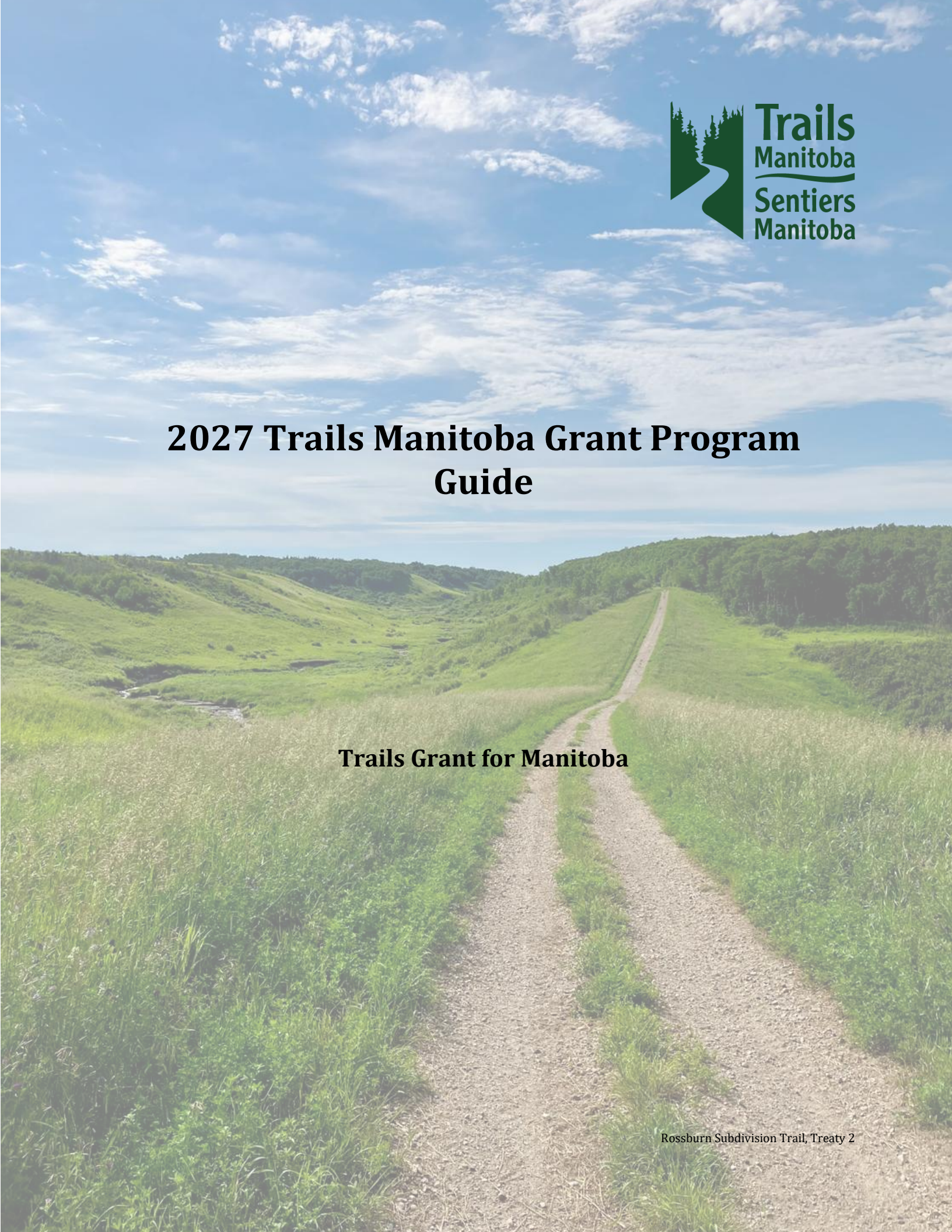
2027 Trails Manitoba Grant Program Guide

Trails Grant for Manitoba



Rossburn Subdivision Trail, Treaty 2

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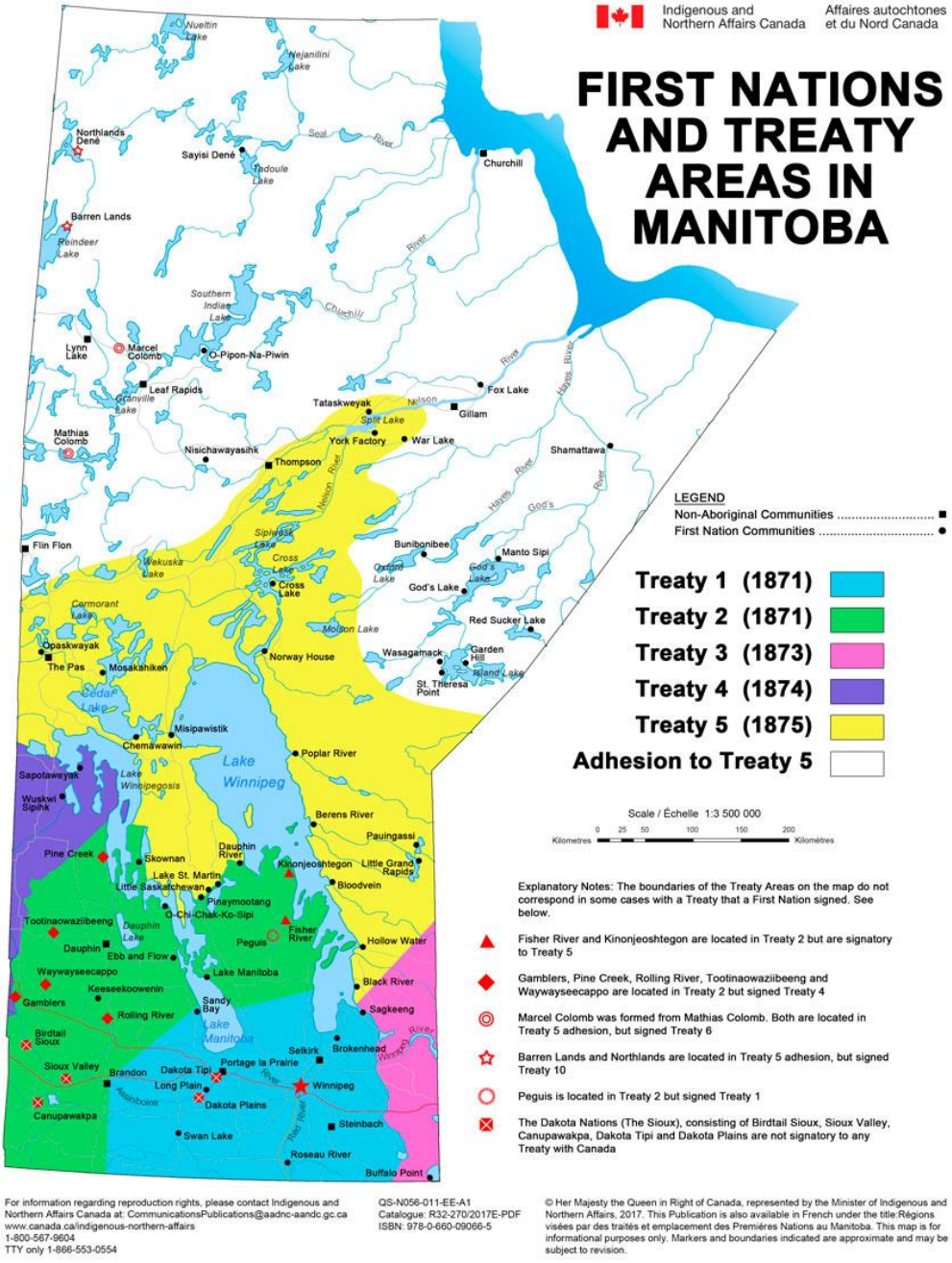
Land Acknowledgement

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.



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© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, 2017. This Publication is also available in French under the title Régions visées par des traités et emplacement des Premières Nations au Manitoba. This map is for informational purposes only. Markers and boundaries indicated are approximate and may be subject to revision.

Trails Manitoba Grant Program

Background

Trails Manitoba is responsible for stewarding trails in Manitoba in support of our 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.

Trails Manitoba has the responsibility for the management of grant funds related to provincial trail development using funding graciously provided by the Province of Manitoba and supported by the Winnipeg Foundation.

For the 2027 application intake, the Trails Manitoba Grant Program offers one consolidated grant: the Trails Grant for Manitoba. This grant has specific matching and eligibility requirements that applicants must meet, all of which are detailed in this guide.

Trails Grant for Manitoba

- The funds for the Trails Grant for Manitoba arise from interest from an endowment, with total annual disbursements estimated between $200,000 to $250,000. Approved projects are expected to be completed within 2 years. This fund is intended for trail associations, municipalities, or other not-for-profit groups, that have the means to provide continued stewardship of trails. There are specific eligibility and matching requirements outlined below. Grant applications solely for trail maintenance may receive greater flexibility with regards to matching requirements.

For 2027, approximately $220,000 will be available to fund projects under this program. Given this amount, individual funding requests will be capped at **$15,000** per application. While funding will prioritize trail **maintenance**, **feasibility studies**, and **trail enhancements,** all project types will be considered if they meet the eligibility requirements.

Application Deadline

The 2027 application deadline is 11:59pm on January 08, 2027. All submissions must be electronically submitted using the supplied application form located on the Trails Manitoba website: http://www.trailsmanitoba.ca/grants/. Applications submitted beyond this deadline will not be accepted.

Screening of Projects

Trails Manitoba may at their discretion, screen projects prior to review based upon incomplete documentation or eligibility requirements. As such, applicants are strongly encouraged to complete all parts of the application including a detailed and rationalized budget along with accompanying materials.

Review Process

Trails Manitoba Grant Review Committee undertakes a two-part examination of applications in a competitive process to select funding proposals for the Board of Directors' approval. For each application, a minimum of two reviewers are allocated to provide independent reviews and scores using an evaluation rubric (see below). After independent reviews are complete, the review committee discusses each application, a consensus score is determined, and each committee member votes to provide the final score. Applications that fall below the threshold on the overall score (3.5/5) or fail on any one of the sections (see below) will not be funded. The applications are ranked based upon this score. The scores and recommendations for funding and budgetary concerns are then submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval.

The Board of Directors, at their discretion, can alter the funding allocation and dismiss applications based upon failure to comply with accountability of prior projects.

Sections of the Grant Application

Part 1 – General Information
Part 2 – Grant Objectives
Part 3 – Impact Considerations
Part 4 – Conflict of Interest
Part 5 – Project Workplan
Part 6 – Budget Description
Part 7 – Matching Summary
Part 8 – Appendices

Evaluation Rubric

The reviewers will evaluate the application with the following weighting to determine the final grant score.

Grant Objectives	30%
Impact Considerations	20%
Project Workplan	30%
Budget Description	20%

Timeline and Notification

2027 Grant Application Submission Deadline: January 08, 2027

Review Process:	January - March 2027
Grant Recipient Notification:	March 18-26, 2027

Trails Manitoba reserves the right to modify the above timeline as needed.

The primary contact for the application will be notified electronically of the amount and conditions of the grant along with any feedback from the review committee.

Using a grant recipient agreement, recipients will be required to provide interim reports (as depicted in the recipient agreement), as well as a project completion report. Recipients will be required to provide a financial statement of expenses at completion of the project. Recipients may not re-allocate more than 25% of the grant without prior approval.

Conflict of Interest

For Applicants

A conflict of interest can be real or perceived when the applicant or parties named or related to the application can personally gain from the grant being awarded, beyond normal remuneration for work related to the project.

Trails Manitoba requires that the applicant disclose any real or perceived conflicts (i.e., vendors, consultants, organizations, etc.) related to their application. Trails Manitoba and the reviewers reserve the right to ascertain conflict of interest, even if one is not declared by the applicant.

For Reviewers

A conflict of interest is when the aims of the reviewer of the Trails Manitoba Grant Project are incompatible with the reviewers' private, professional, business, or public interests. A conflict of interest may be real or perceived. Reviewers are in conflict when they have direct or indirect financial interests in the application being reviewed, when they have professional relationships with the applicant(s) or the organization or would gain professional or personal benefits from the funding of the project.

Further, conflict of interest may exist when the reviewer is a competitor to applicant(s) and named businesses/organizations in the application, when they are a relative or close friend of the parties identified in the application, have long standing personal differences with the applicant or named parties in the application, or have any untoward bias toward the applicant or parties or project.

Trails Manitoba reserves the right to ascertain conflict of interest, even if one is not declared by the reviewer.

Review panel committee members will be identified for transparency.

Transparency

For all grant awards, an online public disclosure will be provided which includes:

- a summary of the project including funding amounts
- a project completion summary

Project Impact

We ask that the applicants briefly address the impact of the proposed project in terms of equity, diversity, and inclusion, in addition to aspects of safety, sustainability, and environmental stewardship of the trail project.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

We believe equity, diversity and inclusion is about creating an environment and culture that embraces the uniqueness of all individuals. Every person has a right to equal treatment. Trails are strengthened by diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences of users and volunteers.

Equity – means that people of all identities are treated fairly, and therefore having equal individual rights, responsibilities, and opportunities.

Diversity – means having an understanding that everyone is unique, and that we should recognize and celebrate these differences.

Inclusion – is the cultivation of an environment in which all people are respected, differences are embraced, and where everyone is given the same opportunities.

Trails Grant for Manitoba

Overall Goals

The Trails Grant for Manitoba seeks to advance the recreational trail network in Manitoba that will:

1. Enhance physical, psychological, and social well-being of participants through awareness and use of the trails, and related facilities & programs through increased opportunities for movement (physical activity) for all levels of ability and the development of physical literacy.
2. Enhance the environmental perspective of trail users through intentionally directed educational experiences devoted to responsible use and conservation of natural resources.
3. Support the economy through tourism and other related activities through targeting of financial and social impacts of trail projects.

Specific Objectives of the Trails Grant for Manitoba

The project must meet one or more of the following objectives:

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

New recreational trails or additions to existing trails should be strategically located, safe, sustainable and contribute to tourism-based community economic development. Project costs must be reasonable, and directly and clearly related to carrying out the project on the ground.

Costs that are NOT eligible include:

1) Land purchase costs and private land use expenses, including rent or taxes.
2) Honorariums or gifts to volunteers.

Recipient Eligibility

Recipients can be a municipality, or an association that is not-for-profit (trail association, sport association, recreation association, community club, etc.).

Trails Manitoba will NOT provide grants to:

1) Provincial government or any provincial government body, entity, agency or organization.

2) Any organization that is operated for-profit.
3) Any organization that has not established operations in Manitoba.
4) Individuals.

Matching Requirements

The funding will be made as matching grants to eligible recipients for eligible projects. Projects must include a matching investment for the project from other sources. The overall objective for the grant is a match ratio of 2:1. Grant applications solely for trail maintenance may receive greater flexibility with regards to matching requirements.

Example: to receive a Trails Manitoba Grant of $15,000, the applicant must have secured a matching investment (can be a combination of funds and in-kind gifts) of $30,000. In this example, total project cost would be greater or equal to $45,000.

To qualify for matching, the donation:

1) Must be received from the federal or a municipal government or agency, public, corporations, community foundations and other similar foundations and funders, private donors, or raised through fundraising activities.
2) May include gifts-in-kind including, but not limited to:
    a. donated land or rights to use land for trail purposes
    b. documented volunteer or donated labour
    c. other goods, calculated at fair market values/rates as determined by Trails Manitoba
3) May NOT be funding contributions derived from other provincial government sources.