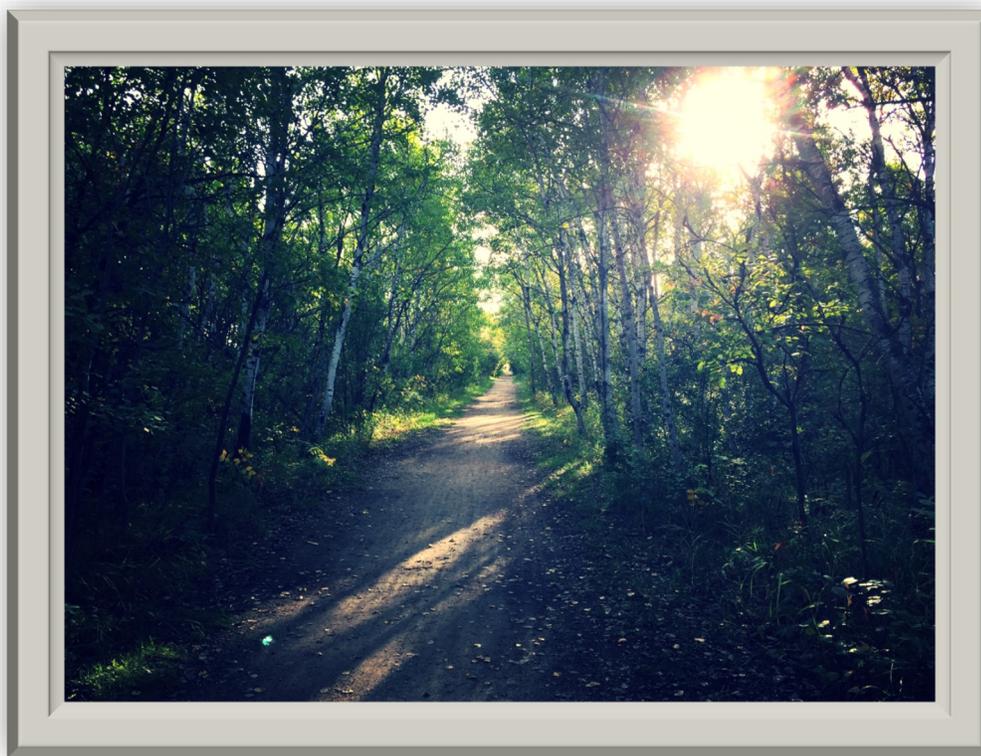


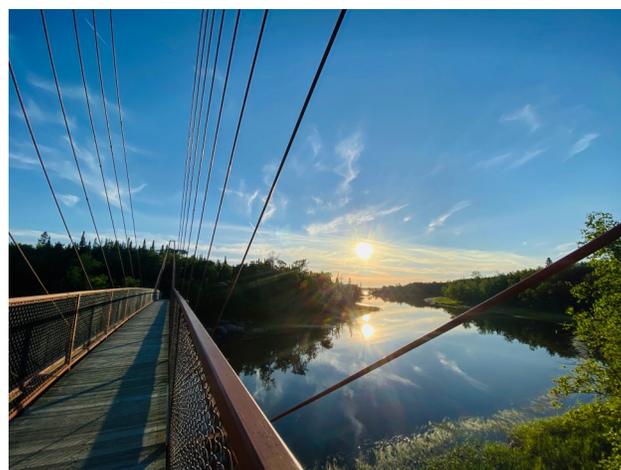
# ANNUAL REPORT 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



Treaty 1



Treaty 3



Treaty 3

# 2020-A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER!

'Manitobans took advantage of our trail system in record numbers this year.'

Treaty 1



CBC News - Posted: Oct 09, 2020

Treaty 3



“Accessing trails and pathways in a safe manner, while maintaining proper physical distancing, has become a respite during these unprecedented times. Trails can play an important role in our recovery and rebuilding following this pandemic.”

**Municipal Relations Minister, Rochelle Squires**

A sunrise over Mantario Lake in late September. The Mantario Trail has seen heavy use this fall, with reports of hundreds of through-hikers on the September long weekend alone. (Bartley Kives/CBC)

“We could not have imagined what would happen in early 2020 - or how much the world would need healing, nor how much the pressure on everyone to retain their mental health, spend time outside. . . . if it weren't amid such an awful humanitarian disaster, one would say that this project could not have had better timing. When we needed to be, we were at least somewhat ready. So, if we were to choose two words today that sum up the purpose of this project, they might be: offering resilience.”

**Anders Swanson, Exec. Director, Winnipeg Trails –Healing Trails Project**

Treaty 1



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“Manitobans took advantage of the province's trail system in record numbers this year and the new funding will ensure outdoor recreation remains supported.” said Municipal Relations Minister Rochelle Squires. (Darren Bernhardt/

There are more than 1,700 kilometres of active transportation trails throughout the province. (Darren Bernhardt/CBC)

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 Treaty 3



 Treaty 3



## Land Acknowledgement

*The trails in Manitoba are located on the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Assiniboine, Dakota and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. We encourage all trail users to learn more about the land that they are travelling on.*

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Treaty 3



Treaty 3



*The name ‘Manitoba’ traces its origins back to the legends of the Cree and Assiniboine First Nations. The unique sound from the waves washing near Lake Manitoba Narrows was said to be the ‘Manitou’, or Great Spirit.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2020 – What a rollercoaster of a year! First, COVID-19 has affected everyone and everything. One of the few bright spots during the course of the ongoing pandemic has been the surge in people discovering or re-discovering our parks and trails. We have seen huge increases in people getting out on the trails. With more people comes more work in trail maintenance, development and education. There is also an opportunity to build long-lasting support and grow stewardship groups and trail volunteers to ensure that the beautiful trails in Manitoba continue to offer a welcoming respite long after the pandemic is over.

There were many highlights to celebrate last year as well. The biggest one was an announcement by the Provincial government to provide \$7.5 million dollars for trails in Manitoba. The money, which is held by The Winnipeg Foundation, will provide long term operating funds for the organization as well as support two new granting programs for trail development and maintenance. We are very grateful to our partners at the Province and The Winnipeg Foundation for their ongoing support.

The new funding led to significant work by our Grants Committee to develop a Grant Guide and Applications. A very big thank you to Dean Kriellaars and the whole committee for all their work! We were very excited to launch our new grant program in December and can't wait to see all the wonderful projects that will be coming from it in the years to come.

Last summer I was very fortunate to be able to attend two bridge opening celebrations. The first, that occurred in two parts was the celebration of the completion of what has now become our iconic red bridges on the Cabin Lake Trail and over Hanson's Creek on the Centennial Trail. These bridges were saved from the landfill by innovative thinking and a wonderful partnership with Pier Solutions. The second bridge celebration was the new crossing of Joubert Creek on the Crow Wing Trail. This bridge will take trail users off of a busy provincial road, improving safety on the trail. Congratulations to everyone who helped make these new crossings a reality.

With all of this activity, I am very proud that the staff and Board of Trails Manitoba still found time to complete our 3-year strategic plan. This process was started by the membership at the 2017 AGM and has now resulted in the creation of a new Vision Statement, an updated Mission Statement, and new Objectives and Goals to help guide Trails Manitoba for the next three years.

In 2020, we have also had opportunities to build partnerships with Travel Manitoba and Manitoba Parks. In September, I had the opportunity to meet with other trail groups and user groups to provide input into the ongoing Provincial Trails Strategy. We look forward to our continued partnership and working to build and promote amazing destinations that will benefit our communities and local economies together.

We have one retiring Director this year. Ian Hughes has served on the Board for 10 years, many of those as President. He oversaw the completion of The Great Trail in Manitoba in 2017 and the celebration of the opening of the new pavilion, steps away from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. He led Trails Manitoba through some difficult years, ensuring the organization moved forward and remained vibrant. Ian, from everyone at Trails Manitoba and all of the trail groups and trail users in Manitoba, THANK YOU for your volunteerism, your time and your dedication.

Finally, I want to thank everyone involved in building and maintaining our beautiful trails. Thank you to my fellow Board members; Tim our Executive Director; Janette our Executive Assistant; Darcy and her team at Little Bluestem; and all the trail groups and volunteers working so hard out there. Also, a big thanks to our funders: the Province of Manitoba, Trans-Canada Trail, and many private donors. We can't do this without you.

Erik Dickson

President, Trails Manitoba

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 was a unique year on so many levels. Like many other organizations, due to COVID we closed our office to the public, we primarily worked from home, held virtual meetings, incurred delays in work permits and trail projects, and even had troubles sourcing materials that would normally be quite available. We also saw huge numbers of people heading to trailheads and exploring the province like never seen before. Over-crowding, over-usage, parking issues, and increased garbage are a few things that we were not prepared for.

But this also led to a renewed sense of desire and demand for the outdoors. There were conversations about discovering new trails, trying new outdoor activities, and increased attention on Leave No Trace principles & trail etiquette.

Considering the many issues that presented themselves as a result of COVID, we were still able to continue our work, complete a few projects, and even managed to take part in three ribbon cutting events. In the past year, as part of our trail project involvement, we saw the completion of the second (of two) red bridges, located at Cabin Lake in the Whiteshell Provincial Park; the completion of a custom pre-fab Algonquin bridge located at Joubert Creek, along the Crow Wing Trail; a lot of design work and construction completed on the Blue Hwy Hub and mountain bike skills area; a brand new trailhead installed along the TCT in Lee River; and, we were fortunate to have a few volunteers carry out a complete signage audit on the 36+km Centennial Trail. A few other initiatives that began in 2020 were the development of a Provincial Trails Strategy, a Trails Manitoba 3-year Strategic Plan, and a new Trails Manitoba website.

Trails MB has two trail counters that we try to employ on a continual basis. For the majority of last year, both counters were installed in the Whiteshell Provincial Park – one was installed by the new Cabin Lake red bridge, while the other was installed on the Centennial/Blue Hwy, Caddy Lake trail entrance. This data is vital for ongoing research on trail use and assists with the building of an economic business case for trail development and maintenance across the province.

On our Social Media front, while Facebook continues to tailor to a smaller following, our Instagram continues to be our flagship social media medium and continues to have a large following. At last count, we had over 29.5k followers. Jaime Manness has been running our Instagram account for the past number of years; she had taken this on as a volunteer position and has been doing a tremendous job. We are very fortunate to have her on our team. Thank you Jaime!

Finally, I would like to extend a big thank you to our Trails Manitoba Team, and to applaud the countless volunteers of our extended Trails Community. To all our member Trail Associations and the many volunteers within your organizations and across the province – you folks are the heartbeat of this great community, and we would be truly lost without you!

Last year, at the AGM, I mentioned that *the future of trails is bright*; well, after experiencing 2020, and seeing the true impact that trails have on Manitobans, I think we can clearly say that *the future of trails is absolutely shining*. Thank you!

Tim Coffin

Executive Director, Trails Manitoba

## PROVINCE INVESTS \$7 MILLION FOR CREATION, MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF MANITOBA TRAILS

Provide Manitobans with More opportunities to Enjoy our Beautiful Province: Pallister

In partnership with Trails Manitoba, the Manitoba government is investing \$7 million to support the creation, maintenance and enhancement of active transportation trails across the province and within the city of Winnipeg, Premier Brian Pallister and Municipal Relations Minister Rochelle Squires announced today.

Get outside and explore Manitoba – there is no better place to be and no better time to explore our beautiful province,” said Pallister. “Our government is proud to partner with Trails Manitoba and The Winnipeg Foundation to ensure our trails and pathways are more safe and accessible for all users, for many generations “to come.”

There are more than 1,700 kilometres of active transportation trails throughout the province. The Manitoba government has created three funds that will be managed by Trails Manitoba and held in trust by The Winnipeg Foundation.

“This investment by the province will allow us to leverage support for many trail projects throughout Manitoba,” said Erik Dickson, president, Trails Manitoba. “It provides the financial stability to ensure our organization is sustainable and able to continue supporting the construction and maintenance of recreational trails while improving our province’s trail offerings and ensuring their long-term viability for future generations to enjoy.”

The \$1-million Trails Manitoba Operating Endowment Fund will serve as ongoing operating funding for Trails Manitoba. The \$4-million Manitoba Trails Improvement Endowment Fund will support annual application based grants to create new trails or improve existing ones. The third fund, a \$2-million Manitoba Trails Strategic Fund, is designed to support capital projects that advance recreational trail development in Winnipeg and will be distributed as matching grants. “We know that Manitobans took advantage of our trail system in record numbers this year and we want to ensure we continue to support this type of outdoor recreation opportunity,” said Squires. “Whether it’s commuting to and from work or escaping the city for a country hike or ride, today’s announcement ensures there will be more trails for all Manitobans to use and enjoy well into the future.”

Eligible projects will be those that provide new trail opportunities, either be creating a new trail or extending an existing one, improve the quality of the trail network, or provide maintenance or trail beautification. Trails Manitoba will have more information on eligibility and project criteria in the coming weeks.

### The Way Forward 2020

This past year, trails in Manitoba have seen unprecedented levels of activity as Manitobans find ways to stay active, improve their overall well-being, and explore their province.

Trails Manitoba is proud to partner with the Province of Manitoba and The Winnipeg Foundation by offering two new recreational trail grants: *Trails Grant for Manitoba* and *Trails Grant for Winnipeg*. These two grant programs represent an investment of \$6 million from the Province of Manitoba, for the development and enhancement of recreational trails throughout Manitoba. The grants will assist in making our trails attractive and inclusive destinations for Manitobans and visitors alike, in celebration of the peoples, communities and landscapes that this province has to offer.

These grants are designed to advance the trail system to reap both social and economic benefits to Manitobans. The projects funded through these grants will also focus on enhancing the environmental perspective of trail users through intentionally directed educational experiences devoted to the responsible use and conservation of natural resources. Through these grants, Trails Manitoba is dedicated to the use of trails by all people to improve their physical, psychological, and social well-being.

This investment will enable our associations, municipalities, and the people dedicated to the stewardship of recreational trails to foster a trail system that will be enjoyed now, and by future generations to come.

Trails Manitoba Board of Directors

Treaty 1



Treaty 1



Treaty 3



Treaty 1



Social Media

[www.trailsmanitoba.ca](http://www.trailsmanitoba.ca)



[Facebook.com/trailsmanitoba](https://www.facebook.com/trailsmanitoba)



[Instagram.com/Trailsmanitoba](https://www.instagram.com/Trailsmanitoba)

Trails Manitoba would like to give a much deserved shout out to Jaime Manness. Jaime has curated the Trails Manitoba Instagram account for the past number of years. Through Jaime’s volunteer efforts, she has grown our account to over 29.5k followers. Her professionalism, sense of adventure, and desire to share trail information and experiences, makes her an ideal Trails Ambassador. Thank you!



**Trails Manitoba Board of Directors**

**April 2020**

**President**

Erik Dickson

**Vice President**

Alex Man

**Treasurer**

Ali Marr

**Secretary**

Daria Jorquera Palmer

**Directors**

- Ian Hughes
- Charles Zant
- Adrian Alphonso
- Colin Joyal
- Dean Kriellaars
- Anders Swanson
- Tomas Vegas
- Jeanna Manning
- Stephanie Bevacqua

**Staff**

**Executive Director**

Tim Coffin

**Executive Assistant**

Janette Crawford

Trails Manitoba thanks the Province of Manitoba, Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living and the Trans Canada Trail for their continued operational support and partnership in trail development. Working together with donors, partners and volunteers we advance trail development, maintenance and promote trail use in Manitoba.

## Partnerships



## Provincial Trails Strategy



The Province of Manitoba has initiated the Manitoba Trails Strategy which is designed to shape how we develop, maintain and support recreational trails across Manitoba.

The Manitoba Trails Strategy will guide the development and maintenance of a provincial trail network for recreational activities such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling and off-road vehicle riding. Trails may include motorized and non-motorized trails, as well as water routes, in both backcountry and front country areas.

### HEALING TRAILS (Path to Reconciliation)

This project, funded by The Winnipeg Foundation & TCT, aims to create an Indigenous-led active transportation and recreation facility development crew with expertise in infrastructure building, interpretation, communications and project management. The project will produce lasting, tangible site-specific projects along the Great Trail in Winnipeg and a comprehensive report to guide us into the future.

The project plans to provide opportunities, and support programs that honour Indigenous languages and culture. The primary responsibility is to create capacity and time for engagement, especially through the development of meaningful work opportunities for young Indigenous people in leadership positions, allowing for direct stewardship of land, language and ideas to emerge and be valued.

For a short video on this project go to: <https://www.winnipegtrails.ca/healing-trails-on-cbc/>

### BENCHMARK

Benchmark is an international design competition which culminates in permanent installations along the trail systems in the city of Winnipeg and beyond. The design challenge to re-imagine the bench has attracted entries from all over the world: 5 continents, 21 countries, 7 provinces and 12 U.S. states.

Now in its fourth year, Benchmark is once again hosting an international design competition to bring unique site furnishings to our neighbourhoods and celebrate Manitoba's diverse trail network. Our trails offer a multitude of trail experiences from wilderness pathways, rail trails, rural tracks, forested paths, historic canoe routes to logging roads, country roads, secondary highways, paved urban walkways, and downtown streets.

Benchmark is an open competition, made possible through the generous support of: Trans Canada Trail, City of Winnipeg and Trails Manitoba.

For more information on this project go to: <https://www.storefrontmb.ca//benchmark>



**PIICNIIC** is a permanent installation located on the public right-of-way fronting 392-398 Graham Avenue. This is the sixth installation completed as part of the Benchmark project with the support of many local organizations including the Manitoba Association of Architects.

### MUNICIPAL PARKS & TRAILS FORUM (Recreation Connections Manitoba)

The Municipal Parks & Trails Forum brings together delegates and speakers from different sectors to discuss and share current and innovative topics, unique partnerships and promising practises. Over 150 delegates from across Manitoba took part, representing:

- Recreation departments and organizations
- Municipal park and trail departments
- Community agencies
- Health organizations
- University and college students and staff

Darcy Granove, on behalf of Trails Manitoba, as well as Adrian Alphonso, a Trails Manitoba Board Member, presented at the Forum.

# Eco Counter Data Analysis

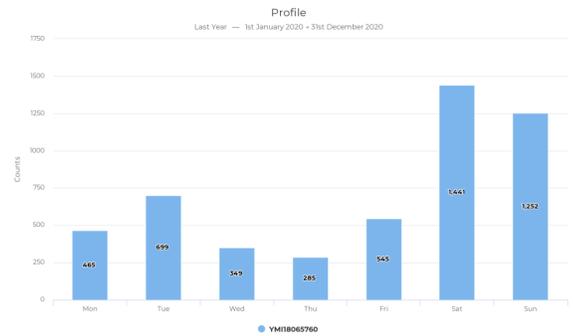
Eco-counters were installed on the Cabin Lake Bridge & the Centennial Trail/Blue Highway to help gauge usage, popular dates & times, as well as mode of passage.

“Bike and pedestrian count data is an essential tool to justify investments, capture seasonal trends, plan future pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, communicate with stakeholders and the public, and much more.”

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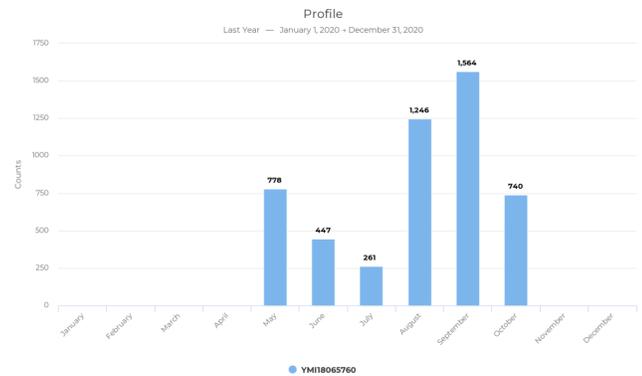
### Blue Highway



Treaty 3



### Cabin Lake



## TM Maintenance Grant

Trails Manitoba was fortunate to provide grants this year for trail groups' maintenance activities based on the following objectives:

- 1) Preserve the trail and environment based on the criteria of a low, moderate & high maintenance rating.

The existing trail network in Manitoba is a variety of terrain consisting of

- (1) Existing trails with hard base or those locations where trails align with roadways  
(LOW MAINTENANCE)

- (2) Existing trails with river gumbo/forest trail, which do not have gravel base and/or require regular mowing and Canadian Shield in hard to access trail locations  
(MODERATE to HIGH MAINTENANCE)

- 2) Enhance for user convenience by focusing on directional and interpretive signage, Trail Heads etc.

## 2020 Trail Group Recipients

Centennial	Lac du Bonnet
Crocus	Pinawa
Crow Wing	Rosburn
Glenboro	South Whiteshell

## TCT CIP/TM Projects

**Joubert Creek Pedestrian Bridge:** This project closed an important gap in the Crow Wing Trail. The \$250,000 bridge project over the Joubert Creek in the RM of De Salaberry is the culmination of ongoing efforts to close gaps in the Trans Canada Trail.

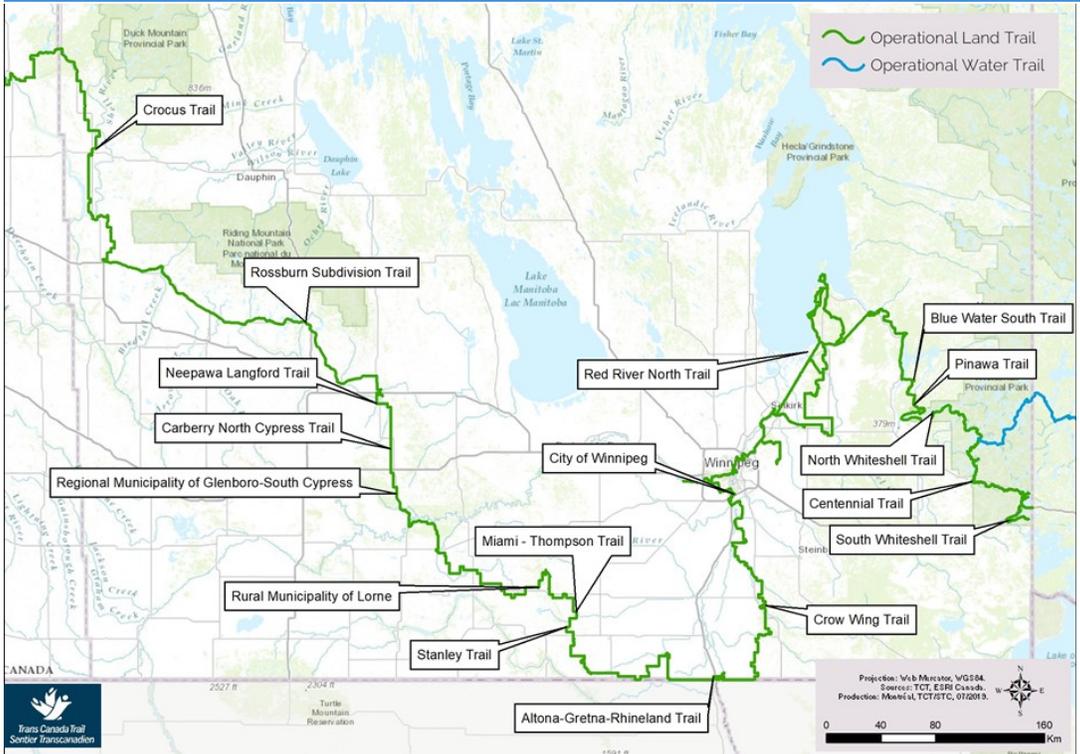


**Cabin Lake Creek Pedestrian Bridge:** A pedestrian bridge was installed at the Cabin Lake Creek location, where connection was not currently possible due to a water crossing. The bridge that is utilized is the second of the two bridges that were salvaged from Kings Park in the City of Winnipeg. The rehabilitated bridge creates a destination point along the North Whiteshell Trail.



**Centennial Trail Signage Improvement Project:** Through the assistance of volunteers, a complete signage audit was completed on the Centennial Trail. The second part of the project includes development of trailhead and wayfinding signage. The project will include construction of trailheads and map design, preparation of a wayfinding signage plan, and finally installation.

# The Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba



## Trails Manitoba Member Groups

- Crocus
- Rossburn Subdivision Trail Assoc.
- Neepawa
- Glenboro/S. Cypress
- Miami Thompson
- Stanley
- Altona/Gretna/Rhineland
- Crow Wing Trail Association
- Transcona Trails
- FortWhyte Alive
- Winnipeg Trail Association
- Harte
- Headingly Grand Trunk Trail
- Lac Du Bonnet
- Pinawa
- Trail Assoc. of the North Whiteshell
- Centennial
- South Whiteshell Trail Assoc.





Trans Canada Trail gifted the pavilion that is at Sundial Junction in Roblin for repurposing. Funding in the amount of \$3000 was given to help with costs, with the intent to make it a functional stop on the trail. A manual bike repair station was installed, which includes a large bike rack, manual pump and a stand with tools to fix issues. Healthy Together Now funding was accessed to offset the cost of the bike repair station. Total costs of the equipment including shipping were covered, allowing more funding for the signage.

The Trans Canada Trail's Spring Clean Up grant was used to repair a chronically wet and quad-damaged section between Currey Park and Road 167W (gravel road one mile west of Roblin).

Trails Manitoba provided maintenance funds that were put towards tree trimming and mulch to reconnect Currey Park to West Goose Lake in Roblin through the Agriculture Grounds. Thank you to the Ag Society for the partnership. Repairs were completed by Peter Wyss of Parkland Landscaping.

Trans Canada Trail commissioned Art Farm to create new interpretive signs to replace the older signs at Duck Mountain, Assessippi, and Goose Lake.

The Wandy family will work with Public Works to create a picnic spot in honour of Bill Wandy who was active with Crocus Trail creation around Goose Lake. Assessippi Ski Area will partner on trail system.



Treaty 4



Treaty 4

The Crocus Trail measures 136 km / 85 miles and runs from the Saskatchewan border to Russell.

## Rosburn Subdivision Trail Association

The beginning of the year continued as the previous ended; grant applications and deadlines to look after the TCT to Riding Mountain National Park Connector Trail in the Municipality of Rosburn. On the Provincial level (Heritage grant and BSC grant) support was provided from the local Fusion Credit Union and local Twin Valley Coop for a total of over \$170,000. Due to some support coming in later than anticipated and due to the slowing of the world due to the pandemic, the actual action of building the trail had to be postponed to 2021.



The route is finalized, a contractor chosen for the board walk and work has begun in designing the trailhead and interpretive signs, stories are being collected for the content of such signs, being Indigenous, Ukrainian heritage and Agricultural education. Expect an invitation to the opening event in late summer 2021, if Covid-19 permits.



Treaty 2

A partnership was established in the summer with the Assiniboine North Parent Child Coalition and the Russell Recreation Commission which resulted in a Healthy Together Now grant to pilot the first Story Book Trail section in the Town of Russell. 18 panels were put up in the fall along the trail which now contains the first story book. Each panel contains a page inviting families to walk from panel to panel, enticing physical and reading exercise.

In conclusion, 2020 was not so much for the doing, but more for the planning and working on strengthening our existing and creating new partnerships.



Treaty 2

The RSTA board is 22 people strong, with 12-15 people showing up to regular meetings.

## Miami Thompson Trail

Treaty 1



This old CN Railroad Trestle Bridge is a treasured piece of history in Miami, and one that you will see as you travel along this section of The Great Trail in Manitoba as it follows the Pembina Escarpment.



The Miami Thompson Trail Committee is a brand new group. The predecessors retired several years ago, after spending many years taking good care of the trail. There are currently four people taking over from the previous group. Recruiting some more members for a trail ambassador group is a priority to monitor the trail and help with a quick response to issues and concerns along the 53 km route.

There has been a lot of driving, walking and note taking since the fall of last year. It has been determined that there is a need for quite a number of new wayfinding signs, kiosk repair, additional maps and local interest, flora and fauna signage will also be required. The committee would like to create additional rest and picnic areas along the route.

The Mountain Glen rest area is one of the most picturesque spots on this section of trail. It is the site of one of the earliest rural schools, and power toboggan clubs. It remains a popular destination in the community for family picnics, hiking, and tobogganing in winter.

The biggest project will be to install a new bridge over the South Tobacco Creek at the Mountain Glen location. The banks of the creek eroded to the point that the footings became loose and the old bridge had to be removed over safety concerns making The Great Trail through our Municipality currently impassable. Our committee, in partnership with the Rural Municipality of Thompson, has commissioned some proposals for a new bridge and we have taken advantage of the funding opportunities provided by the Manitoba Government and Trails Manitoba, and the Building Sustainable Communities Grant.

In August of 2020, the RM of Thompson built a new 1.6 km limestone trail from the town of Miami to the Golf Course west of town, over the old CN railbed. The plan is to make an application to The Great Trail to have this leg added to the official map of The Great Trail.



The trail is always a work in progress with a priority to increase greenway trails. One of these efforts was CWTA's biggest accomplishment in 2020. It also closed the last gap, a reroute to conform to Manitoba Infrastructure regulations. This meant the installation of a pedestrian bridge at a cost of \$250,000. The need to work with engineers was facilitated by the experience shared by Trails Manitoba and Trans Canada Trail. As plans to cross PTH 75 at the Canada-U.S. Border in Emerson progress, there is a new need to 'reconnect' with the Altona-Gretna-Rhineland Trail to the west.

2020 also saw the 'soft launch' (because of Covid) of two promotional projects:

**Crow Wing Trail Camino:** A 25 km section between St-Pierre-Jolys and St. Malo, with an appropriately signed Section, that encourages pilgrims to get their passport from the Canadian Company of Pilgrims Winnipeg Chapter. They can start here and then complete their 75 km in Spain for a compostela. The new bridge is part of this section as well as the addition of a shelter and potty midway.

**Crow Wing Trail Passport:** To encourage trail users to do the entire Crow Wing Trail by doing the trail one section at a time. Sections are described and local businesses will stamp each section when completed.

Treaty 1



### Board of Directors:

Murielle Bugera, President  
Dolores Thiel, Secretary/Treasurer  
André Carbonneau  
Janine Boulanger

CWTA major partners are the RM of Ritchot, the Town of Niverville, the RM of De Salaberry, the Village of St-Pierre-Jolys, the RM of Emerson-Franklin and the Roseau River First Nation. The Crow Wing Trail is mostly on municipal property comprised of road allowances, parks, bush and community trails.



### FAST FACTS

- \* Asphalt surface \* 6.7 km route length

### PARKING

- \* Corner of Regent Ave & Peguis St
- \* Corner of Ravelston Ave & Bradley St
- \* Transcona Bioreserve parking lot on Gunn Rd
- \* Park City West Community Club @ Hoka Ave

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- \* Rotary Tall Grass Nature Park \* Train Park \* Transcona Community Bioreserve \* Cordite Trail \* George Olive Park



The Transcona Bioreserve trail is a 2.3 kilometer loop located at 38 Whiteshell Ave in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This former industrial plant site has been revitalized to feature crushed limestone trails and a thriving big bluestem grass field.

In the warmer months the trails are known for the delightful songs of migratory songbirds and the sight of wild flowers and butterflies in the meadows.

The trails are accessible to the community year-round and are dog-friendly. FortWhyte Alive is proud to steward these trails for community use.



Nestled within the City of Winnipeg, FortWhyte Alive is an award-winning destination for incredible outdoor experiences through 660 acres of protected urban greenspace.

Humans can connect with nature through a variety of unique programs and events that foster sustainability within the community, as well as through every day nature exploration, outdoor recreation, adventure and discovery.

Guests enjoy more than 7 kilometres of breathtaking hiking trails year-round. The trails wind through forests and meadows, follow the floating boardwalk through the marsh and allow visitors to take in the scenery and wildlife from various lookout points.

The majority of trails at FortWhyte are packed with crushed limestone, providing an all-season surface for all types and ages of visitors, including strollers, wheelchairs, and connection to a road bikes network.

The spine of the FortWhyte Alive trail network connects with the longest recreational trail in the world, The Great Trail.

Access to trails is included with the price of admission, or free for FortWhyte Alive Members.



Treaty 1



Treaty 1

Photos courtesy of [www.alltrails.com](http://www.alltrails.com)



Winnipeg Trails' mandate includes all modes of human-powered transportation and activities include design, advocacy, construction, data collection, policy development, cultural campaigns and multiple standalone projects intended to help a modern city of 700,000+ people move in a healthy and rewarding way.

**Plain Bicycle Project:** The goal is to bring everyday cycling culture to Manitoba, started by offering upright and comfortable loaner bikes to anyone who needs one.

**School Loops Project:** Addresses a comprehensive healthy school transport need to rapidly upgrade trails and end-of-trip facilities in every schoolyard in Winnipeg..

**WinterPeg Project:** The purchase of second hand skis and snowshoes with the intention of creating a (by donation) library that could be moved to inner city parks.

### Open Streets For Healing: Pandemic Safe Streets Rapid Response Plan

The pandemic response plan consisted largely of developing methodologies to improve conditions on the streets of Winnipeg quickly. It was conceived as an emergency transportation measure to link missing pieces in Winnipeg's walk and bike network with designs that offer comfort, pleasure, connection and safety.

The project aligns with the City of Winnipeg's effort of limiting motor vehicle traffic to one block on ten Sunday/Holiday Bicycle routes (known colloquially as Open Streets) between 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. This project is an effort to assist with social distancing requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information go to: <https://www.winnipegtrails.ca/open-streets-for-healing-pandemic-safe-streets-rapid-response-plan/>



### Natural Prairie Wilderness in the Heart of Charleswood

This popular trail is part of the Trans Canada Trail and runs through a narrow strip of wilderness on an old railway bed. The path is intersected by half a dozen streets, and it is clear where the locals gain access, from numerous well worn footpaths meeting the trail. Its name is taken from the Harte Line, the first section of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway built in western Canada in 1894.

The City has put the Harte Trail on a priority plowing list because the Trail is part of an active transportation initiative. This means that within 48 hours of a snowfall, the City will be out plowing a nice, wide path on the trail.

Due to COVID-19 concerns the Spring tree planting event was postponed. Instead, hundreds of small trees which we gave away for people to plant in their own yards was secured. The event was held in early July and attracted a good-sized turnout, where about 300 trees were given away. It also provided some good publicity for the Harte Trail, as it was part of the City's One Million Tree Challenge.

There was a Fall tree planting in September, which resulted in more than 75 trees being planted. The recent tree plantings are all taking place near the west end of the Trail, adjacent to the Ridgewood West housing development, near the end of Cullen Drive.

There is a desire to find a safe, direct way to cross the Perimeter Highway and connect with the Headingley Grand Trunk Trail on the west side, either with a bridge or a tunnel under the roadway. The executive will continue discussions with local politicians, to have the City provide a crossing in the same manner as exists on the north Perimeter Highway at the Northeast Pioneers Greenway.



## Headingley Grand Trunk Trail

In spite of the restrictions imposed due to Covid 19, the Headingley Grand Trunk Trail welcomed the most visitors ever in 2020. From January to December there were hundreds of people on the trail walking, bicycling, running and geo-caching. Support from the RM of Headingley and the TCT Seasonal Grant allowed portions of the trail to be plowed, creating greater access during the winter months. Ongoing support from the Trans Canada Trail supported signage and winter / spring clean up. We also appreciated the support from The Trans Canada Trail and Winnipeg Trails in helping to “spread the word” about the projects. Although the annual program activities had to be cancelled, the Board was busy with the following projects:

### Adopt a Bluebird Box Project

Blue bird boxes were built and installed in ten locations along the trail in 2015. The bluebird boxes on the Headingley Grand Trunk Trail have been placed on tall metal poles to prevent squirrels and cats from climbing and harming the birds. They generally all point in an easterly direction as it has been found that the birds prefer this direction for their nests and it keeps the boxes away from the strong winds in our area. To date there have been four bluebird nests built and successfully fledged a family of wrens and many families of tree swallows. For 2020 the boxes were maintained and monitored by Board Members, but, there are plans to invite the public to “Adopt a Bluebird Box” in 2021.



### Prairie Restoration and Headingley Outdoor Recreation Development Plan

The remnant tall grass prairie along the trail has been designated as green space and the RM of Headingley is working with the Trail Board to ensure further protection of the area. We are developing a prairie restoration plan in consultation with Native Plant Solutions and Prairie Originals.



### Bicycle Repair Station

A bicycle repair station was installed near the kiosk at the junction of Wescana St. and the trail.



In spite of challenges posed by pandemic restrictions, trail closures, and weather conditions, the Lac du Bonnet Trails Association made considerable progress on the Bluewater South section of The Great Trail in 2020.

Six updated discovery panels from TCT were replaced at Blueberry Rock and the Winnipeg River Bridge, and 26 new signs were installed. A trailhead structure with a detailed map was installed at the parking area on Old Pointe Road showing the area through the Lee River Trail, part of a Wildlife Management Area, as well as an animal-proof garbage can at this location.

 Treaty 3



In the spring there was some mowing, brushing, and culvert repair required on this section of trail. A grant from Trans Canada Trail for \$1,000.00 allowed for grooming a section of the trail south of Tower Rd for cross-country skiing, and designation of the section of trail north of Tower Road for snowshoeing/hiking. This is the first year where the opportunity to designate such trail use increased the winter trail activity significantly.

Volunteer efforts at Blueberry Rock Park deserve special mention. The volunteers, with the first grant in 2000, have continued as “guardians” of Blueberry Rock ever since. In 2020, a partnership with Winnipeg River Recreation, the volunteers hosted a Family Fun Day on February 16. In spite of the cold temperature, families came out to enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, a nature scavenger hunt, and cooking hot dogs and bannock over a fire. Volunteers from the Trails Association worked at the Lac du Bonnet Fishing Derby and spent 3 Saturdays at Mrs. Lucci’s second hand store. These two volunteer efforts are the main fundraising activities. The Lac du Bonnet Farmer’s Market on July 25 was an opportunity to promote the trails with a visual display, map brochures, recycling bags and shopping bags that were handed out to the public. Throughout the year, volunteers provided a wood box to keep cut wood stored and dry, cut dead trees and stacked the firewood for the fire pits, cleaned out the fire pits, dragged the access road to make it more accessible in winter and organized work parties to clean up two incidents of graffiti.

Blueberry Rock Trail was listed as one of the hikes in the Hike Manitoba publication by Jaime Manness. This acknowledgement gives volunteers encouragement and provides incentive to continue their efforts!

## Pinawa Trail

Pinawa's section of the Trans Canada Trail spans 27.5 kilometres, from the Seven Sisters Falls Hydro Dam in the south, to the historic Old Pinawa Dam Heritage Park in the north. The trail travels through boreal forest and over granite outcrops of the Canadian Shield. Along its length it follows both the Winnipeg River and the Pinawa Channel, and connects the communities of Seven Sisters Falls and Pinawa.



Improved signage was completed to guide visitors to The Great Trail, The Suspension Bridge, the bathrooms and the Channel Float exit as well as a new Highway sign.

Permanent toilets were added to the Suspension Bridge area along with expanded parking.



### Trail Tread Maintenance

Trail tread work was minimal this year because of the Covid 19 virus and the trail that needed additional tread, was too wet for equipment. A new dump buggy was fabricated based on the ones borrowed from Conservation/Parks. Having this buggy will improve the ability to spread material when the trail is sufficiently dry. The buggy fabrication was afforded by the generosity of The Pinawa Friends of the TCT.

### Trail Use Statistics

Due to Covid 19 there has been quite an increase in trail users. Numbers in 2020 were markedly higher overall (17 out of 22 weeks) especially in spring and fall. Overall use was 1.49 times higher in 2020 than in 2019. Much higher counts were recorded near the west end of the Heritage Trail in 2020 (2.79 times higher than near the east end), reflecting the importance of the suspension bridge as a visitor attraction.

The Pinawa Friends of the Trans Canada Trail is a local non-profit Pinawa organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the Trans Canada Trail.



There was a plan to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Centennial Trail in conjunction with Manitoba's 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations and hosting 2 hikes in June and October. Unfortunately, COVID and the delays in signage have postponed this now to possibly 2021.

The signage project includes the installation of 6 kiosks with maps and interpretive information at Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary, Telford Tower, Telford Pond, Bear Lake, McGillivray Falls and Caddy Lake. Junctions at each point on the main trail from Alfred Hole Goose Sanctuary to the Eastern Trailhead just west of PTH 312 will provide information on the distance to the next junction and access point on the highway. Highway access signage will also be installed on Hwy 44. Cairns and limited signage mark the way on the trail built by the Scouts and Guides from the Eastern Trailhead to Hanson's Creek including the Telford Pond and Telford Tower accesses.



Parks advised of possible petroforms (ancient stone forms that have deep meaning and healing power to those who know how to "read" and work with them) in the area and due to this concern, the logo, which previously featured cairns, had to be redesigned. The new logo now features Manitoba's Provincial Tree – the white spruce. Parks has now prohibited the building and repair of cairns. Unfortunately, 32 cairns were destroyed on the 1.5 km section from McGillivray Falls west to the junction of the Centennial Trail and Blue Highway.

There were 17 trips to the trail with the help of Cindy and Bill Reynolds and Thomas Bishop to completely GPS and mark all existing cairns, signage, areas requiring signage and maintenance. The inventory revealed 1048 cairns, 1161 existing arrows, 385 TCT and cobranded signage and 48 historical Scouts signage.

A maintenance grant from the Trans Canada Trail provided the funds to purchase trail maintenance equipment such as a brush cutter and pruning tools. The Centennial Trail group purchased a small wagon to assist with the transportation of the maintenance tools.



The South Whiteshell Trail Association (SWTA) is a group of volunteer locals, cottagers, businesses and trail enthusiasts who are dedicated to the planning, building, and maintenance of trails in the South Whiteshell Provincial Park, Treaty 3, traditional lands of the Anishinabewaki, Métis and Očeti Šakówiŋ (Sioux) people.

Since their inception, in 1997, SWTA has collaborated with organizations such as the Trans Canada Trail, Trails Manitoba and Sustainable Development (Parks) to build over 100 km of trails in the Falcon, West Hawk, and Caddy Lake areas. All of the great work done by SWTA depends upon volunteer efforts, donations, grants and fundraising.

### GRANITE BENCH LEGACY PROGRAM

With a minimum donation of \$5000 trail supporters have the opportunity to install a magnificent granite bench (crafted from rock local to the area) at a mutually agreed upon location along one of the SWTA's trails.

Falcon North Shore Trail  
 West Hawk to Caddy Lake Trail  
 Marsh Trail  
 Lost Lake Trail  
 Five of Diamonds Mountain Bike Route

Faloma to West Hawk Trail  
 Nite Hawk to Ontario Boarder Trail  
 Falcon South Shore Trail  
 Pierre's Poetry Trail  
 Blue Highway Mountain Bike Route

Many thanks to Manitoba Parks Branch for their continued support & maintenance of our trails.



### MOUNTAIN BIKE DEVELOPMENT WITH THE 2 TYRED BUILDERS

The 2 Tyred Builders are a division of SWTA that focus their efforts on building and maintaining mountain bike trails in the South Whiteshell. Through hundreds of hours of volunteer effort and many financial contributions, the 2 Tyred Builders have and continue to developed two of Manitoba's hottest mountain bike riding destinations: The Blue Highway and Five of Diamonds Mountain Bike Routes.

Starting from the Caddy Lake Resort Road, heading west along some of the most beautiful granite ridges in the Whiteshell, the Blue Highway has already become a very popular destination trail and according to many avid users, it has become a "favourite".



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Darcy Granove is the owner of Little Bluestem Landscape Architecture.

She has been working with trail groups for several decades, and her work includes the following:

- Conducting public consultation
- Master planning
- GPS mapping

Darcy has also lead design work on:

- Multi-use trails
- Interpretive signage
- Landscape site amenities



Darcy is the Provincial Trails Project Manager for Trails Manitoba. We appreciate her knowledge & expertise of the Trail Network in Manitoba.

Following is a list of the few things that Darcy was involved with in 2020.

- Cabin Lake Bridge Installation
- Lee River Trail and Parking Lot Installation , Highway Signs Coordination
- Technical Advisor for the Benchmark Design Competition
- Presented at the 2020 Municipal Parks and Trails Forum / Recreation Connections
- Planning committee for 2021 Municipal Parks and Trails Forum
- Further development of Day Trip brochures and review with trail groups
- Centennial Trail Kiosks, Signage Plan- includes wayfinding Arrows/Highway Signage Plan
- Whiteshell Kiosk Inventory/Brochures, Interpretive Signage updates & additions
- Completed maps for Alf Hole to Brereton, White Lake, Inverness to Cabin and Nutimik Lake
- Created a google map containing locations of amenities & issues
- Benchmark Design Competition 2020 planning
- Remaining Administration work from the B2B project completion

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## Independent Auditor's Report

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**To the Members of Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Inc.**

### **Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Inc., (the "Association") which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the consolidated statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### **Basis for Qualified Opinion**

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Association derives revenue from donations and other fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Association. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to fundraising revenue, excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2020, current assets as at December 31, 2019 and 2020, and net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2019 and 2020 years. Our audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Continued on next page

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Association to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

*BDO Canada LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba

April 12, 2021

## MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC.

### Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31

2020

2019

	MRTA and RTB	Local Trail Groups	Total	Total
<b>Revenue</b>				
Donations	\$ 5,491	\$ 64,556	\$ 70,047	\$ 100,687
Grants				
Trans Canada Trail	130,937	17,052	147,989	246,443
Province of Manitoba	21,875	7,255	29,130	40,000
Falcon West Hawk Chamber of Commerce	-	-	-	46,000
The Winnipeg Foundation	55,621	-	55,621	35,000
South Whiteshell Trail Association	-	-	-	50,000
Others	39	-	39	900
Interest income	3,082	-	3,082	8,078
Memberships	1,460	-	1,460	1,349
Recognition of deferred contributions	96,859	7,181	104,040	187,836
Workshop	-	-	-	127
	<b>315,364</b>	<b>96,044</b>	<b>411,408</b>	<b>716,420</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Amortization	2,536	-	2,536	5,071
Bad debt expense	-	-	-	48
Bank charges and interest	881	639	1,520	875
Insurance	839	-	839	1,213
Licences and memberships	943	-	943	763
Marketing	596	-	596	12,372
Meetings	339	-	339	2,619
Millennium Fund expenses	25,592	-	25,592	15,675
Office	2,377	39	2,416	7,710
Professional fees	18,259	-	18,259	8,748
Property taxes	546	-	546	584
Rent	10,435	-	10,435	11,476
Salaries and benefits	86,031	-	86,031	74,015
Telephone and communications	2,304	-	2,304	1,912
Trail construction	242,716	95,867	338,583	609,969
Travel	1,468	-	1,468	2,086
Workshop	-	-	-	1,330
	<b>395,862</b>	<b>96,545</b>	<b>492,407</b>	<b>756,466</b>
<b>Deficiency of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ (80,498)</b>	<b>\$ (501)</b>	<b>\$ (80,999)</b>	<b>\$ (40,046)</b>

## MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC.

### Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and bank	\$ 410,071	\$ 445,821
Restricted cash	108,127	95,025
Accounts receivable	10,924	19,620
Prepaid expenses	2,173	-
	531,295	560,466
<b>Capital assets</b>	-	2,535
	\$ 531,295	\$ 563,001
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 167,113	\$ 13,780
<b>Deferred contributions</b>	12,600	116,640
	179,713	130,420
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Local Trail Groups Fund	77,460	77,961
General Fund	274,122	354,620
	351,582	432,581
	\$ 531,295	\$ 563,001

## MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC.

### Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31	2020	2019
<b>Cash Flows used in Operating Activities</b>		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ (80,999)	\$ (40,046)
Adjustments for		
Amortization of capital assets	2,536	5,071
	<b>(78,463)</b>	(34,975)
Changes in non-cash working capital balances		
Accounts receivable	8,695	3,297
Prepaid expenses	(2,173)	276
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	153,333	(17,093)
Deferred contributions	(104,040)	(187,836)
	<b>(22,648)</b>	(236,331)
<b>Decrease in cash and bank during the year</b>	<b>(22,648)</b>	(236,331)
<b>Cash and bank, beginning of year</b>	<b>540,846</b>	777,177
<b>Cash and bank, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 518,198</b>	\$ 540,846
<b>Represented by</b>		
Cash and bank	\$ 410,071	\$ 445,821
Restricted cash	108,127	95,025
	<b>\$ 518,198</b>	\$ 540,846

**Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Inc. o/a Trails Manitoba/Sentiers Manitoba** is a Registered Charitable organization. Help support our mission to promote the construction, maintenance and use of recreational trail throughout the Province of Manitoba. A healthy and robust trail network benefits the economy, the environment, and overall human well-being.

Trails Manitoba is continually supported by dedicated volunteers and charitable donations. Your contribution to completing and maintaining The Great Trail in Manitoba is a lasting and meaningful gift. To donate online visit our website @ [www.trailsmanitoba.ca](http://www.trailsmanitoba.ca) & click on Donate.



PayPal Giving Fund Canada



Leave No Trace Canada is a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. Leave No Trace builds awareness, appreciation and respect for our wildlands .

Vision: To take the lead role in addressing and mitigating recreational impacts on Canada's wilderness and natural area recreation resources.

Mission: Promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships

The Leave No Trace Principles of outdoor ethics form the framework of Leave No Trace's message:

- ⇒ Plan Ahead and Prepare
- ⇒ Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- ⇒ Dispose of Waste Properly
- ⇒ Leave What You Find
- ⇒ Minimize Campfire Impacts
- ⇒ Respect Wildlife
- ⇒ Be Considerate of Other Visitors



 Treaty 5

***If you pack it in -> you pack it out!***