



ATV Minnesota

"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"

December 28, 2022

Newsletter

581 New Members This Year
Welcome...LET'S RIDE!

Snowmobile And Snowmobile/ATV Clubs

Need Help Clearing Trails

(Many are also ATV trails in summer)





Can You Help?

Snowmobile and Snowmobile/ATV Clubs across central and northern Minnesota are working hard removing thousands of trees weighed down or snapping from recent heavy snows, blocking trails and preventing clubs from opening their trails. Many are seeking help from everyone who can help. *Photos from Voyageur Snowmobile Club Facebook page.*

One of many Facebook posts we've seen with messages to all riders

From the Emily-Outing Snowbirds club:

We wanted to make a post addressing the comments and the personal messages we have received on this page about helping with trail work and getting the trails groomed.

We have had some awesome people step up to get trails cleared. This was a major task given the amount of snow and holiday season! To those who have helped we thank you and truly appreciate your help, grooming and maintaining trails is 100% volunteer workers and we couldn't have the great trails we do have with out them.

It is a big undertaking to organize all our volunteers, the amount of people we have and the kind of equipment we have show up to help changes daily and plays a big role on where and what time we start working. It is a very fluid situation. The best thing to do is start clearing the trail wherever you can, a 10-foot wide by 10-foot tall path is what needs to be cut for the groomer to make it through.

If you can't clear trails but still want to help we also need the swamps packed down so they can freeze, there are areas we cannot get to to groom if the swamps are not frozen. **Thank you everyone for your help!**

The Great Week of Trail Clearing

December 26th through New Year's Day

**If you would like to participate in this all you have to do is let a club contact know that you are going out on the trails to help clear or participate in one of their organized group times. Participants in this week of clearing will receive a 15% off discount at Ray's Sport and Cycle of Grand Rapids on any order up to \$1000. Max discount of \$150, and also be entered into a drawing for some amazing gift certificates from local area businesses. Drawing to be held on Tuesday January 3rd at Ray's at 12PM

Snowmobile Clubs Participating

Itasca Driftskippers Greenway

Haypoint Jackpine's Lawron Trail Riders

Swampsiders

Gift Cards Donated By

Rays Sport and Cycle – (5) \$100 cards

ROX – (10) \$50 cards

The Locker Room – (4) \$25 cards

Elich Financial Services – (2) \$25 Cards to The Locker Room (2) \$25-TBD

Kim & Casey Venema - (2) \$25 to Wizards & (2) \$25 to Mucho Si Mexican Restaurant

Plackner Tree Care – Gift Certificates and donated Trail Clearing time

Lawrence Lake Liquor – Free Drink Chips

Can You Lend A Hand To Some Of These Clubs?

Grand Rapids dealership offering product discounts and drawing for gift cards to those who help clear trails.

Can you help? Some of these trails are also ATV trails in the summer. Contact one of the clubs, fire up your sled, strap down a chainsaw or bow saw and help clear the trails if you are able. Find contact information for these and other clubs where you live or ride at MnUSA's website: mnsnowmobiler.org. Thanks!



Woods and Wheels ATV Club Recognizes State Sen. Kent Eken

*From DL-Online.com
By Barbie Porter*

Detroit Lakes - The Woods and Wheels ATV Club, which is based in Detroit Lakes, presented State Sen. Kent Eken, DFL-Audubon, with a plaque recognizing the work he has done to bring ATV trails to the area. Eken expressed

appreciation for the recognition, and for the opportunity to work with the ATV club. "ATVs are a great way to get people outdoors to enjoy nature," Eken said. He added the activity also provides the opportunity to be social and provides an economic boon to many communities near the trails. "I also see ATV riding as a way to get kids outdoors and off computers. It's a good form of physical activity, too."

Eken announced he would not run for re-election to the Minnesota Senate, but recently noted he would be taking a position as a political action director for a public labor union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, or AFSCME, to work with lawmakers on labor issues.

Photo: Woods and Wheels ATV Club members presented Kent Eken with a plaque of recognition for his work on ATV trails in the region. Pictured are (from left) Russ Severson, Howard Kluender, Karlene Negen, Gary Negen, Peter Merch, State Sen. Kent Eken, Gary Thompson and Fritz Kunz. By Barbie Porter / Detroit Lakes Tribune



Club Receives VFW Donation For Safety Training

The Woods and Wheels ATV Club started in 2005 and aimed to coordinate rides, events and activities for ATV enthusiasts. Another primary goal of the club is to establish permanent ATV riding areas in Becker County, according to its website. The club now has about 30 members and about eight Trail Ambassadors that help patrol area trails to ensure those using the trails are following safety protocol. The ambassadors

also look for damage on the trail that may create unsafe riding conditions. The group also offers riding classes in the area for kids ages 12-15. Member Gary Thompson explained youngsters need a certificate if they want to ride, and sometimes parents also take the classes alongside the kids. Classes are offered twice a year, rain or shine, in May and September. Helping make the classes affordable was the Detroit Lakes VFW, which donated \$1,000 to the club on Tuesday, Dec. 20.

Photo: Woods and Wheels member Gary Thompson accepted a \$1,000 check from the Detroit Lakes VFW, which was presented by Staff Sergeant Benjamin Doty. Club member Fritz Kunz was all smiles. By Barbie Porter / Detroit Lakes Tribune



SAFETY IS ALWAYS IN SEASON.



WEAR GLOVES, GOGGLES AND BOOTS.

New DNR ATV Safety Videos

Reaching Out To All Riders

(Help in your area by posting the videos on your club's website or Facebook page)

Earlier this year, the Minnesota DNR created a series of public service announcements (PSAs) promoting ATV safety and responsible riding. Members of ATV Minnesota participated. Each

video is 17 seconds, promoting the importance of wearing helmets, buckling seat belts, keeping right on trails, knowing where to legally ride and other messages. Lisa Dugan, Outreach Coordinator with the DNR, reports that the videos were distributed during October into the first week of November on social media and on the small TVs above the pumps at gas stations, with the following results:

- On Gas Station TVs: Approximately 105,200 impressions across 70+ retailers across Minnesota.
- On YouTube: Approximately 279,800 impressions and 28,500 clicks to DNR safety content.
- On Facebook: Approximately 1.19 million impressions and 6,050 clicks to DNR safety content.

The following links take you to three of the videos and their safety messages. The videos have been posted on the Minnesota Wheelin magazine website (minnesotawheelin.org). Please share them with your family and ride group, post them on your club's website or Facebook page, and include them in your club's ATV Safety Training Courses in the future. **Thanks!**

ATV PSA #1 - Trespassing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1PsBHjR_7M

ATV PSA #2 - General Safety

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3q66h8Og5yA>

ATV PSA #3 - Kid Safety

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBjQkWMdQ5s>



U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips Introduces Bill To Promote Off-Road Vehicle Electrification (Legislation named in memory of Polaris CTO)

From PowerSportsBusiness.com

By: Madelyn Hubbard, December 22, 2022

Rep. Dean Phillips (MN-03) has announced the introduction of a bipartisan bill aimed to promote the electrification of off-road vehicles. H.R. 9481, the Michael F. Donoughe Tax Credit for Off Road Electric Vehicles Act, would promote a greener tomorrow by making electric vehicles more

affordable. This end-user tax credit, similar to what already exists for automobiles, will enable middle-class consumers, farmers and small businesses to purchase electric off-road vehicles for work and recreation. Currently, less than one percent of off-road vehicles on the market are electric.

“We didn’t leave the Stone Age because we ran out of rocks,” said Phillips. “We found a better way of doing things. Congress should support our transition to a green economy by providing incentives for American families and businesses who adopt new, efficient technology. I’m grateful to bipartisan colleagues and local innovators like Polaris for being partners in that effort and am looking forward to seeing more electric vehicles on, and off, the roads in Minnesota and across the country.” The legislation is named in memory of Polaris Chief Technology Officer, Mike Donoughe, who passed away this summer and spearheaded electrification for Polaris, a Minnesota-based company.



“The growth and interest in electrification is happening across various sectors and the off-road vehicle segment is no different,” said Mike Speetzen, CEO, Polaris. “We have seen the advantages that electric technology can provide to off-road vehicles and their performance, especially for those who use their vehicle for utility purposes. We believe the ‘Michael F. Donoughe Tax Credit for Off Road Electric Vehicles Act’ will help promote the electrification of off-road vehicles and make them more

affordable to the agricultural and outdoor

industry professional. On behalf of the entire Polaris team, we also are honored and deeply appreciative of Rep. Phillips’s decision to name the bill after the late Mike Donoughe, a Polaris leader who passed away unexpectedly last summer. Mike was truly passionate about advancing electrification in off-road vehicles and he played a guiding role in our efforts.”

The legislation brings new green choices within reach for agricultural and outdoor industry professionals in America’s heartland. Technology has made electric off-road vehicles the workhorses of the hauling, plowing and hunting industries on America’s farms, ranches and other locations with tough to navigate terrain. If enacted, the Michael F. Donoughe Tax Credit for Off Road Electric Vehicles Act would create a federal tax

credit equal to 10% of the purchase price of a new qualified plug-in electric off-road vehicle, up to \$2,500.

Qualified off-road vehicles include:

- Off-highway vehicles designed primarily for non-road use and travel over rough terrain
- Vehicles propelled primarily by an electric motor which draws electricity from a battery with a capacity not less than 6 kilowatt hours
- Vehicles that achieve a speed of 40 miles per hour
- Vehicles that weigh less than 3,500 pounds
- Vehicles that are assembled in North America
- Vehicles that are purchased after December 31, 2022

Link to the article: <https://powersportsbusiness.com/top-stories/2022/12/22/phillips-introduces-bill-to-promote-off-road-vehicle-electrification/>



IRRB Approves Over \$2.5 Million In Regional Trails Grants

Businesses, communities, outdoor recreation, education and mining operations in northeastern Minnesota receive over \$34 million in economic development funding

From IRRB Facebook page, Dec 23, 2022

At today's Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board meeting, approximately \$680,000 in loans, \$5.7 million in infrastructure grants, \$2.6 million in trails grants, \$9.4 million in mining fund rebates, \$8.3 million in Giants Ridge development, \$6.7 million in K-12 school collaboration funds,

and \$985,000 in higher education funds were approved to advance projects in northeastern Minnesota. Agency total investment for all projects combined is approximately \$34.3 million. Total project investment is approximately \$95.9 million. The projects are expected to increase the regional tax base, create permanent and construction jobs, provide essential services, improve education and expand outdoor recreation and mining. The loans are anticipated to impact 26 jobs. The infrastructure projects are projected to impact 148 jobs and create 348 construction jobs.

Regional Trails Grants: \$2,563,745

Agency Investment \$2,563,745 | Total Investment \$6,012,350 | Leverage: 1.3 : 1

- **City of Aitkin: \$105,000** to construct a new trailhead and paved trail extension which will connect to an existing trail and city park.

- **City of Crosby: \$18,780** to support volunteer maintenance efforts and purchase equipment to groom and maintain trails at Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area.
- **Itasca County: \$95,000** to complete phase II of the Balsam Creek Bridge replacement and ATV/snowmobile trail improvement project, and to improve Wabana Ski Trail with new boardwalk sections.
- **Lake County: \$100,000** to build two new intermediate trails, upgrade an existing trail to an all-weather standard and construct a bridge that crosses a river within the Split Rock Wilds Trail System.
- **Northeast Regional ATV Trail Joint Powers Board: \$1,960,000** to upgrade and construct connector trails among the trail systems of Ranger ATV, Northern Traxx, Prospector ATV, Quad Cities ATV and Voyageur Country ATV. Also to conduct an Economic Impact Study of the 1,500 total miles of connected ATV trails.
- **Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority: \$250,000** for the environmental, engineering and construction of a trail segment that connects West Two River in Kugler Township to the existing Mesabi Trail in Tower.
- **Superior Hiking Trail Association: \$34,965** to develop a master plan for the 310-mile Superior Hiking Trail and to purchase trail counters and an ATV for ongoing maintenance.

Read the complete IRRB press release: <http://ow.ly/5X7p50M9PKT>

**FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM
TRAIL AND EQUIPMENT GRANT**

2023 Program Manual



mn
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

In Partnership With
Minnesota Recreational Trail
User Association (MRTUA)

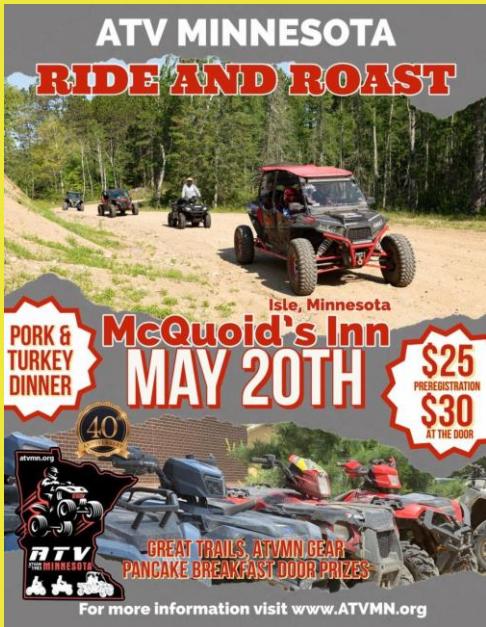
Revised 12/2022

February 25, 2023 Deadline For Federal RTP Grant Applications

The 2023 Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant application is now available on the DNR website. 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



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 (*Graphics by Dean Schliek*).



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.

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