

NOVA SCOTIA TRAILS FEDERATION



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WHO WE ARE: NS Trails is a volunteer, membership-based registered charity, a resource for trail stakeholders, and a forum to facilitate the cooperative building, maintaining, and enjoyment of trails in our province.

OUR VISION: A diverse and vibrant trails community exists in Nova Scotia that works respectfully and collaboratively so that all Nova Scotians and visitors have easy access to safe and enjoyable trail experiences.

TAKE TRAILS TO HEART!

HEALTH:

Trails help to improve our health and quality of life by giving us a place to maintain an active lifestyle.

ENVIRONMENT:

Trails help us preserve green spaces, educate, protect and promote wildlife & wilderness areas while providing managed public access.

ARTS, CULTURE, & HISTORY:

Trails promote the arts, culture, and history of the community, region and province while facilitating education in the same topics.

RECREATION:

Trails provide many forms of recreation, adding to our quality of life.

TRANSPORTATION:

Trails help to improve our health and quality of life by giving us a place to maintain an active lifestyle.



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BECOME A MEMBER

NS Trails offers four categories of membership:

Individual Membership

Individual members are generally trail enthusiasts who are interested in knowing what events and activities are taking place on trails throughout the province. Individual members are added to our email list to receive regular updates and are encouraged to join our social media sites.

Community Group Membership

Community group members are community-based volunteer non-profit societies registered with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies. In order to qualify for community group status an organization must be solely dedicated to trail development, maintenance and management.

User Group Membership

User group members are provincial organizations that are dedicated to promoting the interests of a specific trail user group (i.e. Hike NS, NSORRA)

Associate Membership

Associate members are trail stakeholders who don't fall into the other categories listed above (i.e. government organizations and other organizations who have an interest in trails in the province).

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BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Belonging to NS Trails provides your organization with access to a wide variety of trail resources, information and services as listed below:

Risk Management

NS Trails offers two different group insurance policies to assist our member groups manage risk within their organizations.

Our General Liability Insurance is a joint group policy with the Snowmobilers Association of Nova Scotia. It offers organizational insurance for those who don't manage trail and trail insurance for those who manage trail or have landowner agreements in place.

Our group Accident Insurance policy is optional coverage. It provides coverage to a maximum of 20 volunteers per trail organization should they be injured while conducting trail-related business for their organization.

Electronic Newsletter

NS Trails members receive frequent news emails that contain important information for our members. It also strives to recognize the achievements of our members.

Trail Construction, Maintenance and Management Support

Our members have access to numerous trail-related resources on our website. We also provide support on trail-related issues and can suggest experts and other members across the province who can help overcome obstacles.

Funding Opportunities

NS Trails maintains an online list of potential funding programs for trail development and maintenance.

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Conferences, Workshops and Educational Events

We notify our members of opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skill sets and to meet other like-minded volunteers across the province. We organize and partner with other organizations to offer workshops, webcast training, and conferences to provide opportunities for members to learn and share their expertise.

Charitable Program

NS Trails is a registered Charitable organization and we offer a charitable program to members. Through the program, donations are made to NS Trails and may be designated to a member organization. Donors receive an acknowledgement letter and a tax receipt. It is expected that member groups will also recognize donors.

Member organizations must have Directors and Officers Insurance to take advantage of this program.

The Great Trail

As the recognized agent for The Great Trail in Nova Scotia we provide planning and development support to communities and trail groups interested in becoming part of this National Trail Legacy. We also are responsible for recommending greenway projects for Trans Canada Trail funding, and support increased trail usage and improvement.

Youth Engagement

Engaging young people in the trails movement is important to the

sustainability of trails and the volunteer trails movement in the province. NS Trails is using social media to promote a variety of multimedia content that highlights inspirational young trail volunteers and the rewards they've experienced.

Member and Trail Promotion

NS Trails promotes the activities, events and trails of our member groups to our membership, trail stakeholders and the public. We do this through our news emails and social media networks. Simply send us your information and we will disseminate it to the appropriate audiences. This is a great resource for members looking to attract participants to events, trail workshops or volunteer opportunities.

Provincial Government Relationships

NS Trails works closely with provincial government departments on behalf of our members. We receive annual funding from Communities, Culture and Heritage. In consultation with our members and trail stakeholders across the province, we have worked with representatives of the Interdepartmental Committee on Trails to develop a new shared strategy for trails in Nova Scotia.

NS Trails is notified of changes in legislation and consultation sessions that impact the trails movement and NS Trails members receive notification of such changes and opportunities to provide input.



THE GREAT TRAIL: A NATIONAL LEGACY

25 Years In The Making

Canada is home to the greatest trail in the world. This epic trail of trails was created by thousands of dreamers, can-doers, volunteers, friends and partners sharing the same audacious goal of connecting our country. Though Canada is as diverse as it is vast, we can all find common ground on the Trail. The Great Trail links 15,000 communities along 24,000 km and is full of possibilities, discovery and adventure. Whether you are looking for a place to take a leisurely stroll, kayak along the coast or commute to work, people from all walks of life can find an experience that resonates with them. The Trail is a free resource open to all. Regardless of how we choose to experience it, the result is a connection with the outdoors, one another and ourselves.

The Great Trail In Nova Scotia

During the summer of 2017, the Nova Scotia Trails Federation (NS Trails) and our many partners celebrated connection of The Great Trail in Nova Scotia. Connection of Phase 1 of the Great Trail in Nova Scotia is a project that took 25 years to accomplish. NS Trails' ability to fulfill that dream would not have been possible without our community volunteers, government, corporate sponsors and the Trans Canada Trail.

Now the goal is to improve the Trail, increase its usage and plan for the long-term sustainability of the Trail. The Trans Canada Trail will also look at adding strategic spurs and loops. In fact, in January of 2018, the Trans Canada Trail announced it was open to extending the trail to include the western loop which runs through the South Shore and Valley as part of The Great Trail brand.

Currently, the Trail in Nova Scotia is over 1200 kilometres in length including approximately 500 kilometres of land trail, 400 kilometres of water route and 300 kilometres of road route. Users can enjoy walking, hiking, biking, kayaking, horseback riding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling and ATV-ing on The Great Trail in Nova Scotia.

To find out more about The Great Trail visit: thegreattrail.ca.

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