

# Annual Report 2024 Year in Review



Trails  
Manitoba  
Sentiers  
Manitoba



Inside this issue:

Message from the President	P. 3
Message from the Executive Director	P. 4
Trails Manitoba Grant Program	P. 7
Member Trail Group Updates	P. 17
How to get Involved?	P. 22
2024 Financials	P. 23



Our Team

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2024)

- 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
- Marc Zurbuchen
- Philip Jenkinson
- Steve Demmings
- Leslie Beck

STAFF

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Jaime Manness (Instagram)
- Brittany Thiessen (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

This past year has been one of laying strong foundations — for sustainability, connection, and the future. At Trails Manitoba, we've been planting seeds for something that will grow for generations: a sustainable trail funding model that supports our work now and long into the future.

One of our proudest achievements was initiating the groundwork for an endowment fund — a long-term, stable source of support for trail builders across the province. This fund represents vision, stability, and momentum — a catalyst not only for trail development, but for possibility.

At the heart of this work is our core belief: that trails connect us.

They connect us to ourselves, to one another, and to the land. Trails are more than physical paths — they are routes to physical, mental, spiritual, and environmental well-being. This belief is central to our purpose, and is best captured in the guiding principle that frames our why: ***A pathway to the good life.***

Rooted in this belief, our vision is simple but powerful: ***A Manitoba where everyone is connected to trails.***

So, what does that look like in action?

In 2024, we began developing the Manitoba Trail Network Master Plan — a bold vision for a province-wide trail system that supports local, destination, and touring trails. This is our long-term goal, and we look forward to sharing more in the year ahead.

A major milestone this year was the completion of our Fundraising Strategy, developed with expert guidance. This plan outlines a clear path for launching a successful campaign. Special thanks to Tim and Janette, who have laid the groundwork internally, and to our Fundraising and Marketing Committee, whose creative leadership is helping bring this campaign to life.

Of course, building a multi-million-dollar endowment fund requires more than passion — it requires capacity. That's why the board is actively exploring ways to expand staffing, strengthen board expertise, and invest in systems like CRM and fundraising software. One significant step was migrating all our grant data into Salesforce, giving us the tools we need to manage relationships and scale our fundraising efforts.

While a launch date for the campaign has yet to be set, the momentum is growing — and the trail ahead is full of promise.

2024 has been a year of vision, groundwork, and growth. We're excited for the trail ahead, and more committed than ever to ***Connect people, places, and purpose.***

We're not just building trails. We're building a pathway to the good life.

Onward,

Jeana Manning



Treaty 3 (Falcon Lake)



Treaty 1 (Winnipeg)

## Message from the Executive Director

Dear Trails MB Members, Partners, and friends,

What a year it's been. As I reflect on 2024, I'm filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude. This has been a year of growth, connection, and momentum—and it's thanks to all of you who continue to support, believe in, and contribute to the trail movement here in Manitoba.

Just like trails connect people, places, and stories, our work this year has been grounded in the relationships we've built. We've continued to collaborate closely with the Province, including Minister Moyes and the Trail Coordination Office, and strengthened ties with key partners like Travel Manitoba, Trans Canada Trail, The Winnipeg Foundation, municipalities, trail associations, and—most importantly—our members. These partnerships are what allow us to dream big and deliver real impact.

One of the biggest leaps we took this year was the launch of Salesforce, a new cloud-based CRM system that's reshaped how we work behind the scenes. For our small but mighty team of two, this was a massive undertaking—but the payoff has been worth it. We're now better equipped to manage grants, track progress, and scale for the future. Huge thanks to the Board for supporting this investment, and to Janette for her outstanding leadership in making it a success.

This year also reminded me of the *why* behind our work. From assisting the Soldier On Hike-Bike-Paddle event for veterans in the Whiteshell, to spending a week on the road visiting northern trail projects, to connecting with global trail leaders at the World Trails Conference in Ottawa—it's been a year rich in stories, learning, and connection. Each trail I walked, each community I met with, made it clear: this work matters. Trails bring people together. They build health, pride, and opportunity.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We've laid down strong tracks this year, and I truly believe we're just getting started. With your continued support, we'll keep building, connecting, and creating a trail system that brings lasting value to communities across Manitoba.

With gratitude,  
Tim Coffin





## Strategic Framework



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

## Funders & Partners



## Manitoba Government Enhancing and Expanding Recreational Trails

The Province along with Trails Manitoba is investing more than \$880,000 to support 33 recreational trails across the province, Environment and Climate Change Minister Tracy Schmidt announced today.

“Manitobans love to enjoy the outdoors and our province is home to unique networks of trails that support healthy living and offer great social opportunities,” said Schmidt. “Adding new trails and ensuring our existing trails are well-maintained helps guarantee Manitobans can continue to enjoy the great outdoors for generations to come.”

The 2024 Trails Manitoba grant program will support the development of new and improved trails across the province, with \$697,365 for trails outside Winnipeg and \$190,000 for trails within Winnipeg.

In all, these projects will add 36 kilometers of trails to Manitoba’s network while maintaining and upgrading more than 600 kilometers of existing trails, the minister noted.

“The Trails Manitoba grant program is creating pathways to health and quality of life for all Manitobans,” said Jeana Manning, board president, Trails Manitoba. “We honour the volunteer trail builders and the construction teams and supporting partners who have brought this funding to life, creating connections to Manitoba’s stunning landscapes. We look forward to strengthening our ongoing partnerships with the Manitoba government, private funders and all our collaborators, supporting exceptional trails for generations to come.”

“The new bike path trail in Fairgrove Park is a testament to our community’s commitment to health, education and outdoor enjoyment,” said Councillor Vivian Santos, City of Winnipeg. “Through the partnership between the city, Winnipeg School Division and Trails Manitoba, we’re providing a safe and inviting space for children to learn biking skills and offering a wonderful new amenity for all our residents to enjoy.”

“This trail isn’t just about creating a path; it’s about fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment for our students and the community,” said Luke Barr, teacher, École Stanley Knowles School. “It will be a safe and exciting place where riders of all ages and abilities can come together to build their skills and connect with the freedom that comes from riding a bicycle.”



Treaty 1 (Winnipeg)

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.



*Treaty 1 (Grand Beach)*

### *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.



*Treaty 2 (Minnedosa)*

The Trails Manitoba grant program annually provides new recreational trail opportunities, improves the quality of existing trails through enhancements and provides necessary funding for continued trail maintenance. Eligible applicants include trail associations, municipalities or other not-for-profit groups with means to provide continued stewardship of trails.

## 2024 Approved Projects: *Trails Grant for Manitoba*

Birtle Miniota & District CDC	\$633.00	RM of De Salaberry	\$75,000.00
Boyne Valley Trails Committee	\$1200.00	RM of East St. Paul	\$20,000.00
City of Flin Flon	\$75,000.00	RM of Hanover (LUD of Blumenort)	\$22,024.00
City of Morden	\$16,827.00	RM of St. Andrews	\$75,000.00
Cranberry Portage HSS Trail	\$11,265.00	RM of Victoria Beach	\$10,000.00
Cranberry Portage HSS Trail	\$27,488.00	Rosburn Subdivision Trail Association	\$24,700.00
Crow Wing Trail Association	\$7,000.00	Seine Rat Roseau Watershed District	\$7,506.00
Dauphin Deraillieurs Cycle Club	\$20,000.00	South Whiteshell Trail Association	\$75,000.00
Flin Flon Ski Club	\$6,145.00	Steep Rock Cottage Owner's Association	\$50,000.00
Grindstone Cottage Owners Assoc.	\$7,920.00	Town of Stonewall	\$24,643.00
Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Assoc.	\$21,367.00	Town of Virden	\$25,000.00
Lac du Bonnet Trails Association	\$3,580.00		
LGD of Pinawa	\$2,500.00		
LUD of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes	\$10,304.00		
Municipality of Harrison Park	\$33,333.00		
RM of Killarney-Turtle Mountain	\$41,664.00		
Nature Conservancy of Canada	\$14,500.00		
Opasquia Trails Inc.	\$50,000.00		
Pumpkin Creek Cross Country Ski Club	\$12,766.00		



## 2024 Approved Projects: *Trails Grant for Winnipeg*

Assiniboine Park Conservancy Inc.	\$100,000.00
Ecole Stanley Knowles School Parent Advisory Council	\$55,000.00
City of Winnipeg	\$330,041
Fort Whyte Foundation Inc	\$25,000.00
Save Our Sein River Environment Inc.	\$10,000.00



*“By creating a new trail connection from the Buffalo Crossing site and bridge, the user's experience will be greatly enhanced by offering an accessible, efficient trail connection to all of FortWhyte Alive's outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities.”*

*Ian Barnett-FortWhyte Foundation*



## 2024 Grant Program Overview

**TM Grant Funding breakdown of approved projects:**

- ◆ MB Trails Improvement Endowment – 7
- ◆ MB Trails Improvement Fund-Rural – 22
- ◆ MB Trails Strategic Fund – 6

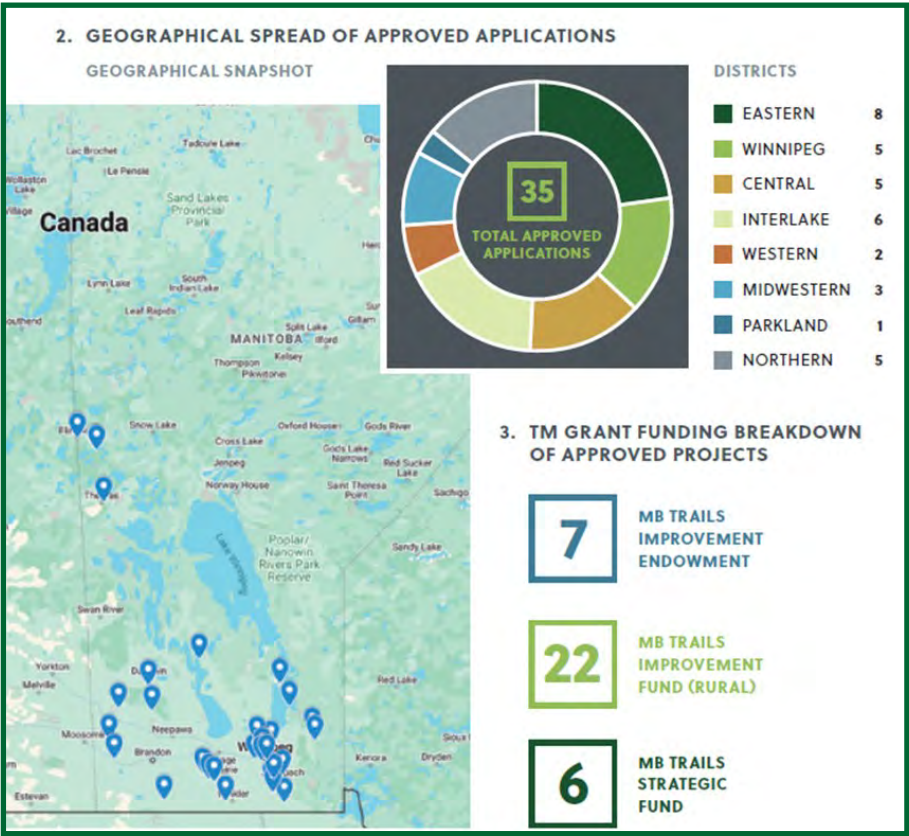
**Total ‘Projected’ Investment of approved projects:**

- ◆ Trails MB Grant Funding – \$1,270,382
- ◆ Other Funding – \$3,491,570
- ◆ In-kind (\$ value) – \$386,032

**Total projected provincial investment is just over \$5.1M**

**Completed project stats during FY24:**

- ◆ Completed projects - 34
- ◆ Total kms developed – 70.4
- ◆ Total kms upgraded – 95.9
- ◆ Total kms maintained – 632.3
- ◆ Total # of volunteers – 331
- ◆ Total # of volunteer hours –7,932





Social Media (Instagram, Facebook)



31k Followers



7k Followers

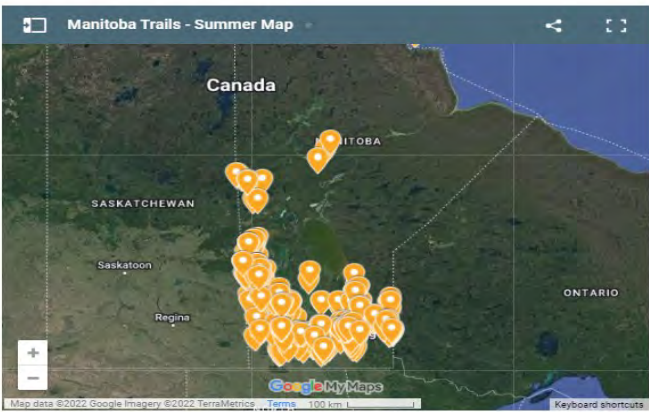


We're excited to highlight the dynamic duo behind our Trails Manitoba social media presence in 2024 — Jaime Manness and Brittany Thiessen! Together, they've turned our platforms into vibrant hubs of inspiration, connection, and trail love. Huge thanks to Jaime and Brittany for their amazing work and dedication — we're lucky to have you on the Trails team!

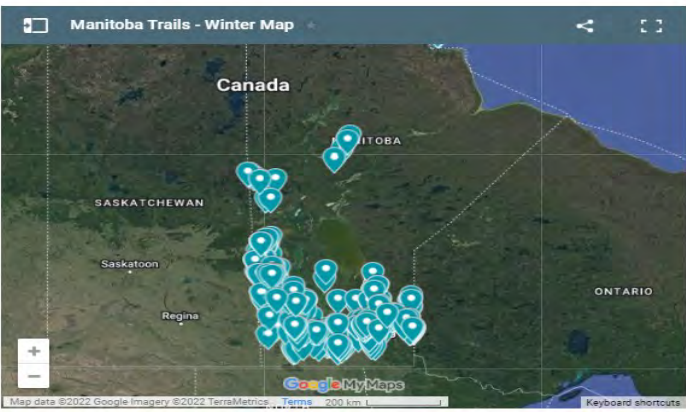


## Interactive Online Maps

### SUMMER MAP



### WINTER MAP




## Hiking Trail Difficulty Scale

### Hiking Trail Difficulty Scale based on Terrain Navigability



Level	1	2	3	4
<b>May Include:</b>	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

## 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.





## Trail Talks 2024 - Falcon Lake, MB

Oct 26, 2024



### Topics

#### \* Provincial Trails Coordination Office Update

Ashleigh Hall, Manager, Trails Coordination Office

#### \* Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

Penny Schoonbaert, Heartland Community Future

#### \* Building a Trail System in Greater Minnesota

Renee Mattson Burns, ED, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission

#### \* Experiential Nature Walk

Jenna Vandal

#### \* Baseline Expectations for Trail Risk Management

Jeff Jackson, Ph.D., Professor, Coordinator, Outdoor Adventure Program at Algonquin College

#### \* The SWTA Story

Caleigh Christie, South Whiteshell Trail Association (SWTA)

#### \* Ask Trail Talks Anything

Group Discussion

#### \* Round Table Review

Group Discussion



Treaty 3 (Falcon Lake)



Treaty 3 (Falcon Lake)



Treaty 3 (Falcon Lake)



# Trail Talks 2024 - Post Event Statistics

Trail Talks is not just an event - it's a celebration of community, a deepening connection to the land, a step toward reconciliation, and a shared journey forward, united as one!

1

**Thanks to our sponsors**

A huge shoutout to Travel Manitoba, Pier Solutions, Qualico, Oasis, and Urban Systems for bringing this event to life! We couldn't have done it without your amazing support!



2

**Event snapshot:**

Total participants: 54  
Included dedicated volunteers, team members, inspiring presenters, and generous sponsors!

3

**Geographical representation:**

- 16 Trail Organizations
  - representing over 400 volunteers
- Parks Canada
- MB Trail Coordination Office
- Passionate trail enthusiasts



**Facebook: 6.4k followers**

Audience reach: 6,156  
Engagement: 467

**Instagram: 30.9k followers**

Audience reach: 8,300  
Engagement: 238

4

**Social media spotlight**

A total of 15 engaging posts were shared across Facebook and Instagram, building excitement in the lead-up to the event!

5

**Presentation overview**

Insightful presentations from experts on volunteer engagement, trail management, fundraising, and more!

- MB Trails Office Update - Ashleigh Hall
- Volunteer Recruitment & Retention - Penny Schoonbaert
- Minnesota Case Study - Renee Mattson Burns
- Increasing Revenue Through Giving - Kirsten Halden
- Experiential Nature Walk - Jenna Vandal
- Trail Risk Management - Jeff Jackson
- SWTA Case Study - Caleigh Christie

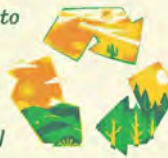


Treaty 3 (Falcon Lake)

# TRAILS MANITOBA: RECONCILIATION IMPACT REPORT

## 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 MB)



### Types of Reconciliation:

#### ORIGINS OF 'RECONCILIATION' TYPES:

- Reconciliation means different things to different people.
- Represent Intersecting & Diverging Trends in Interpretation.
- Reflection of limitations and possibilities of reconciliation in Canada.
- ref. [www.yellowheadinstitute.org/trc](http://www.yellowheadinstitute.org/trc)



## EVALUATING 2024 TRAILS MB GRANT APPLICATIONS

In 2024, 54 applications were received and evaluated through our Grant Program Intake. Learn more at [www.trailsmanitoba.ca/grants/](http://www.trailsmanitoba.ca/grants/)

Two evaluation processes were used specifically for this report:

1. Identify type of reconciliation for each project
2. Provide an overall reconciliation impact score between 1-5 (1=lowest impact / 5=greatest impact)



## MOVING FORWARD - HOW TO HAVE A GREATER IMPACT?

### BE CURIOUS - ASK QUESTIONS

What is the original name of the trail location?  
What is the original language spoken here?  
Who are the neighbours in the area? Who speaks the language?

### PROJECT OUTCOMES: AIM FOR EASY & IMPACTFUL (TYPES)

Language - identify your Indigenous neighbours; thoughtful land acknowledgement.  
Relationship - be transformative NOT transactional; seek project involvement.  
Reconciliation - which calls to action can be furthered?

*"Without a shared understanding of reconciliation, it is difficult to measure progress." ([www.yellowheadinstitute.org/trc](http://www.yellowheadinstitute.org/trc))*

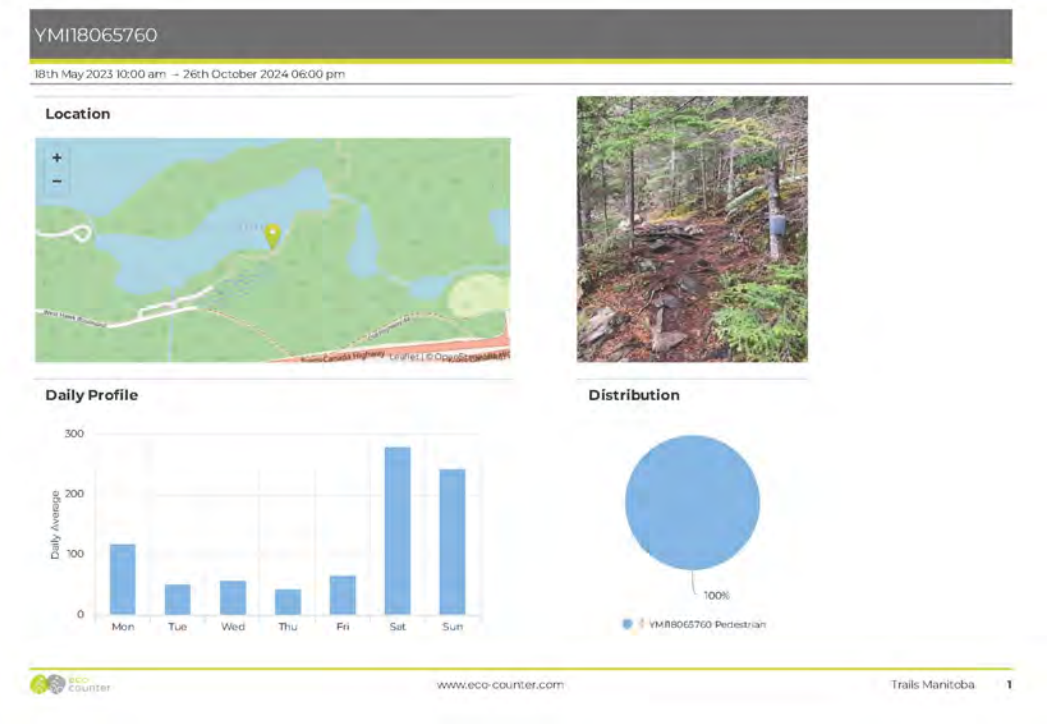
For more information: [www.trailsmanitoba.ca](http://www.trailsmanitoba.ca)





# Eco Counters

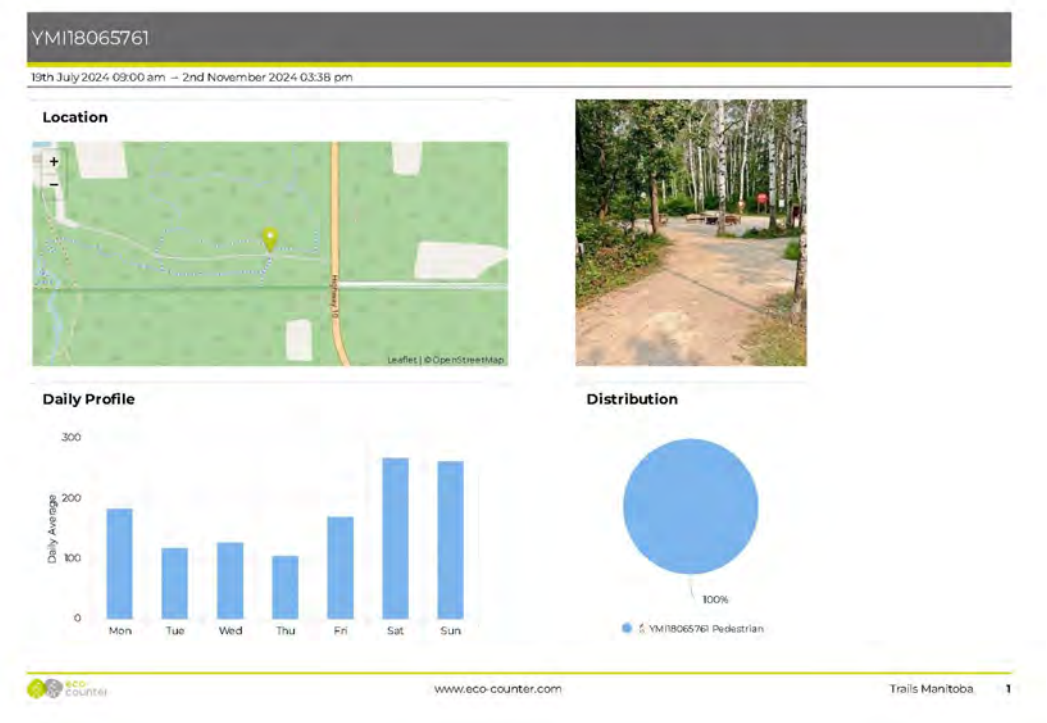
Hunt Lake Trail: 18th May 2023 10:00 am → 26th October 2024 06:00 pm



Trails MB eco-counters were installed along the Hunt Lake trail and the Northgate trail 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.’

Northgate Trail: 19th July 2024 09:00 am → 2nd November 2024 03:38 pm



## Trails Manitoba Membership: 2024

### Trail Development/Stewardship Groups

- Brandon Riverbank Inc.
- Cranberry Portage Hike, Ski, Snowshoe Trail
- Crocus Trail Association
- Centennial Trail
- Dauphin Derailleurs Cycle Club
- Flin Flon & District Chamber of Commerce
- FortWhyte Alive
- Friends of the Harte Trail
- Glenboro/South Cypress Trail Association
- Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Association
- Lac du Bonnet Trail Association
- Langford Recreational Trails Association
- Little Athapap Cottage Owners Association
- Lorne Trail Association
- MB Association of Trail Runners
- MB Mennonite Historical Society - Peace Trail
- Opasquia Trail Association
- Pinawa Trail Association
- Portage Junk Yard Dogs Inc.
- Prime Meridian Trail Association
- Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association
- South Whiteshell Trail Association
- Stanley Trail Association
- Steep Rock Cottage Owners Association
- Trail Association of the North Whiteshell
- Valley Life Recreation Inc.
- Victoria Beach Trail Association
- Westman Trail Association

### Trail User Groups/Associate Members

- LGD of Pinawa
- Manitoba Cycling Association
- Manitoba Mountain Bike Association
- Municipality of Norfolk Treherne
- RM of West St. Paul
- Wilderness Supply Co.





## Member Trail Group Updates

### Crocus Trail



The Crocus Trail welcomes Trans Canada Trail users from the west at the Manitoba border in Duck Mountain Provincial Forest. The Trail continues south through San Clara, Roblin, Inglis and Russell where it connects with the Rossburn Subdivision Trail.

Upon reviewing accomplishments of 2024, themes of communication and partnership stand out:

- \* Trail users reached out to request trail information and to provide feedback on conditions. As a small committee, all information shared, assists with rectifying concerns, providing timely updates to users, and to provide education on plants and animals that frequent the trail.
- \* Asessippi Provincial Park staff worked with the committee to identify and address concerns to improve user experience.
- \* Manitoba Infrastructure and Trans Canada Trail partnered to fund and create a berm between lakes along Highway 83 in Roblin. The improvement increases the safety for trail users along the highway. The improved safety allowed for Goose Lake high school students and staff to return to the trail for the annual Terry Fox walk/run.
- \* Beautification of the new berm can be credited to John Skinner of Skinner Native Seeds. Shrubbery and 250 wildflower plugs were planted by John and helpers, with cost of plants and labour donated.
- \* A low spot on the well-used West Goose Lake trail section was improved by Parkland Landscaping along with assistance from Roblin Public Works and Roblin Recreation Department staff. Bell Lumber and Pole provided mulch for the project at no cost.
- \* Asessippi Ski Area & Resort reported damage from runoff; section is temporarily closed. Update to the trail status was provided to ARGIS mapping.

### Rossburn Subdivision Trail Association



#### Symonds Rails to Trails Kiosk in Sandy Lake

Together with the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Association Sandy Lake, we replaced the signs at the Sandy Lake information kiosk along the Rossburn Subdivision Trail. The new signs share interesting stories about the Rossburn Subdivision Trail/ Trans Canada Trail, railway history and (historic and present-day) Sandy Lake.

#### Manitoba Trails Day: Erickson Storybook Trail & Water Tower Rest Stop

On June 1st, 2024, we celebrated Manitoba Trails Day in Erickson. We hosted an inaugural walk on the Rossburn Subdivision Trail/ Trans Canada Trail along the new storybook trail – a ~4.5 k stretch, starting at the Viking boat and ending at the water tower rest stop, that displays a book on 18 pedestals to read while you walk.

#### Onanole Trail & Leda Lake Eco Park

We officially added the former Onanole Trail (connecting the Elk Link Trail to Wasagaming) to our trail network. This new recreation area is right next to the Rossburn Subdivision Trail/ Trans Canada Trail in Erickson and offers (accessible) walking paths, bike trails, and a floating boardwalk overlooking Leda Lake.

#### Russell Storybook Trail

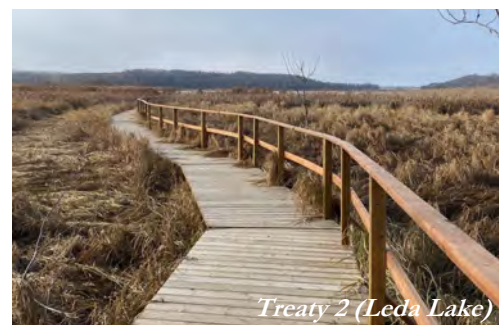
We were able to help Assiniboine Valley Recreation purchase new pedestals. The new pedestals were installed recently, and the first book is already displayed.

#### Rossburn Railway Signs

We finalized a project in Rossburn to replace the outdated and faded interpretive signs in the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Park at Centennial Street, right next to the trail. The new signs showcase the trail's history and its connection to the railway as well as interesting facts about railway history.

#### Waywayseecappo Landslide Repair

We had a significant washout problem between Rossburn and Waywayseecappo that we could repair in time for the snowmobiling season.



## Member Trail Group Updates

### Victoria Beach Trail

VB's AB2VB benefits from a little TLC:

Meant to get people off the highway, Victoria Beaches' **Albert Beach to Victoria Beach** trail is a critical artery that welds the peninsula that is Victoria Beach, to the mainland. With the support from TCT, Trails Manitoba and the RM of Victoria Beach, two major barriers, in the form of sand dunes, were finally resolved.

We look forward to the application of a 'finishing' touch by municipal crews this summer as trail upgrades aim to **enhance accessibility** for a variety of users: individuals living with disabilities who use mobility devices, parents towing toddlers on a trailer, seniors facing challenges with biking or hiking, families getting to their swim lessons from plage Albert, Victoria Beach Club bike hikes and families from the VRA enjoying an excursion to Albert Beach.



*Treaty 1 (Victoria Beach Trail)*

### Headingley Grand Trunk Trail Association

#### Programs and Events

Our programming in 2024 branched out in new directions.

- \* We were honoured to have Adrian Alphonso lead a "Trails as Reconciliation" walk.
- \* We hosted a Kairos Blanket Exercise and ran a kids summer nature camp and a nature journaling work-shop all co-sponsored by MacDonald Headingley Recreation District.
- \* Prairie tours were run in partnership with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Service (CPAWS). A pond dipping kit was installed on the boardwalk with nets and containers for visitors to use.
- \* Finally, we were proud to be part of Toyota Canada's 60th anniversary cross country tour of trails supported by the Trans Canada Trail.



*Treaty 1 (Headingley)*

#### Projects

- \* A beautiful new shade pavilion was built overlooking the tall grass prairie that will allow for prairie viewing, picnics and group events. Picnic tables will be installed in 2025.
- \* With support from the Trans Canada Trail, two new kiosk signs were installed at the Perimeter Highway and Beaudry Park.
- \* Reconstruction of parts of the trail were completed with the support of TCT and ORV/ATV grants. Less snow this past winter allowed us to keep a large part of the trail open for winter activities.

#### 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 2024.

This is the link to keep updated on this initiative. [www.hartetrail.com/connecting-communities](http://www.hartetrail.com/connecting-communities)



## Member Trail Group Updates

### Manitoba Association of Trail Runners

The Manitoba Association of Trail Runners is actively organizing and promoting trail running events throughout Manitoba. This includes hosting free group runs on trails around the province, organizing trail work events, and liaising with other advocacy organizations and provincial government bodies. MATR also supports the various race directors in organizing events in the province by hosting aid stations at some events and promoting all events to our membership.



#### Community building

In 2024, MATR hosted 18 group runs known as Single Track Sundays, totaling 439 runners. Single Track Sundays are self-supported group trail runs that feature a different trail around the province each month.

MATR was also part of the TRED (Trail. Run. Explore. Dream) North American Tour of group runs this summer, sponsored by The North Face. Between July 3 and September 25, MATR hosted a weekly group run each Wednesday at Westview Park in Winnipeg. Due to popular demand, MATR extended the runs for an additional four weeks, totaling 18 weeks and hosting 715 runners.

#### Trail maintenance and stewardship

MATR emphasizes the importance of trail runners getting involved in trail maintenance and giving back to the broader trail community. As an organization, we organize trail work parties where volunteers make the trail a better place by improving signage, clearing deadfall, snowshoe packing, pruning to improve sight lines, and collecting garbage. In 2024, MATR organized 9 trail work events, and volunteers spent a total of 241 hours on the trail. The collective kilometers covered during MATR trail work events totaled 501 kilometers.

### Dauphin Derailleurs Cycle Club

The Northgate Trails Weather Resistance Project addressed the following issues:

- \* Areas on the 5 km Competition Loop identified for repair by the Northgate Trails trail planner were Rolly Flowsky, The Wall and the bench cut near the Cul de Sac (Dirt Nap). These trails had evidence of large divots, cracks and erosion.
- \* Water drainage was required on the Gatehouse Trail, as one of the hills had poor drainage and had pools of water making a portion of the trail very muddy and slippery throughout the spring and summer.
- \* The tread on the connector trail of Quite Frankly needed to be raised due to years of spring flooding and erosion that allowed large, deep tree roots to surface that were potentially dangerous to walk, hike, run or cycle, and very annoying to traverse to get to the rest of the network. Quite Frankly is a 1 km connector trail between the Family Trail and the rest of the network.



Essential mineral, dirt and clay was used to repair the divots, cracks and erosion along the 5 km Competition Loop. it was in fabulous shape for the August 2024 Summer Games mountain biking races.

The improvements of the Gatehouse eliminated a large wet area throughout the difficult ascent/descent. A dry excursion up and down the Gatehouse ascent/descent made for a more enjoyable ride/walk .

The reconstruction of the south portion of Quite Frankly Trail with limestone and an overland bridge allowed and encouraged trail users to go further into the network, improve their skills and endurance, and experience the diverse terrain the 26km of trail that Northgate offers.

*“Well constructed and well maintained multi-use, all season trails attracts diverse people. All age groups utilize the four season Northgate Trails that are designed for every skill level (cycling, walking, hiking, snow shoeing, running, etc.).”*

*Brenda Gregory –DDCC*

## World Trails Conference - Ottawa 2024



### A global forum for the trail sector.

The World Trails Conference is a bi-annual global gathering where representatives and enthusiasts from around the world come together to share knowledge, forge meaningful networks, and shape the future of trail experiences around the world.

More than 400 trail experts and enthusiasts from all over the world joined us in Canada's Capital!

Thank you to the Trans Canada Trail for hosting the 2024 World Trails Conference and making it the biggest one yet!

### Connection to people, places and planet.

This conference explored connection to people, places and the planet – a theme intended to encourage discussion about the impact trails have on the environment, communities and the people who use them.





## Travel Manitoba Tourism Award



### MB Tourism Awards Social Impact Category

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

Winnipeg, MB

We were truly honoured to not only be named a finalist in the Social Impact category at the Third Annual Tourism Awards, but also to be announced as a winner — alongside the incredible team at FortWhyte Alive.



This award was accepted on behalf of the **entire Manitoba Trails community** — for the incredible work being done every day. This photo is especially meaningful, as we had the chance to share this honour with **Caleigh Christie (SWTA)**, who happened to be at the Awards Ceremony as well.

**Social Impact Category** - Presented to a tourism business, organization, event or group that exhibits a strong commitment to creating a positive social impact and demonstrates results, whether through economic, social and environmental sustainability initiatives or creating a safe and inclusive environment for both staff and visitors. The nominee meets the needs of visitors now, while actively protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future.

## Resources

# HIKING ETIQUETTE

### IN YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

<b>KNOW YOUR RIGHT OF WAY</b> Check signage for the trail you're hiking, and follow the correct right of way yields. Generally, hikers coming uphill are breathing heavily but have the right of way. If you're descending the trail, step aside, judge hikers accordingly, and give space to the people climbing up.	<b>MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN</b> When you encounter other hikers and trail users, offer a friendly "hello" or a simple head nod. Try not to be creepy about it. This helps create a friendly atmosphere on the trail. If you approach another trail user from behind, announce yourself in a friendly, calm tone and let him/her know you want to pass. Yelling "BEAR" and "RUN" is not helpful.
<b>STAY ON THE TRAIL</b> Don't step off trail unless you absolutely must when yielding. This includes impromptu dance-offs with fellow hikers. Going off trail can damage or kill certain plant or animal species, and can hurt the ecosystems that surround the trail. So can bad dancing.	<b>LEAVE NO TRACE</b> Always practice Leave No Trace principles: Leave rocks, vegetation, and artifacts where you find them for others to enjoy. Do you stack rocks in your backyard? Also, animals should remain in park.
<b>DO NOT DISTURB WILDLIFE</b> They need their space, and you need yours, too. Just like you with your ex, keep a safe distance from any wildlife you encounter. Some parks require you to stay a certain distance from wildlife, so check park regulations before your visit.	<b>READ THE SIGNS</b> Never leave the trail to try and get a closer look at an animal because it can hurt the habitat and the animal and put you in danger. Oh, you need a sign? It's over there. And there. There's one! Did you see that one?
<b>TAKE TIME TO LISTEN</b> When hiking in the great outdoors, let nature do the talking. We said be quiet! Not only will other visitors appreciate the peace, but so will the wildlife. Why are you still talking? Many wildlife species rely on natural sounds for communication, and disrupting those sounds can hurt their chances of survival, or at the very least result in extreme eye rolls from animals like you haven't seen since...well, earlier from your family.	<b>BE AWARE OF SURROUNDINGS</b> Always be aware of your surroundings when hiking in national parks. It will help keep you and any members of your group safe, and it will help keep wildlife and their habitats safe and healthy. You're not lost. You're still in the parking lot.

When in doubt about something just remember the "golden rule" — treat other trail users how you want to be treated, and respect the wildlife and lands of our great national parks.

NPS.GOV



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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!*



## Financials



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

BDO Canada LLP  
201 Portage Avenue - 26<sup>th</sup> 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, 2024, 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, 2024.

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 23, 2025. 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, 2024 and 2023, current assets as at December 31, 2024 and 2023, and net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2024 and 2023 years. Our audit opinion on the consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 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.

BDO Canada LLP, a Canadian limited liability partnership, is a member of BDO International Limited, a US company limited by guarantee, and forms part of the international BDO network of independent member firms.

## Financials-continued



### 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 23, 2025



## Financials-continued

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

As at December 31	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and bank	\$ 1,041,297	\$ 934,501
Accounts receivable	4,951	21,234
	<u>1,046,248</u>	<u>955,735</u>
<b>Capital assets</b>	<u>1,075</u>	<u>2,151</u>
	<u>\$ 1,047,323</u>	<u>\$ 957,886</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 46,260	\$ 19,210
Due to eligible recipients	755,296	617,554
Deferred revenue	<u>61,642</u>	<u>69,417</u>
	<u>863,198</u>	<u>706,181</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
General Fund	<u>184,125</u>	<u>251,705</u>
	<u>\$ 1,047,323</u>	<u>\$ 957,886</u>

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

For the year ended December 31	2024	2023
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 251,705	\$ 228,445
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year	<u>(67,580)</u>	<u>23,260</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 184,125</u>	<u>\$ 251,705</u>

## Financials-continued

### MANITOBA RECREATIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION INC. Summary Consolidated Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31	2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>		
Administrative fee	\$ 151,391	\$ 148,365
Donations	1,864	6,413
Grants		
Trans Canada Trail	33,428	34,958
Province of Manitoba	-	3,151
Others	1,500	-
Interest income	7,536	7,756
Memberships	2,710	2,485
Workshop	5,500	4,000
Recognition of deferred revenue	13,275	5,625
	<u>217,204</u>	<u>212,753</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Amortization	1,076	717
Bank charges and interest	828	756
Donations disbursed	7,925	10,180
Education and training	8,257	1,217
Insurance	2,867	2,645
Licences and memberships	680	685
Marketing	3,563	6,343
Meetings	1,752	511
Office	77,011	7,515
Professional fees	19,800	18,865
Property taxes	3,422	3,524
Rent	1,230	1,216
Salaries and benefits	140,202	121,148
Telephone and communications	820	820
Travel	10,649	6,323
Workshop	4,702	7,028
	<u>284,784</u>	<u>189,493</u>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>\$ (67,580)</b>	<b>\$ 23,260</b>

#### 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, 2024 audited financial statements are available on demand by email [info@trailsmanitoba.ca](mailto:info@trailsmanitoba.ca).





With 2024 now in the books, Trails Manitoba is taking a moment to recognize the incredible people who keep our trail network thriving - our volunteers!

Your passion, persistence, and love for the outdoors are what drive this movement forward. Whether you cleared brush, built bridges, maintained signage, or rallied your community - you've helped shape something truly meaningful.

Thanks to your dedication, the future of recreational trails in Manitoba looks brighter than ever. You're not just building trails—you're building a legacy for generations to explore, connect, and enjoy.

From all of us at Trails Manitoba: thank you for being the heartbeat of this community.

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

[info@trailsmanitoba.ca](mailto:info@trailsmanitoba.ca)  
431-814-5200  
[trailsmanitoba.ca](http://trailsmanitoba.ca)