

Annual Report 2023 Year in Review



Trails
Manitoba

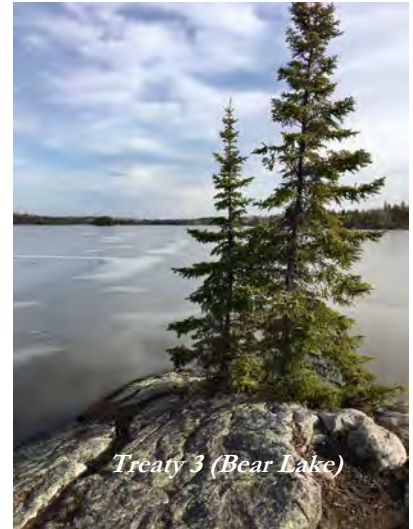
30

YEARS / ANS

Sentiers
Manitoba

Inside this issue:

<i>Messages from the President</i>	P. 3
<i>Message from the Executive Director</i>	P. 4
<i>Trails Manitoba Grant Program</i>	P. 7
<i>Member Trail Group Updates</i>	P. 14
<i>How to get Involved?</i>	P. 19
<i>2023 Financials</i>	P. 21



Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2023)

Jeana Manning (President)
Adrian Alphonso (Vice President)
Ali Marr (Treasurer)
Daria Jorquera-Palmer (Secretary)
Colin Joyal (Grants Chair)
Alex Man
Brenda Dawyduk
Charles Zant
Dave Ternier
Dean Kriellaars
Erik Dickson
Marc Zurbuchen
Philip Jenkinson
Steve Demmings

STAFF

Tim Coffin (Executive Director)
Janette Crawford (Executive Assistant)

SUMMER EMPLOYEE

Hayley Ward
(Trail Research & Mapping Coordinator)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Jaime Manness (Instagram)

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 National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

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.

Message from the President

If I look back at the last year, the theme I'd like to highlight is "preparing for the next leg of the journey." On any longer trail experience, there are many aspects you might want to consider. Three of these aspects are the team you are traveling with, your food/fuel, and your map and plan. This is applicable to us at Trails Manitoba as we build the capacity for the next leg of the journey. Trails Manitoba is set up well to manage uncertainty and opportunity for the years to come.

Following last year's AGM, Trails Manitoba adopted a new leadership model. Adrian Alphonso and I share leadership responsibilities and work closely with our exceptional executive committee, where we draw on each other's specific skills and areas of expertise. The executive committee was privileged to include past president Erik Dickson, and we tapped into his knowledge and wisdom throughout the year. We also have an exceptional board, with representation from trail designers and builders, healthcare, legal and financial services, educational institutions, and other government services. We have an exceptional team!

Funding is the source of sustenance most organizations require, as is the case at Trails Manitoba. The provincial government's 2020 investment supplied the Trails Manitoba Grant Program with between \$1.4 and \$1.5 million in trail funding annually. This is the last year for this level of funding from the provincial government's 2020 investment, with next year's grant funding expected to drop to \$200,000 to \$250,000.

In 2023, our board recognized, "it would be a shame for our grant program to lose momentum!" So, we invested in a fundraising strategy. This fundraising strategy will set us up as a fundraising organization in the years to come, giving Trails Manitoba more autonomy over revenue and granting capacity.

While we cannot promise anything for timeline and budget, our hope is to continue to fund exceptional trails for years to come.

Lastly, we are in the process of building a new roadmap going forward: our strategic plan. There are three parts of the strategic plan I'll highlight here: reconciliation, proactive health, and a Manitoba trail network master plan. While the strategic plan is still in the works, I'll give you a teaser on the direction we are heading.

- Trails provide a unique interface for reconciliation, connecting people with the native homelands of Indigenous peoples.
- Trails are pathways for proactive healthcare, where investments directly improve mental and physical health and reduce impacts to the healthcare system.
- Lastly, trails can connect to all Manitobans with the strategic guidance of a trail network master plan identifying high-level gaps and opportunities for improved infrastructure.

Trails Manitoba is set up well to navigate this next leg of our journey, as demonstrated through our resilient leadership model, fundraising strategy, and strategic plan.

I'd like to finish by saying a big thank you to our Executive Director, Tim Coffin, and Executive Assistant, Janette Crawford. Thank you for the ways you build partnerships and ensure the exceptional operations of Trails Manitoba. And a huge thank you to all the trail associations, funders, planners, designers, constructors, maintainers, and programmers – you are the true trailblazers of Manitoba!

Thank you!

Jeana



Message from the Executive Director

Trails MB Members, Partners, and Friends,

2023 marked our organization's 30th anniversary, and it was a remarkable milestone that we are immensely proud of.

Reflecting on this achievement, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who have contributed to our success over the years. Past board members, staff, volunteers, and partners have played a pivotal role in shaping Trails Manitoba into what it is today. Without their hard work and dedication, we would not have reached this point.

A special thank you to our current Board of Directors for your invaluable guidance and support. I want to especially acknowledge Erik Dickson, who is departing this year. Erik, your leadership has been instrumental, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

This year was also marked by significant milestones in our ongoing work to promote and support recreational trails across Manitoba. The release of the Provincial Trails Strategy was a pivotal moment, providing a clear roadmap for the future of our trails. Alongside this, the province established the Parks and Trails Division, featuring the new Trail Coordination Office, led by Ashleigh Hall. Ashleigh's leadership in this role has been invaluable, and we're excited to see the division's continued growth.

Our collaborations with trail builders, trail user groups, municipalities, and First Nations communities have grown stronger, reinforcing our belief that trails connect people,

communities, and landscapes. We are proud to have played a role in fostering these connections through our annual Trails Grant Program, which continues to exceed expectations.

Thanks to funding from the Urban/Hometown Green Teams Funding Program, we were able to hire a summer employee to audit road crossings along our 1,400 km section of the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba, enhancing safety for all trail users. This is just one of the many initiatives we undertake to ensure a vibrant and safe trails network.

To our wonderful volunteers, we owe a debt of gratitude. Your unwavering commitment to our shared mission is the backbone of our success. You are the real rock stars of the trails community, and we are truly grateful for all that you do.

As we look forward to the future, we remain committed to our core values and mission: providing support and resources to promote the development and use of recreational trails throughout Manitoba. Our organization may be small, but our vision and determination are anything but. With the continued support of our stakeholders, partners, and trail volunteers, I am confident that we will achieve even greater success in the years to come.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Here's to another 30 years of building, maintaining, and enjoying the trails of Manitoba.

Sincerely,

Tim



Strategic Plan 2021-2024

TRAILS MANITOBA STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024



VISION

Our vision is that people in Manitoba will desire and benefit from a fully integrated and supported trail network, linking communities and people throughout the province.

MISSION

To provide the support and resources necessary to promote the development and use of recreational trail throughout Manitoba, thereby improving the overall well being of our communities.

LEADERSHIP:

Be the provincial leader in recreational trails.

- Be the strong voice and advocate for recreational trails.
- Advance the positive impact of trails through relationship building.
- Champion recreational trails as essential to supporting healthy, active, and connected communities.
- Positively contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- Continually improve the province's recreational trail infrastructure.

MEMBER SUPPORT & PARTNERSHIPS:

Continue to grow & enhance our recreational trails community.

- Increase membership & continually improve overall benefits.
- Connect our members to one another and engage them in our Association.
- Be visible and relevant to members.
- Build partnerships that emphasize the value and importance of trails in Manitoba.
- Establish/strengthen relationships with other related trail organizations.
- Establish strong government connections.
- Strengthen our commitment to support volunteer trail associations and other volunteers.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS:

Thrive & be resilient.

- Embrace continuous improvement.
- Be proactive in securing funds.
- Enhance organizational capability through adequate succession planning.
- Inspire and support excellence in staff.
- Foster and recruit diverse Board members.
- Be proactive in legacy planning.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Be an industry leader in environmental & economic development.

- Make trails more desirable to users.
- Enhance signage, print, and online materials to help trail users explore the trail.
- Promote sustainable use of trails.
- Continue to make positive advancements in environmental conservation.
- Strengthen overall support for trails by reinforcing positive economic and social development.

See <https://www.trailsmanitoba.ca/about/>

Funders & Partners



BENCHMARK



TRANS CANADA TRAIL
SENTIER TRANSCANADIEN



Parcs Canada



Assurance | Accounting | Tax | Advisory

Manitoba Government Trails Strategy Charts Path to Enhance Provincials Trails Network- Government Announcement June 2, 2023

A new provincial trails strategy from the Manitoba government as well as investments supporting 34 projects will strengthen the trail network across the province and nurture lasting bonds with nature for generations to come, Natural Resources and Northern Development Minister Greg Nesbitt and Municipal Relations Minister Andrew Smith announced today.

“Manitobans love the outdoors and our government is proud to support the development of new trails and make improvements to existing trails,” said Nesbitt. “The new Manitoba Trails Strategy and Action Plan puts us on a path to a healthier Manitoba with thriving communities, while ensuring our trails are sustainably managed into the future and that natural environments continue to be respected.”

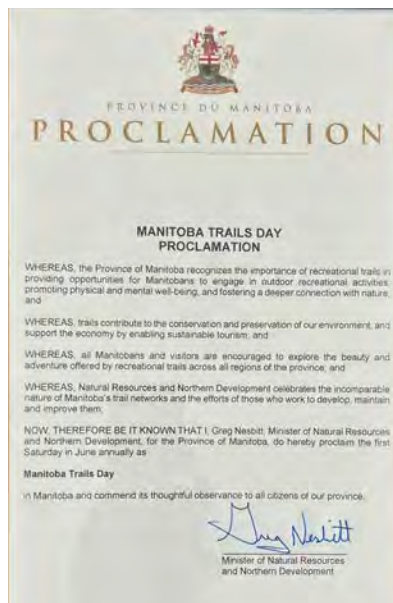
The Manitoba Trails Strategy and Action Plan has several key objectives to improve trail connectivity, prioritize environmental protection, promote collaboration between user groups, and encourage eco-tourism development across the province, Nesbitt noted.

As part of the strategy, a new provincial trails office within the department of Natural Resources and Northern Development is being created, Nesbitt noted, adding that this new office will act as a coordinating body for trails management across Manitoba and help reduce red tape for trail organizations and clubs.

The Manitoba government along with Trails Manitoba also announced \$964,689 in funding from the 2023 Trails Manitoba Grant Program to support development of new and improved trails across the province. “Today, we celebrate 34 Trails Manitoba Grant funding recipients reaching from Morden to Churchill,” said Jeana Manning, president, Trails Manitoba. “This funding will help enable the development, upgrade, and maintenance of 715 kms of recreational trails. These trails will not only connect communities, but also ignite the spirit of adventure, promoting physical and social wellness and a profound connection with nature.”

The Manitoba Cycling Association is receiving a \$15,000 grant for upgrades to the Bison Butte multi-use trail, located at FortWhyte Alive in Winnipeg.

“Over the past several years, Manitoba Cycling, in support of FortWhyte Alive, has maintained the trails through community volunteers and grants obtained for approved projects onsite,” said Twila Cruickshank, executive director, Manitoba Cycling Association. “Our goal this summer will be to upgrade the existing trails and improve the trail use for all ages and ability levels. The funds received will not only help benefit the World Police and Fire Games competitions this August, but the residents of the city and province in general.”



In conjunction with these initiatives, the Manitoba government has proclaimed the inaugural Manitoba Trails Day, which will be celebrated annually the first Saturday in June, to highlight the importance of trails and their positive impact on residents and communities, Nesbitt noted.



To read the *Manitoba Trails Strategy and Action Plan*, visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/sd/trails/index.html>

Trails Manitoba Grant Program

Trails Manitoba is proud to partner with the Province of Manitoba and The Winnipeg Foundation by offering two recreational trail grants: Trails Grant for Manitoba and Trails Grant for Winnipeg. These two grant programs represent an investment of \$9 million from the Province of Manitoba, for the development and enhancement of recreational trails throughout Manitoba. These grants assist in making recreational trails attractive and inclusive destinations for Manitobans and visitors alike, in celebration of the peoples, communities, and landscapes that this province has to offer.



Trails Grant for Manitoba

The funds for the Trails Grant for Manitoba derive from interest from a \$4M endowment, with total annual disbursements estimated between \$180,000 to \$240,000. While this specific funding and grant program will continue in perpetuity, an additional \$2.5M provided by the Province of Manitoba (estimated allocation of \$600,000 per year) has been allocated to the program until 2025. Approved projects are expected to be completed within 2 years. This grant is intended for trail associations, municipalities, or other not-for-profit groups, that have the means to provide continued stewardship of trails. Grant applications solely for trail maintenance may receive greater flexibility with regards to matching requirements. Maintenance Grants will be prioritized based on location (rural vs. urban) and available support (i.e. city-based funding for trail maintenance).

Specific objectives for this grant include:

- * Provide new recreational trail opportunities which includes extending or improving existing trails, developing new trails, and addressing trail gaps and barriers.
- * Improve the quality of the existing recreational trail network or the user's experience including safety improvements, signage, wayfinding, and barriers to access.
- * Maintenance of the recreational trail network, including pruning, repairing holes, trail beautification, normal erosion/drainage repairs, clean-up, usual repairs (signage, barriers, fencing, surfacing) and other maintenance tasks that are undertaken for upkeep of a trail.

Trails Grant for Winnipeg

The Trails Grant for Winnipeg is an annual grant with an estimated allocation of \$500,000 per year. \$2.5M provided by the Province of Manitoba has been allocated to the program until 2025. This grant is largely intended for trail associations, the City of Winnipeg, or other not-for-profit groups, that have the means to provide continued stewardship. Approved projects are expected to be completed within 2 years.

Specific objectives for this grant include:

- * Increase the length of the greenway trail network.
- * Improve the quality of the existing greenway trail network.
- * Improve the user's experience.



"Manitoba has some of the best trails in Canada that are world renowned, and our government is thrilled to partner with municipalities and community groups on their further development. We're committed to making trails more accessible for all to encourage the health and well-being of every Manitoban."

- Municipal Relations Minister Andrew Smith

2023 Approved Projects: *Trails Grant for Manitoba*

Birtle Miniota & DDC - Prairie View Trail Benches	\$ 1,756.00	Norfolk Treherne CDC	\$ 13,723.00
Birtle Miniota & DDC - Silver Bend Trail Clearing	\$ 900.00	Rae Trail Association	\$ 4,000.00
Crocus Trail - General Trail Maintenance	\$ 3,100.00	Regional EDO of Flin Flon	\$ 8,666.00
Manitoba Mountain Bike Association	\$ 3,132.00	RM of La Broquerie	\$ 75,000.00
RM of Headingley	\$75,000.00	RM of MacDonald	\$ 68,500.00
Rosburn Subdivision Trail Association	\$ 14,760.00	RM of Richot	\$ 6,500.00
South Whiteshell Trail Association	\$ 75,000.00	RM of St. Francois Xavier	\$ 11,000.00
Strength in Circle	\$ 23,000.00	Stanley Trail Association	\$ 3,207.00
City of Selkirk	\$ 3,933.00	The SCORE Store	\$ 75,000.00
City of Winkler	\$ 75,000.00	Town of Churchill	\$ 10,600.00
Crocus Trail - Bear Creek Reroute	\$ 900.00	Town of Swan River	\$ 5,300.00
Crow Wing Trail Association	\$ 7,000.00	Valley Life Recreation	\$ 70,000.00
Dauphin Derailleurs Cycle Club	\$ 75,000.00		
Dauphin Recreation Services	\$ 75,000.00		
Lac du Bonnet Trails Association	\$ 1,263.00		
LUD of Kleefeld / RM of Hanover	\$ 75,000.00		
Miami Power Toboggan Club	\$ 29,471.00		
Municipality of Harrison Park	\$ 3,633.00		



2023 Approved Projects: *Trails Grant for Winnipeg*

City of Winnipeg - Kings Park	\$ 300,000.00
City of Winnipeg - Wellington Ave	\$ 65,000.00
Comite Scolaire de l'Ecole Christine-Lesperance	\$ 70,000.00
Lincoln Middle School Parent Council - Connecting our Community	\$ 14,165.00
Manitoba Cycling Association	\$ 15,000.00
Stevenson-Britannia School Parent Council	\$ 21,180.00

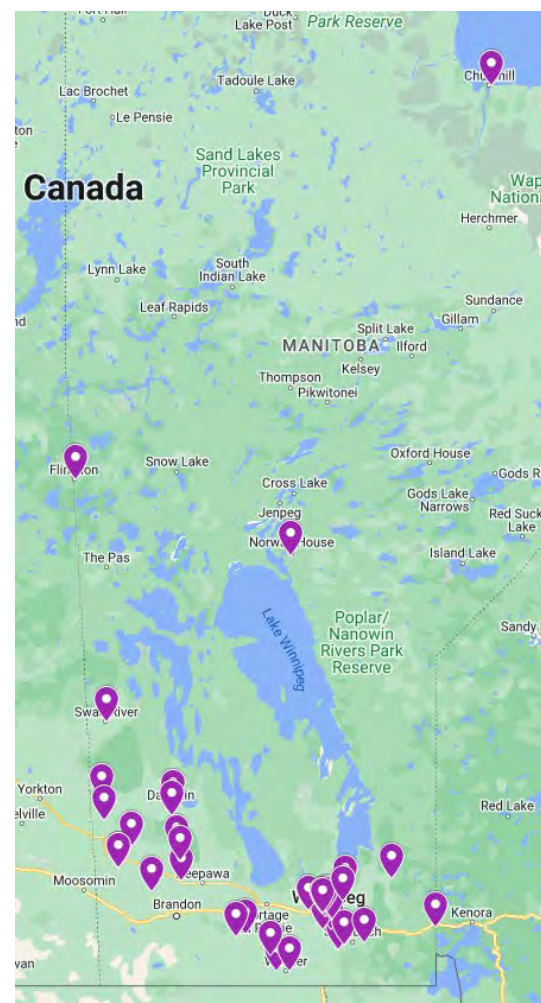


Please refer to our *2023 Trails Manitoba Grant Program: Year in Review* report located on our website for further project details.
<https://www.trailsmanitoba.ca/grants/>

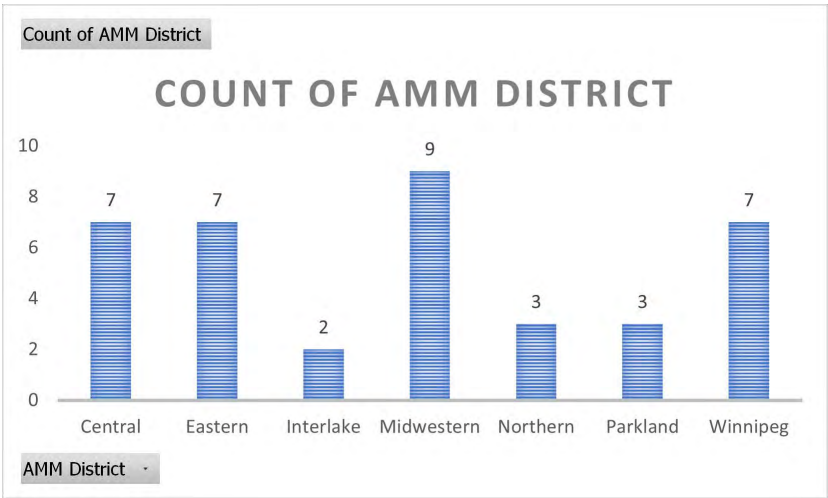
"Bison Butte is a destination within the city limits. It feels like you are away from the city, yet a major car commute is not required. Individuals and groups who ride here appreciate that they can get exercise over lunch or before/after work. It is a great destination to take your kids. We have many programs who train here including our Kids of Mud program/clubs, the Provincial Cycling Team, Summer Bike camps, coaching clinics, and cycling events."

- Twila Cruickshank, Manitoba Cycling Association Inc.

2023 Geographical Spread of Approved Projects



Treaty 1 (La Broquerie)



2023 Grant Program Overview:

TM Grant Funding breakdown of approved projects:

- ◆ MB Trails Improvement Endowment – 9
- ◆ MB Trails Improvement Fund-Rural – 22
- ◆ MB Trails Strategic Fund – 7

Total ‘Projected’ Investment of approved projects:

- ◆ Trails MB Grant Funding – \$1,429,594
- ◆ Other Funding – \$4,391,062
- ◆ In-kind (\$ value) – \$1,022,948

Total projected provincial investment is just shy of \$6.85M

Completed project stats during FY23:

- ◆ Completed projects - 31
- ◆ Total kms developed – 61
- ◆ Total kms upgraded – 38
- ◆ Total kms maintained – 378
- ◆ Total # of volunteers – 256
- ◆ Total # of volunteer hours – 3510

“We’re honoured to have received funding from Trails Manitoba in 2023, which supported the development of a Trails Masterplan for Flin Flon and surrounding area. This strategic initiative lays the foundation for a vibrant future connecting nearby communities, boosting recreation and tourism, and championing environmental stewardship...”

- Brooke White, City of Flin Flon



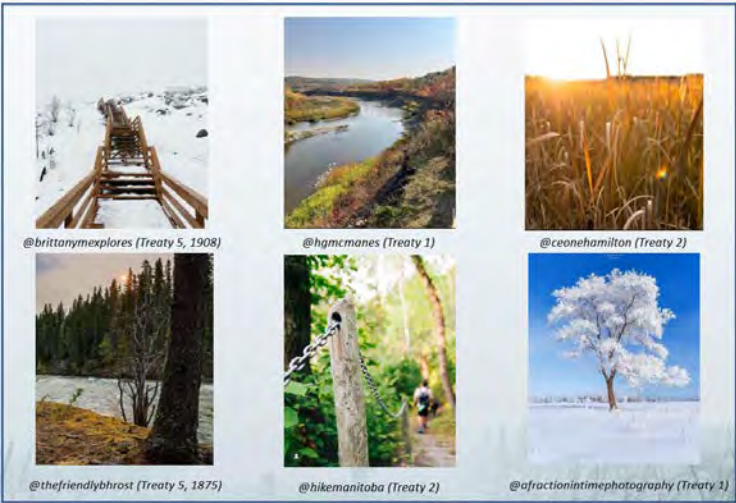
Social Media (Instagram, Facebook)



31k+ Followers
3683 Posts



4.8k Likes
6.1k+ Followers

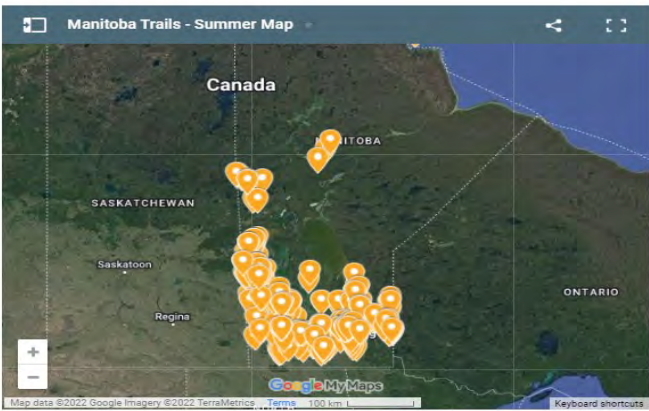


We are excited to highlight Jaime Manness, the innovative force driving the engaging Trails Manitoba Instagram account. Through a unique blend of creativity, professionalism, and a boundless sense of adventure, Jaime has become an indispensable part of our Trails community. Her passion for exploring trails and sharing stories has brought our community to life. Thank you, Jaime, for your exceptional work and dedication!

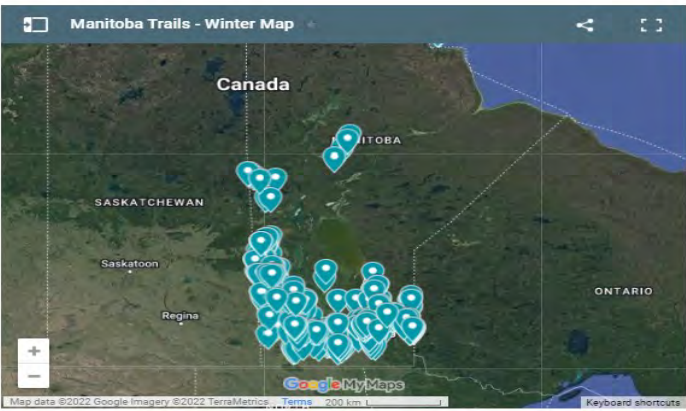


Interactive Online Maps

SUMMER MAP



WINTER MAP



Hiking Trail Difficulty Scale

Hiking Trail Difficulty Scale based on Terrain Navigability



Level	1	2	3	4
May Include:	Paved, boardwalk or prepared surface	Mildly rooted, small loose rock, gravel or uneven grassy surface	Moderately rooted, loose rock, boggy, sandy or medium sized boulders	Heavily rooted, large boulders, or very uneven and gapped surfaces
	Small inclines or declines	Some moderate inclines or declines may be present	Some steep inclines or declines	Large steep inclines or declines
				Requires climbing on rock surfaces



This does not include natural hazards that may have arisen from tree fall, rock fall or flooding

Summer Employee - Hayley Ward

As the *Trail Research & Mapping Coordinator*, Hayley's task was to audit the numerous road crossings that exist throughout our 1,400 km section of the Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba. This work was vital and a key step towards ensuring safety for our MB TCT trail experience. Funding was provided by the Manitoba Municipal Relations Urban / Hometown Green Team Program.

Trail Talks 2023



Managing Multi-use Trails
Ryan Gemmel (Falcon Trails Resort)
Blair Geisel (Portage Junk Yard Dogs)



Trails & Reconciliation
Adrian Alphonso, Momena



Moving forward in a good way:

When it comes to the trail you are on, find out the following:

- What is the original name of the place?
- What language is it?
- Who are the neighbours in the area? Who speaks the language?



**All images taken on Treaty 1 (Winnipeg)*

Pathways for Healing & Rediscovery:

"Trails serve as pathways for healing and rediscovery, empowering Indigenous communities to decolonize and rediscover their relationships through collective experiences. In our journey towards reconciliation, let us embrace trails as bridges connecting us to the truths and responsibilities essential for building meaningful relationships with Indigenous neighbors."

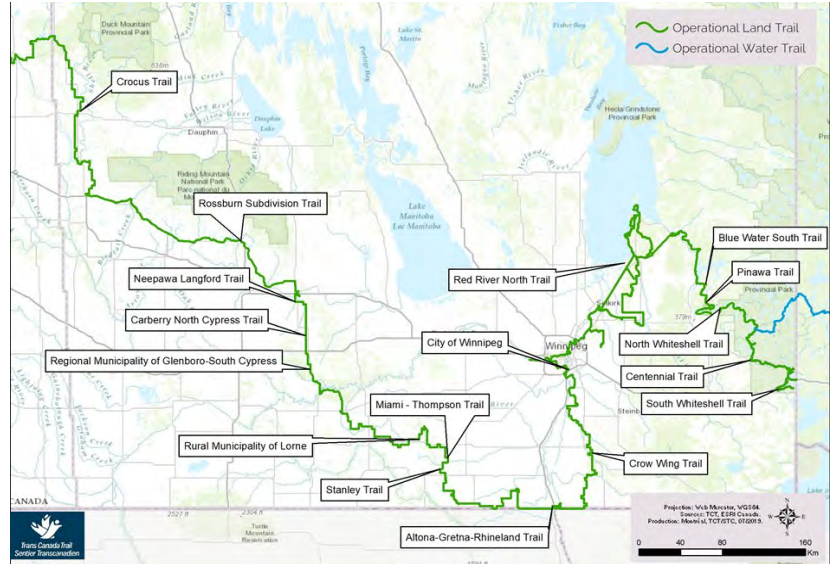
- Adrian Alphonso (Trails Manitoba)

The Trans Canada Trail in Manitoba

The Trans Canada Trail (TCT) connects Canadians to nature and to one another. The TCT is a national legacy, a Canadian asset, and a sustainable gift that fosters unity, collaboration and connectedness.

The TCT is represented by provincial and territorial organizations across the country. These organizations work at the regional and local levels to ensure the Trail is planned and built according to the needs and desires of local communities.

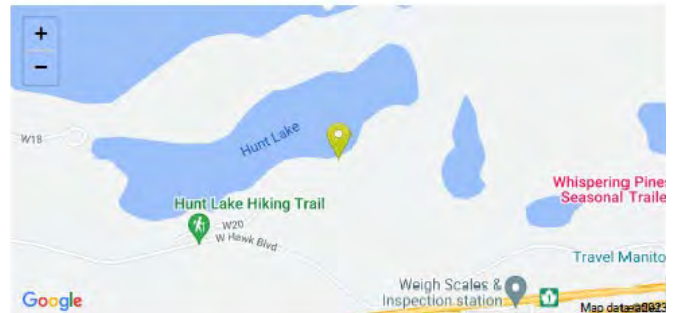
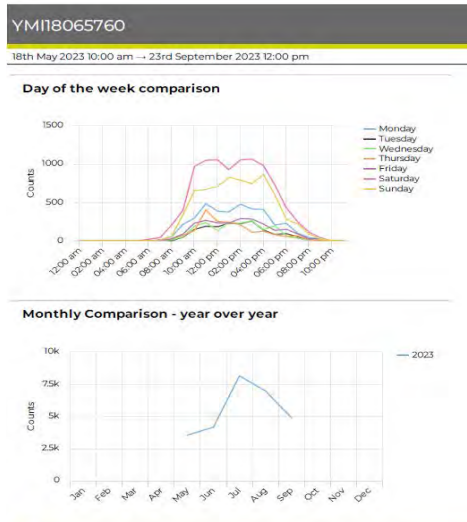
Trails Manitoba is the provincial governing body responsible for the TCT in Manitoba.



Eco Counters

One of two Trails MB eco-counters is installed along the Hunt Lake trail to help gauge usage, popular dates & times, as well as mode of passage. This counter has been in place since May, 2023.

'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.'



Member Trail Group Updates

Manitoba Association of Trail Runners

- * Total collective kilometers covered during MATR trail work parties and snowshoe stumps in the calendar year: 881.3km.
- * Total hours spent collectively by the group: 372 hours.
- * Activities included improving signage, clearing deadfall, snowshoe packing, pruning for better sight lines, and garbage collection.
- * 45 individuals participated in 10 trail work parties and snowshoe stumps.
- * Many volunteers attended multiple work parties throughout the year.



Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Association

Programs

- * The annual Trails Day Celebration included a family bike ride, the official opening of the board walk along the nature trail and recognition of support for two long term Board members.
- * Over the summer three prairie tours were led by John Morgan and “The Adopt a Bluebird Box” program continued.
- * The mild winter, TCT Seasonal Grant and support from the RM of Headingley allowed the entire trail to be cleared for winter access.

Projects

- * The section of the trail east of Taillieu Rd. received a major upgrade to solve flooding and drainage problems.
- * The development of the nature playground continued and the boardwalk through the wetlands was completed.
- * Prairie interpretive panels were installed at the east end of the tall grass prairie and ongoing evaluation of the prairie restoration project continued. Over seeding of sections of the prairie was completed with the help of volunteers.

West Perimeter Active Transportation Crossing Initiative

- * The Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Association and the Friends of the Harte Trail continued to advocate collaboratively for a safe, active transportation corridor across the Perimeter Highway between the two trails. In 2023, the two trail associations, with funding from Infrastructure Canada - Active Transportation Fund, engaged Dillon Consulting to undertake a functional study, which confirmed that both an overpass and underpass were feasible. At this point, funding for a more substantive technical study has been obtained partly to assess the impact on local drainage if the underpass option was chosen.



Board Walk along the Nature Trail

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Trails Manitoba for their ongoing encouragement and support!

Member Trail Group Updates

Wâhkôhtowin Trails (Flin Flon)

Wâhkôhtowin Trails consists of several communities working together to showcase this beautiful and unique area of Manitoba. You can find us North of the 54 parallel on Treaty Lands 5 and 6 and Homelands of the Metis, uniquely situated on the border of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

We are excited to be part of the Manitoba Trail system. We officially formed and registered in January of this year. Our name, Wâhkôhtowin (the “h” is silent and the ear can hear it like “walk-to-win”) is Cree for “Kinship” and “Natural Law”, best described as using the land for what you need, knowing it must be shared and cared for.

We’ve been busy over the past few months and are extremely excited to be moving forward with the goal of having one trail complete with a trailhead, storyboards, map and signage ready to share within the year.

Highlights:

- * Found a non-profit sponsor
- * Formed a committee
- * Registered with Trails Manitoba
- * Formed an executive
- * Agreed on a name
- * Working on policies, best practices and committees
- * Collaborating with our members to pick a starting trail
- * Brainstorming additional trails to represent the 5 communities within our area



Our picturesque trails will allow you to explore the beautiful boreal forest, climb the rocks of the Precambrian shield or paddle one of our many waterways.

We are excited to be part of Trails Manitoba and can’t wait to welcome you to the north.

Lac du Bonnet Trail Association

2023 was a difficult year for Lac du Bonnet Trails Association. For three years, we had successfully maintained a ten kilometer section of trail (known as the Lee River Trail) for winter activities of skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking, with signage designating sections for specific use. After publicity about unwanted snowmobile traffic on one trail section, we were ordered by the Wildlife Branch of Manitoba Natural Resources and Northern Development to cease grooming and remove all signage indicating use. This effectively shut down winter activities on this section of Trans Canada Trail. Data from a trail counter installed the previous fall indicates the decline in trail activity shortly after this directive.

After much discussion and re-evaluation of our role as trail stewards, our trails association felt that we could no longer promote and maintain the trail as safe for trail users knowing that there is nothing we can do to prevent trail damage, avoid user conflicts, and prevent potential personal injury due to motorized vehicles that have unrestricted access to the trail, as decreed by the Wildlife Branch. We withdrew our stewardship of this trail section effective March 17, 2023.

This situation has led us to question our role as volunteers in maintaining and promoting the Trans Canada Trail, and has dampened our enthusiasm for continuing this work. Recruiting volunteers is challenging at the best of times, and now it is even harder to convince others to get involved.



On a more positive note, we received a grant from the Active Transportation Fund of the federal government for \$19,000 to carry out a feasibility study for the development of a trail from the Town of Lac du Bonnet to the Winnipeg River Bridge, approximately five kilometers. The study is being carried out by Little Bluestem Landscape Architecture, and background review work started in the fall of 2023. We are hopeful that this will lead to the development of an active transportation route that will be a benefit to the community and expand our trail network.

Member Trail Group Updates

Stanley Trail Association

- * We have partnering with the local municipalities to get an active transportation route connecting the communities of Winkler and Morden. Much progress has been made and there is optimism for starting construction this year yet, although there have been a few setbacks with attaining all approvals from governing bodies.
- * We received approval to add trails around Lake Minnewasta. Work on signing/classifying the Lake Minnewasta trail will begin later this summer.
- * We designed, built and installed 6 new trailhead signs throughout our network to aid users in navigation. The final product turned out really well and the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive.



Brandon Riverbank Inc. Winter Trail Network



- * With generous funding from Travel Manitoba, the Brandon Area Community Foundation (BACF) and Brandon Riverbank Inc., we were able to purchase a tracked side-by-side and Ginzu groomer.
- * A stakeholder engagement evening took place with interested users on November 2 to discuss the implementation of winter trails at Riverbank.
- * User agreements were secured with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the City of Brandon for the placing trails on neighboring properties.
- * Riverbank utilized some of the existing summer pathways for winter trails, instead of plowing those pathways they were groomed as winter trails.
- * Trails were groomed ~14' wide and track set on one side for classic cross-country skiing. The remaining section was for walkers, fat bikers and snowshoers.
- * While the weather and lack of snow was challenging, we were able to maintain the trails quite well. We were able to open six of our seven trails for a total of 20+ kilometers of new winter trail offerings.
- * The responses to date are very positive. Walkers appreciated the wider groomed paths and less slippery conditions (compared to plowed paths.) Dog walkers appreciated that groomed trails are much easier on their dogs paws. Fat bikers and skiers very much appreciated having new trail offerings, especially when they are right in the heart of Brandon.
- * Our learnings from this season will set us up well for 2024 / 2025 whereby we will hopefully have more normal winter weather.



Member Trail Group Updates

Crow Wing Trail Association / Chemin St-Paul Inc.



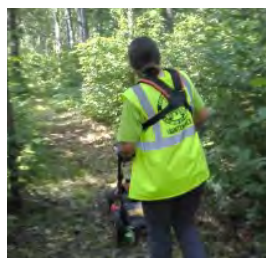
Maintenance Program

Challenges:

- * Increased vandalism of signs and gates along 200 km of the Crow Wing Trail.

Strengths:

- * Increased trail inspection & maintenance via bicycle, reduced environment impacts & nurtured greater awareness and appreciation of nature.
- * Increased reconciling connections with Indigenous peoples.
- * Maintenance workers included a local Indigenous owned landscaping company.
- * Local residents helped create & maintain unique trail features greatly enjoyed by trail users.
- * Trail work bee with Burnbrae Farms volunteers loads of fun with much good work done!



South Whiteshell Trail Association

- * More than 10 trail-work days at Blue Highway.
- * Local trail enthusiast winter groomed the fat bike trails at Caddy Lake.
- * Mountain bike trail builders at Blue Hwy worked on bike trail improvements.
- * Washroom & a kiosk with an updated map of the Centennial Trail and Blue Highway were installed at the Caddy Lake Trailhead parking lot.
- * Short trail connection between parking lot and main TCT trail was completed.
- * Improvements were made to the Hub Pavilion and interpretive signs soon to be installed.
- * Volunteers helped for 6 days to resurrect the popular McHugh Lake ski loop & a local builder was contracted to create a new creek crossing.
- * Volunteers replaced 6 Interpretive Discovery Panels along the trail between West Hawk and Falcon townships. New signage was provided by TCT to replace the original Bronfman signs dating back to the 1990'.
- * Two family oriented hikes in the spring (Falcon Creek & Whiteshell River). Earth Day was one of our biggest hiking groups ever.

Approved for 4 grants:

- * Trails Manitoba (thank you!) and TCT Funding: Falcon Lake East End Trail (FLEET) Phase 1 - 7km of enhancements on North and South Shores for year-round use - hiking, cycling, skiing; Raised tread & reduced slope angles; easier winter ski trail grooming; width 1.2-1.5m.
- * TCT Spring Trail Care: Rock, cloth and gravel was placed on the backside of a beaver dam and low spots that had been damaged by flooding on the Lost Lake Trail.
- * TCT Winter Trail Care: Winter fat tire bike grooming at Blue Hwy and corner clearing for increased visibility on the south section of FLEET Phase 1 & Falcon South Shore Trail.



Earth Day hike

Member Trail Group Updates

Valley Life Recreation



2023 was witness to a pretty exciting year for Valley Life Recreation (VLR) and the ongoing work on the Squirrel Hills Trail Park. It was a planning-heavy year as the Board worked on getting approvals and design just right for the large trailhead that will see the light of day in 2024.

On the trail building side of things, D.I.G. Trail Design, the contracted trail builder from Rossland, BC returned to complete their build for the trail park. This saw completion of the Perimeter Trail along with the construction of some new downhill advanced lines. Some of the new trail opened up last fall but the majority of it will open with the spring of 2024.

Detailed design drawings were accomplished for the park trailhead and approvals were received from the Province for the construction plans of the trailhead over the capped landfill. Spring of 2024 will be an exciting time at the trail park as four (4) separate contractors will bring that area to life in time for many events that have been planned for the summer and fall of 2024.

Thanks to funding from the Minnedosa & District Foundation, VLR successfully purchased 4 TRAFx trail counters and have installed them to begin collecting data on the number of trail users at the park. These are

the same style of trail counters used by Riding Mountain National Park to track trail usage. No trail counter information is available for sharing just yet, but will be a really great way of measuring the impact the Squirrel Hills is having, usage patterns, areas that require additional maintenance and more.

Despite the formal trail park not yet being complete, VLR has already received a lot of positive comments from users across the region and the province. Comments along the lines of “favourite place to ride” and “It is worth the drive just for that trail.” have been welcome words of encouragement and validation that the organization is on the right track.

Events planned for the coming year (2024) including hosting a Provincial mountain bike race, a Pride-themed trails event, Ride Like Ole in August, along with a gravel bike race that will start/finish in the Squirrel Hills Trail Park. Early discussions are also underway to host Minnedosa’s first ever National Day for Truth and Reconciliation programming at the trail park.

Times are exciting in the trails world! VLR can’t wait to formally welcome everyone to the Squirrel Hills Trail Park!



Treaty 2 (Squirrel Hills, Minnedosa)

Get Involved

DONATE

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. To donate online visit our website www.trailsmanitoba.ca/Get Involved/Donate.



PayPal Giving Fund Canada



VOLUNTEER

Trails Manitoba is a non-profit volunteer-based organization, that relies heavily on the support of like-minded people. We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, for all types of abilities and interests.

If you like to :

- * Be outdoors and explore the vast provincial trail network?
- * Help improve/enhance current trail infrastructure, and amenities?
- * Capture beautiful images through nature photography?
- * Tell stories through imagery, videography, or print?
- * Bring people & communities together through trail experiences?

Then Trails Manitoba needs your help!

Go to www.trailsmanitoba.ca/Get Involved/Volunteer to fill out a form.

MEMBERSHIP

Trails Manitoba is an organization created with a community mindset, connecting people and groups through trails. We rely heavily on our membership to provide organizational guidance and to help realize our mission. Membership is open to organizations and individuals who support our objectives.

Go to www.trailsmanitoba.ca/Get Involved/Membership to sign up.



The Leave No Trace Principles.

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



If you pack it in ➡ You pack it out!



Trails Manitoba
Sentiers Manitoba





Tel.: 204 956 7200
Fax.: 833 888 1678
www.bdo.ca

BDO Canada LLP
201 Portage Avenue - 26th Floor
Winnipeg MB R3B 3K6 Canada

Report of the Independent Auditor's Report on the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

To the Board of Directors of Manitoba Recreational Trails Association Inc.

Opinion

The summary consolidated financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, the summary consolidated statement of changes in net assets, and summary consolidated statement of operations, for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of Manitoba Recreational Trail Association Inc. (the "Association") for the year ended December 31, 2023.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary consolidated financial statements are a fair summary of the audited consolidated financial statements, on the basis described in the note to the summary consolidated financial statements.

Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

The summary consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit organizations. Reading the summary consolidated financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the organization's audited consolidated financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated April 19, 2024. The basis for our qualified audit opinion is from the possible effects of the following matter.

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 donation revenue, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023, current assets as at December 31, 2022 and 2023, and net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2022 and 2023 years. Our audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary consolidated financial statements on the basis described in the note to the summary consolidated financial statements.



Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary consolidated financial statements are a fair summary of the audited consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

BDO Canada LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba
April 19, 2024

MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC.
Summary Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2023	2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and bank	\$ 934,501	\$ 1,027,219
Accounts receivable	21,234	3,622
	<u>955,735</u>	<u>1,030,841</u>
Capital assets	2,151	-
	<u>\$ 957,886</u>	<u>\$ 1,030,841</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 19,210	\$ 14,076
Due to eligible recipients	617,554	713,278
Deferred revenue	69,417	75,042
	<u>706,181</u>	<u>802,396</u>
Net Assets		
General Fund	251,705	228,445
Local Trail Groups Fund	-	-
	<u>251,705</u>	<u>228,445</u>
	<u>\$ 957,886</u>	<u>\$ 1,030,841</u>

MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC.
Summary Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended December 31	2023			2022
	MRTA and RTB	Local Trail Groups	Total	Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 228,445	\$ -	\$ 228,445	\$ 283,093
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	23,260	-	23,260	12,710
Distribution to Local Trail Groups	-	-	-	(67,358)
Balance, end of year	\$ 251,705	\$ -	\$ 251,705	\$ 228,445

MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC. Summary Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31	2023		2022	
	MRTA and RTB	Local Trail Groups	Total	Total
Revenue				
Administrative fee	\$ 148,365	\$ -	\$ 148,365	\$ 158,436
Donations	6,413	-	6,413	19,643
Grants				
Trans Canada Trail	34,958	-	34,958	46,452
Province of Manitoba	3,151	-	3,151	3,972
Interest income	7,756	-	7,756	2,651
Memberships	2,485	-	2,485	1,671
Workshop	4,000	-	4,000	-
Recognition of deferred revenue	5,625	-	5,625	61,532
	212,753	-	212,753	294,357
Expenses				
Amortization	717	-	717	-
Bank charges and interest	756	-	756	1,041
Donations disbursed	10,180	-	10,180	24,499
Education and training	1,217	-	1,217	-
Insurance	2,645	-	2,645	2,357
Licences and memberships	685	-	685	685
Local trail groups	-	-	-	33,296
Marketing	6,343	-	6,343	3,367
Meetings	511	-	511	79
Office	7,515	-	7,515	10,858
Professional fees	18,865	-	18,865	14,381
Property taxes	3,524	-	3,524	721
Rent	1,216	-	1,216	5,382
Salaries and benefits	121,148	-	121,148	113,402
Telephone and communications	820	-	820	1,329
Trail construction	-	-	-	66,383
Travel	6,323	-	6,323	3,817
Workshop	7,028	-	7,028	50
	189,493	-	189,493	281,647
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	\$ 23,260	\$ -	\$ 23,260	\$ 12,710

Note for Basis of Presentation

The summary presented includes only the summary consolidated statement of financial position, the summary consolidated net assets, and summary consolidated statement of operations. It does not include consolidated statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements. The summary consolidated statements of financial position, changes net assets, and operations are presented in the same detail as the audited consolidated financial statements except the note referencing has been removed.

Copies of the December 31, 2023 audited financial statements are available on demand by email info@trailsmanitoba.ca.

As we reflect on 2023, Trails Manitoba would like to express our deepest gratitude to the incredible volunteers who have made invaluable contributions to our trail network and community. Your tireless dedication to expanding and maintaining our trails has not gone unnoticed, and we are sincerely grateful for your steadfast commitment to our shared vision.

Because of your efforts, we can confidently anticipate a vibrant future for recreational trails in Manitoba. Your hard work has laid the foundation for a trail system that will benefit not only our current users but also generations to come. Thank you for being the heart and soul of our trail community.



Trails Manitoba
P.O. Box 69063
Winnipeg RPO Tuxedo Park, Manitoba
R3P 2G9

info@trailsmanitoba.ca
431-814-5200
trailsmanitoba.ca

Treaty 1 (Birds Hill Provincial Park)