



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 Erv, 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, Nashwauk, 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:

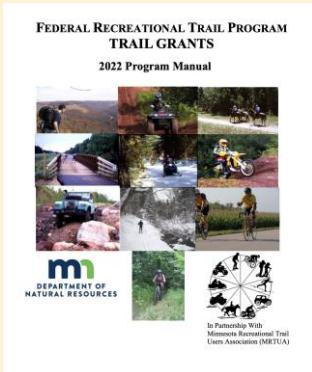
https://www.americantrails.org/legacy-trails-program?blm_aid=970885



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, Bwiwabik

Poster by Dean Schliek, ATV MN
communications team



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



What are Off-highway vehicles?

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






How would a new trail benefit my community?

Managed OHV Trail resources:

- Encourage local business
- Connect people to natural resources and the outdoors
- Promote sustainable OHV recreation in communities that welcome it
- Offer opportunities for OHV recreation on types of land with a light trail footprint
- Offer opportunities for volunteerism
- Provide a safe and managed environment for OHV riding
- Foster strong and lasting partnerships



©2010 Golden Country Recreation in Northern Minnesota

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 world. They can be used for recreation, work, and travel. OHVs can also be used to help people by giving people more recreation options to suit their needs. According to the University of Minnesota's Common Impacts of Recreational Trail Use (2009), trip spending related to OHV recreation in Minnesota totaled over 1.14 million dollars in 2008.



OHV riders contribute to a sense of place and recreation.

Who makes the rules?

The DNR enforces laws which are outlined in the off-highway vehicle regulation book. The "reg book" is updated every year, and is enforced by DNR law enforcement officers, at all DNR offices, and at many sporting good stores and gas stations. These rules are enforced by DNR conservation officers and local law enforcement. Training webinars help educate trail users about current OHV laws and regulations.

Comments are often concerned with the potential for noise associated with OHV trails. Trail design takes into account the distance of motorized trails from residential areas, and complies with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) noise standards. The MPCA noise standard for OHVs is 70 decibels (dB) at 100 feet from the trail, compared, normal conversational speech is around 60 dB, and a typical business office noise is 70 dB. The noise standard can be exceeded by DNR officials and local law enforcement. Sound checks can be performed at DNR Parks and Trails offices, or by trained volunteers and experts given to complete vehicles are good for that calendar year.



OHV riders contribute to a sense of place and recreation.

Where does the money come from?

Sustainable trails are not cheap. Funds for trail development come from state and federal grants, and private donations. No local tax dollars are required to build trails. Grant money is generated by OHV users in the form of recreational vehicle registration and a small percent of Minnesota non-refunded gas tax allocated to OHV trail maintenance.

Along with grants, money is raised by the local OHV trail clubs, which help pay the cost of trail maintenance. People can contribute to develop and maintain trails by working with the DNR, the local government or sponsoring the trail, or as active volunteers.



OHV riders contribute to a sense of place and recreation.

How are trails made?

Local clubs and Local Government Units (LGUs) work with the DNR to develop and maintain motorized trails all over Minnesota. Through the DNR's Trail Assessment program, more commonly called Grass in the Gullies, trail clubs, local governments, and other partners work together to build trails.

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 as the trail meets the needs and expectations of the community.



A group of OHV riders in a vehicle.

What about the environment?

Planning

Part of the DNR's job is to help make trails safe and sustainable. New trail project proposals are submitted to a rigorous DNR interdisciplinary review before being recommended for public review and comment. Once a proposal is recommended for public review, the DNR will accept comments from the public. Some projects will trigger a formal Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. The DNR will not accept a proposal for public review until the EIS is completed, because the original proposal may have to be modified to prevent the environment. The DNR follows a well-established public process for sharing information and gathering comments.

Development

The DNR has developed a book called "Trail Planning, Design and Development Guidelines" which educate people on how to develop safe and sustainable motorized surface trails. It defines how to engineer such to protect water bodies, prevent erosion, keep people on the trail and minimize ongoing maintenance needs.

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

For more information...

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



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation
Division of Parks and Trails

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
Follow us for all the latest news!



ATV Association of Minnesota

Connect with us

PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079
800-442-8826
atvamoffice@atvmn.org
www.atvmn.org



ATVAM | PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant
Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by
atvamoffice@atvam.org
powered by

