional ATV Trail System Alliance/8 clubs:** \$500,000 from the

dedicated account; \$250,000 each year for the next two years, for much-needed trail rehab and revitalization. The Northwoods Trail System consists of 11 Grant-in-Aid trails totaling 300 miles. As stated on the resolution, "The number one priority for use of ATV Dedicated Account funds (registrations and gas tax) is trail maintenance."

•**Voyageur Country ATV:** \$250,000 from the dedicated account, for trail improvements and amenities.

•**Prospectors Alliance:** \$700,000 from the dedicated account, to develop Bear Run and Range River connections, complete permitting on Connect Four and Eagles Nest routes.

•**Cook County ATV Club:** Support from ATV MN to work with the club and MN DNR to review existing trail alignments between the Moose Walk Trail and Grand Marais, to determine the best potential connecting routes.



These new resolutions were given a Number 1 priority and, combined with the Number 1 priorities from last Session, become the new Number 1 through 3 priority list going into the 2023 Legislative Session. The Executive Board must now review them and approve a final list to be given to our lobbyists to begin working on them during the Session that begins on January 3, 2023. (Photo: Laura Preuss, DNR Parks & Trails; Joe Unger presented via Zoom)



“The Grant-in-Aid program is broken”

That comment was made over and over by ATV clubs and lobbyists during the Legislative Summit. Among the issues: The success and expansion of ATV trails, combined with the recent explosion of ATV registrations by new riders, has led to greater riding opportunities but, as a result, also greater impact on trails, especially those closest to the Twin Cities. (Photo: ATV MN Lobbyist Ray Bohn)

“Trails that are closest to the cities are falling into disrepair. The Grant-in-Aid model is broken,” said one club member.” A club that applies for \$100,000 for trail maintenance must pay 10% or \$10,000. Even at lower levels, like \$2,000, raising the funds is difficult for some clubs. Several clubs attending agreed that the DNR, as it works with ATV MN to improve GIA, should

consider providing funds to bring trails up to its standards without requiring a match.



Other issues also discussed:

-State Legislature - With over 60 freshman Legislators, many who may not be familiar with motorized recreation, ATV clubs and trails in particular, getting support for ATV MN bills will be difficult. ATV MN is planning a “Day at the Capital” to improve that situation.

-Opening some state highways to ATVs for access to towns and services. A Priority 2 last year, it has been moved to a Priority 1 issue for greater

attention at the Legislative level.

-The need for ATV manufacturers and dealers to be more involved in educating Legislators on the benefits of ATV trails and what they mean in terms of outdoor recreation opportunities, economic impact and tourism in rural Minnesota. (Photo LtoR: Harlan Kingsley, Mike Devine, George Radke)



Watch for more details, a complete list of Number 1, 2 and 3 priorities discussed and voted on at the Legislative Summit, and greater detail on important issues, in future editions of our Minnesota Wheelin magazine.

Thanks to Ery, ATV MN treasurer, and Jenn, ATV MN admin, for organizing the meeting registration, and setting up and running

the meeting, creating a positive experience for everyone attending.



ATV Manufacturers Award Over \$226,000 To U.S. Clubs In Latest Round of Grants

Many Minnesota ATV clubs have received grants from Polaris and Yamaha since their programs were started in 2006 and 2008, respectively.

Yamaha, through its Outdoor Access Initiative, awarded grants totaling more than \$116,000 for the third quarter of 2022. Seven

organizations received grants, including the Range Riders ATV Club, Nashauk, being used toward to the Len Hardy Memorial Trail. The application deadline for consideration in the final funding cycle for 2022 is **December 15, 2022**. Updated guidelines and an application form are available at: <https://yamahaoai.com/>.



Polaris recently donated \$110,000 to off-road and snowmobile organizations across the U.S. through its T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant Program. Its fall 2022 grants were awarded to 11 off-road and snowmobile nonprofit organizations, including the Snow Birds Snowmobile Club, Emily, MN. The FireFrost ATV Club, Halstad, MN, received a \$10,000 Polaris grant earlier this year for its trail projects. Grants are awarded twice a year. The next deadline for Polaris grants is March 1, 2023. More details

and an application form are found at: <https://www.polaris.com/en-us/trails-application/>

Grant Oversight and Distribution

Evaluation & Selection



American Trails and our project partners will seek to award project funding equitably, proportionate to percentage of National Forest System Trail miles on the ground.

A New Grant Program To Consider

From American Trails

American Trails is pleased to partner with the U.S. Forest Service in announcing that applications are now being accepted by the Legacy Trails Grant Program through **December 15, 2022.**

American Trails is administering this grant program, funded by the

U.S. Forest Service through Legacy Roads and Trails Act dollars.

What the project does: Enables project partners to complete trails projects which improve watershed health, restore aquatic organism passages, preserve access, and decommission unauthorized and previously closed trails.

Target applicants: Nonprofit organizations and non-Federal agencies.

Typical project size: Small projects may apply for \$5,000-20,000. Large projects may apply for up to \$100,000.

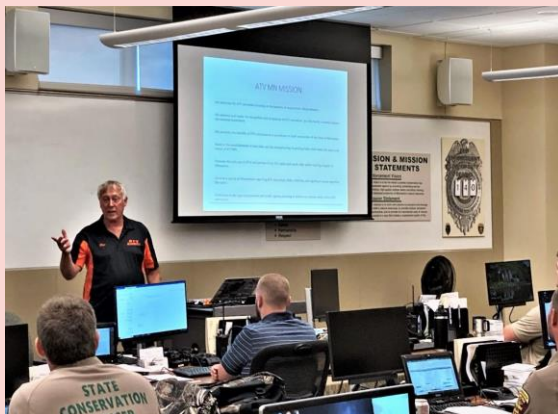
Minimum 50% match required: Cash (preferred) or in-kind matches are allowable.

Funding cycle: Opens October 6 to December 15, 2022, for the 2023 field season.

Funding must be spent within 2 years.

Equitable awards: Our evaluation and selection committee is composed of representatives of a broad spectrum of both motorized and non-motorized trails user types, and we will be making every effort to distribute funding equitably by Forest Service region and by trail user type. Apply at:

https://www.americantrails.org/legacy-trails-program?blm_aid=970885

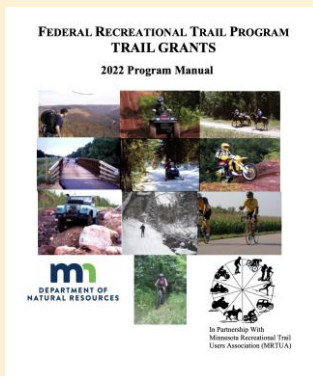


ATV MN Visits With New Conservation Officers

From DNR Enforcement

Conservation Officers are considered “the face of the DNR” because of their frequent interactions with people enjoying the outdoors, and they are known throughout the communities they serve. These one-on-one interactions and community relationships facilitate a partnership with outdoor

recreation groups, also known as Stakeholder Groups, who work alongside the Minnesota DNR on various outdoor recreation issues, such as funding, legislative matters and trail related projects. As a recognized Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) User group, the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota (ATV MN) is the state association representing ATV clubs and citizens actively involved with motorized recreational vehicles. Over the last couple Conservation Officer Academies, the DNR has invited off-highway recreation stakeholder groups to discuss topics on their history, legislative initiatives and the overall mission. "As a state agency, we see the benefits of the cooperative partnership that ATV MN brings to the table on topics that are deemed essential to a group of OHV enthusiasts," said Bruce Lawrence, Recreational Vehicle Coordinator with the Enforcement division of the Minnesota DNR. ATV MN meets quarterly to discuss trail funding, trail development, safety concerns, and regulatory compliance with DNR Staff representing Forestry, Parks & Trails, and Enforcement. *(Photo: Ron Potter, ATV MN president, presents to a new group of COs.)*



February 25, 2023 Deadline For Federal RTP Grant Applications

The 2023 Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant application will soon be available on the DNR website. Keep an eye out for it.

Tips:

- Plan far ahead to meet the Feb 25 deadline.
- Include letters of support.
- Support letters from ATV MN are permitted.
- If application is for a multi-use trail, know that it is for the life of the trail.
- Read information carefully related to the "Buy American" details.

Learn more at:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_federal.html

SAVE THE DATES!

May 20, 2023
Ride & Roast / ATV MN
40th Anniversary
McQuoid's Inn, Isle, MN

Sept 22-24, 2023
ATV MN State Convention
Ride & Rally
Host clubs: Quad Cities ATV Club, Ranger
Snowmobile & ATV Club
Location: Giants Ridge, Biwabik

Poster by Dean Schliek, ATV MN
communications team

ATV MINNESOTA
RIDE AND ROAST

Isle, Minnesota
McQuoid's Inn
MAY 20TH

PORK & TURKEY DINNER

\$25 PRE-REGISTRATION
\$30 AT THE DOOR

40

GREAT TRAILS, ATV MN GEAR
PANCAKE BREAKFAST DOOR PRIZES

For more information visit www.ATVMN.org

MINNESOTA WINTER TRAILS

ALVWOOD - SQUAW LAKE	IRON RANGE OHV REC AREA
APPLETON OHV PARK	MATTHEW LOUREY TRAIL
BEMIS HILL TRAIL	MOOSE RIVER TRAIL
CHENGWATANA ST. FOREST	NEMADJI ST. FOREST
CHISHOLM TRAIL	SAGINAW GRADE TRAIL
EAST RANGE TRAIL	SOD LINE NORTH SOUTH CARLTON COUNTY
FOND DU LAC ST. FOREST	SPIDER LAKE TRAIL
GANDY DANCER	ST. CROIX ST. FOREST
GENERAL CC ANDREWS	WARROAD/ROSEAU TRAILS
GENDA TRAIL	

! BE SURE TO ALWAYS CHECK THE MINNESOTA DNR WEBSITE FOR CLOSURES.

ATV

Got a Good Story to Tell This Winter?

- Been on a memorable ride?
- Have a fun story about your ATV club?
- Know a volunteer who should be recognized for all they do for ATV riding?
- An important ATV issue we should cover?
- Want to submit an article or photos?

-We don't have a budget to pay you, but we will give you a byline and extra copies of the magazine your article or photo appears in.

-Send your comments, stories, club news, and ideas to: d.halsey@atvmn.org. Thanks!

From the ATV MN Communications Team: Dave Halsey, Nick Wognum, Jeff Leese, Dean Schliek (thanks for updating the poster Dean!).

Motorized Trails in Your Community

LOCALLY INITIATED • LOCALLY MANAGED
LOCAL VALUES



How would a new trail benefit my community?

Managed OHV Trail systems:

- Bring more people into local businesses
- Connect people to natural resources and the outdoors
- Promote economically OHV recreation or recreation that requires it
- Can conserve large contiguous tracts of open land with a light trail footprint
- OHV opportunities for volunteers
- Provide a controlled and managed environment for OHV riding
- Foster strong and lasting partnerships



What are Off-highway vehicles?

"Off-highway vehicles" is a collective term that includes All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHMs), and Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs).



All-Terrain Vehicle - Class I



All-Terrain Vehicle - Class II



Off-Highway Motorcycle



Off-Road Vehicle

Who makes the rules?

The DNR administers laws which are outlined in the off-highway vehicle regulations book. The "reg book" is updated every year and is available for free at county gov'ts, at all DNR offices, and at many sporting goods stores and gun stores. These rules are enforced by DNR conservation officers and local law enforcement. Trained volunteers help educate riders about current OHV laws. Cities, townships and counties may further regulate OHV use by ordinance and permit.

Conservation officers often concerned with the potential for abuse associated with OHV trails. Trail design helps to prevent the damage of unpermitted trails from uneducated users, and compliance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency noise standards. For instance, residential locations have a decibel limit of 65 decibels. If a conservation officer encounters a vehicle in excess of 65 dB, and a typical business office noise is 70 dB. The standards can be reduced by DNR officials and local law enforcement. Noise checks can be performed at DNR Parks and Trails area offices, or by trained volunteers and members given to volunteer vehicles which are good for that calendar year.

This facility with a controlled access permit allow for increased facility monitoring and control. Not only are sound limits easier to enforce and monitor, it allows the local government and sponsoring the trail to set hours for facility operation and close trails for events like deer hunting seasons or outdoor banding.




Where does the money come from?

Sustainable trails are not about funds for trail development come from taxes and federal grants, and cities - NO local tax dollars are required to be spent. Grants money to government by OHV users in the form of recreational vehicle registration and a small percent of Minnesota sales tax is used for off-highway vehicle use.

Along with grants and funding from the local club, volunteers help reduce the cost of trail development. People can volunteer to develop and maintain trails by working with the DNR, the local government and sponsoring the trail, or as active club.



Why motorized trails?

Riding Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) is a way for people to spend time outdoors. Though often considered an individual sport, people rarely ride alone and usually ride with friends or family.

Managed OHV trail systems can become destinations for people from all over Minnesota and the Midwest. They can also greatly enhance tourism to areas that already have tourism activities by giving people more recreation options to visit their state. According to the University of Minnesota's Economic Impact of Recreational Trail Use (OHV), the spending related to OHV recreation in Minnesota totaled over \$134 million in 2008.



How are trails made?

Local clubs and Local Government Units (LGUs) work with the DNR to develop and maintain managed recreational trails all over Minnesota through the DNR's Trail Acquisition program, more commonly called Trails as Aids (TAs) for OHVs. Trails can be developed on public land, or through agreements with willing private landowners.

Every trail is different. The length of the trail, trail network, local development regulations, environmental conditions and many other factors influence how a trail is developed.

Public review is an important part of developing a new trail or trail system. Depending on the situation, there may be several different opportunities for input so that the trail meets the needs and expectations of the community.



What about the environment?

Planning

Part of the DNR's job is to help make trails safe and sustainable. New trail project proposals are addressed to a rigorous DNR interdisciplinary review before being disseminated for public review and comment. If a project requires environmental review, it cannot be implemented until the review is complete. Some projects will require a Formal Environmental Assessment Worksheet (FEAW) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Whatever the level of environmental review, a public trail cannot be put in the ground until this trail step is completed, because the original proposal may have to be modified to protect the environment. The DNR follows a well-established public process for sharing information and gathering comments on all new trail proposals.

Development

The DNR has developed a book called "Trail Planning, Design and Development Guidelines" which advises people on how to develop safe and sustainable natural area trails. It outlines how to register trails in permit state books, permit systems, keep people on the trail and managing ongoing maintenance needs.

Building a new trail is more than clearing a path, it involves community support and involvement, careful analysis of geology and ecology, and thoughtful and deliberate engineering.



For more information... Visit mndnr.gov/ohv or call us at 1-888-MINNDNR



ATV MINNESOTA

"Your Voice To Ride"

Dedicated Volunteers
Building Fun & Sustainable
ATV Trails For The Riding Public
(And Bridges, Boardwalks, Kiosks, Parking, Outhouses & More)

Invite friends and family to join today.
Gift memberships available!

See the mailing label on your Minnesota Wheelin magazine for your membership renewal date. Be sure to include your email address on the renewal form we send you to receive newsletters. Send renewals to ATV MN, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079.

Belonging to ATV Minnesota, you join thousands of riders throughout the state, have fun, and help create a positive future of ATV riding in Minnesota.



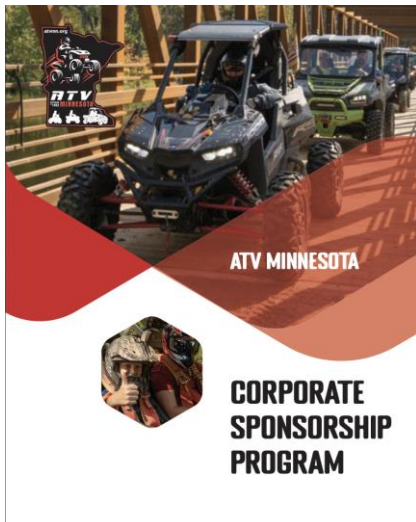
As a family or individual member, for just \$20 you receive:

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (6 per year).
- Twice-monthly newsletter by email with the latest news.
- Membership card and ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV.
- Invitations to events, including our Legislative Summit, Vision Conference, Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "Ride & Rally" in the fall, as well as membership meetings.
- A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward bills that help provide funding for new trail systems.

As a business member, for \$75 you receive:

All of the above, plus:

- Your business name and contact information listed in our Minnesota Wheelin magazine and on the ATV Minnesota website
 - Discounts on advertising in Minnesota Wheelin. For details, send an email to Creston Dorothy at Pro Print in Duluth: cdorothy@proprintus.com
 - Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events
- To join, contact **ATVAM** or call (800) 442-8826.



As a Corporate Sponsor:

Your financial support will help ensure a positive future for ATV recreation in Minnesota.

Four levels: \$2,500 Bronze / \$5,000 Silver / \$10,000 Gold / \$25,000 Platinum

Each includes ads in Minnesota Wheelin magazine, and publicity of your business, organization or club at ATV MN events, on websites, social media and more! To learn more, visit atvmn.org and tap the "Sponsorships" tab.

ATVMN.org

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ATV Association of Minnesota

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