



Saskatchewan
Trails
Association



**2023
Annual Report**



The Saskatchewan Trails Association (STA) was incorporated in July 2004 with the mandate to promote the development and use of recreational trails throughout the province. We were created through a stakeholder process led by the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA).

SECTOR VISION

Our sector vision reflects the preferred state for trails in Saskatchewan. The vision inspires people, stakeholders and members to work collectively towards achieving that future and creating outcomes that members and others can support.

We envision a sustainable, coordinated network of rural and urban trails throughout Saskatchewan which are designed and maintained to standards that meet a diversity of user needs and enhance the health, tourism and economic prosperity of Saskatchewan communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL VISION

The Saskatchewan Trails Association will play a key role in the development of this sector vision. Our organizational vision defines this role.

We envision the Saskatchewan Trails Association as being the key resource in the province for trail information in the areas of best practice, standards, funding and usage.

OUR MISSION

Our mission defines the organization's purpose and primary objective. The mission informs the key measures of our long-term objectives and the ends that we are working towards.

The mission of the Saskatchewan Trails Association is to assist local trail groups to develop and market their trails, to promote trails in the province, and to advocate to key stakeholders on the importance of trail maintenance and development.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: David Powell

Vice President: Alan Otterbein

Treasurer: Deborah Floden

Secretary: Ryan Goolevitch

Board Member: John Meed

Board Member: Anna Ringstrom

Board Member: Curt Schroeder

Board Member: Chris Exner

Board Member: Matthew Maurer

Administrator/ Ex-Officio: Pat Rediger

Ex-Officio: Joe Milligan

Ex-Officio: Andrew Exelby

STRATEGIC PLAN

The STA developed a strategic plan in 2019, which continues to guide our efforts. This plan has four priorities and the actions that are taken on these priorities are reviewed at each board meeting. The decisions reached by the board are based on the impact these decisions will have on meeting these priorities. A detailed copy of our strategic plan can be found on our website at: <https://sasktrails.ca/about-us/>.



PRIORITY 1:

Maintain an effective and well-governed board.

The board operates under a governance model in which strategic action items are reviewed regularly, and financial accountability is practiced at all times. This year the board held eight meetings to discuss issues within the trail community.





PRIORITY 2

To be a resource for accurate trail location/operational information accessible to the public and the membership.

The STA offers a diverse number of tools and resources to assist members, stakeholders, and the general public in locating the most important trail information within the province. Our website continues to be one of our foremost means of connecting with the public, members, and avid trail enthusiasts. It comprises details regarding trail maps, safety guidelines, trail etiquette, environmental consciousness, bridge designs, agreements with landowners, donation processing, blogs, and various promotions highlighting the benefits of trails.

Our blogs are still popular, ensuring we remain active in this medium with frequent postings. Posts included updates on the membership assistance program and its benefits to the trail community; cross country ski trails; preparing for a winter hike; photo contest rules, regulations and winners; and much more. You can read more of the posts at <http://sasktrails.ca/blog/>

Over the past year, we've witnessed a significant surge in social media activity, largely stemming from the attention our accounts garnered during the summer and winter photo contests. Overall our followers increased from 7,994 in 2022 to 8,517 – an overall increase of 523 followers! Our ongoing efforts involve sharing trail information, recommending captivating destinations, and leveraging visual elements such as photos and videos to pique even more interest. Additionally, we actively support and promote upcoming events and adventures posted by fellow trail groups, nature enthusiasts, and fellow Saskatchewan residents on our platform. On top of that, we use our social media pages to share important updates about our members, key players in the trail community, and other groups. It's the best way to keep everyone informed about trail news, funding info, and promotions in our community. So, stay tuned!



With support from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association's Parks For All Grant, we were able to expand our photography contest into summer and winter initiatives. The 7th annual Give Us Your Best Shot photo contest began on Saskatchewan Trails Day, the first Saturday of June, and concluded the last day of the month.

The Winter on the Trails Photo Contest took place on November 14 to December 15. Entries for both contests were made by posting a picture of your favourite trail on Facebook, Instagram, or

Twitter, and using the hashtag #SaskTrailsPhotoContest for summer and #WinterOnTheTrails-PhotoContest2023 for the winter.

We received more than 200 submissions and reached over 8,000 people on social media. Applicants were allowed to enter as many photos as they chose, with many submitting multiple entries. We were very impressed with the quality of the photos we received and have since used many to brighten up our social media posts.



The winning photograph, captured at Peegee Man Trail near North Battleford

The winners in the Give Us Your Best Shot Photo Contest included:

The Grand Prize winner was Ryan Belt De Vera. Honourable mentions to Virginia D and Neethu Jinil. The early bird prize winner was Jeff Acena.

Ryan won an 18L day-pack, a portable mess-free container, an adventure medical kit, a collapsible water-bottle and a wilderness T-shirt (valued at over \$200).

Virginia won a North Face waist pack, a Lifestraw water purifier, a headlamp, a rain poncho, and a wilderness T-shirt. The second honorable mention winner, Neethu, won a Yeti water bottle, an adventure medical kit, a trekking towel, and an Elbow Trails hoodie.

Virginia's was taken in Prince Albert National Park, while Neethu's photo was captured at Waskesiu Trails.

Jeff received a set of trekking poles, a camping mug, a Buff headscarf, a 3-in-1 flashlight and a SaskTrails T-shirt (valued at over \$100). His photo was taken at the Cypress Hills Beaver Creek Loop.



Honorable mention winning photos





Early Bird winning photo



The winner in the Winter on the Trails Photo Contest was Jeff Hehn, who receives a prize package featuring: MSR® PocketRocket™ Stove Kit, Camino Fair Trade & Organic Instant Dark Hot Chocolate, Hot Poc Reusable Hand Warmers, and a KGC 2 Pack Winter Neck Warmer Gaiter.



Honorable mention winning photo



The First Runner Up was Carla Martin Roslinski, who received a prize package featuring a GSI Glacier Stainless Vacuum Bottle 1L, a North Face Bozer Hip Pack III – L – Unisex, and a LifeStraw Personal Water Filter Straw.



Honorable mention winning photo



Our Second Runner Up was Mike Gavelis, who received a prize package including: an AUTOWT Hand Warmers Rechargeable 2 Pack – 5000mAh Electric Hand Warmer Power Bank Flashlight 3 in 1, USB Charge Portable Magnetic Hand Heater for Camping, Outdoor Sports, Winter Gifts for Women Men, a YETI® Rambler Tumbler with Lid, and a Bushnell Powerview 8×21 Binoculars.



PRIORITY 3:

To move into greater alignment with the National Recreation Framework and the priorities of the recreation section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund.

CHURCHILL RIVER WATER TRAIL LEGACY PROJECT

This project originated in 2019 to improve the outdoor recreation experience along canoe routes in northern Saskatchewan, while simultaneously dealing with the challenge of human waste. The STA has been the lead agency for the project with support from northern volunteers, private businesses and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport.

Upon researching into this challenge, project proponents determined that a Urine Diverting Vermicomposting Toilet (UDVT) could address the issue of human waste along river trail routes. Toilets have now been installed on Barker Island, Little Stanley Rapids and Robertson Falls.

This year thanks to generous donations and a team of volunteers, three more composting toilets were purchased and installed at Dieter's Rapids, Hank's Hotel, and South Barker Island Point.

Volunteers are now discussing the next steps in this project with the intention of expanding the network to other high use campsites that could benefit from a composting toilet as well as how the current infrastructure can be maintained. Potential locations for future projects include Corner Rapids, Mosquito Point, and Champagne Island in the Missinipe area, although there are other potential locations as well.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

The STA believes that youth are the future leaders of our provincial trail movement due to their enthusiasm and love of the outdoors. We engage youth through our social media, photo contests and by inviting them to share their stories regarding their favorite hikes or trail gear. As part of our commitment to youth, the STA successfully received funding through the Trans Canada Trails Green Jobs Initiative and the Canada Parks and Recreation Association to hire two summer students for different term positions.



Joe Camplin interned during the summer months while completing a degree in Journalism at the University of Regina. He has experience in a variety of fields, including writing, editing and producing. He recently worked on the current affairs piece Queen City Crisis: Gimme Shelter, which is available on YouTube. Joe is also a member of the University of Regina Rams football team.

Penuel Chuks-Emmanuel is a Nigerian who just completed her master's degree in Journalism at the University of Regina and completed her internship with us in the fall. She has her first degree in communications from Covenant University in Nigeria and has skills/experiences ranging from advertising, public relations, film production (pre-production to post-production), producing and directing live broadcasts and even hosting them.



Both interns assisted with our newsletter, blog posts, social media and other duties as assigned.

PRIORITY 4:

To effectively support and grow membership.

We've got a bunch of ways we help boost our membership and help it flourish. Being the go-to spot for trail lovers in the province, we're all about spreading the word and giving a shoutout to our members. Whether it's on our website, through our blog, or on social media, we're here to share information and promote our awesome members. But that's not all, we're also there to provide financial support directly and lend a hand when our members are hustling to secure their own funding.

STA MEMBER TRAIL GRANT

The STA supports its members through its annual Member Trail Grant Program. This year we the recipients were Bengough and District Regional Park Authority, the Resort Village of Candle Lake, the Oxbow and District Recreation Board, Pasquia Regional Park Authority and the East Qu'Appelle Cartel cycling group.

BENGOUGH AND DISTRICT PARK AUTHORITY

Bengough and District Park Authority provides a range of leisure activities and amenities, enhancing the quality of life for locals and visitors alike. With its welcoming atmosphere and diverse offerings, it's a hub for relaxation and outdoor enjoyment in the region. They used the funds to add an additional 1km loop to their existing trail, which was began with upgrades the previous year. This new path created a connection back to the main trail section, which led to plenty of opportunity for hikers to change their route on a regular basis. The grant helped purchase signs and signposts, benches, solar lights, garbage bins and dog waste receptacles for this new area.



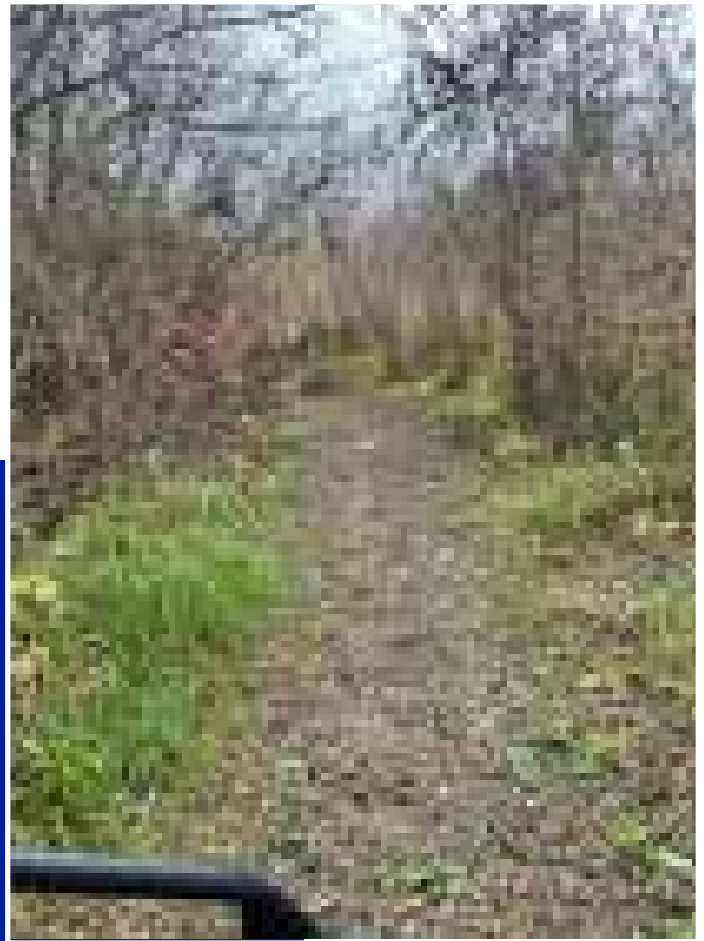
THE RESORT VILLAGE OF CANDLE LAKE

The Resort Village of Candle Lake is known for its stunning natural beauty and tranquil atmosphere, it offers a perfect escape for those seeking a serene retreat. With its pristine lake, recreational opportunities, and welcoming residents, Candle Lake is a cherished destination for both residents and visitors alike. They extended the Simon Lehne Trail by approximately 750 meters for walking, cycling, and snowshoeing – starting at Hayes Drive. This trail extension will provide a practical connection from Simon Lehne Trail to Northview Trail, as well as the Nobles Point Marina and Shoreline Trail. This grant funding was used towards tree and brush clearing equipment.



THE OXBOW AND DISTRICT RECREATION BOARD

The Oxbow and District Recreation Board is dedicated to enriching the lives of residents and visitors, they offer a wide range of recreational activities and facilities. From sports and fitness to cultural events and family fun, they play a vital role in fostering community spirit and well-being in the region. plans to upgrade their existing Bow Valley trails. The grant was used to purchase posts and solar lights that will be distributed to help light the path that has been enjoyed by residents, campers, and surrounding communities for years.



PASQUIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Pasquia Regional Park Authority houses a beautiful recreational haven in Saskatchewan, Canada. Nestled amidst nature's splendor, it offers a serene escape for outdoor enthusiasts. With its lush greenery and water attractions, the park beckons visitors to unwind and embrace the joys of nature. They enhanced their 5 km long path where the famous 90-million-year-old crocodile, "Big Bert", was discovered.

SASKATOON TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Saskatoon Trail Alliance has successfully completed its trail project, enhancing the sustainability of singletrack trails along the stunning river valley. The focus was on preventing erosion and building bridges through critical drainage areas. Thanks to a professional trail assessment by IMBA in 2021, they pinpointed key areas for improvement, ensuring the preservation of our beloved trail network and promoting environmental stewardship. They replaced two outdated bridges on Chad and Joey's, and Upper Sutherland Trails, constructing new 3'x7' and 4'x9' bridges off-site. The result? A more resilient trail system that benefits everyone—casual users, dog walkers, trail runners, and mountain bikers alike!

EAST QU'APPELLE CARTEL (IN PROGRESS)

East Qu'Appelle is a picturesque region nestled in Saskatchewan, Canada. Known for its natural beauty and vibrant communities, it offers a perfect blend of outdoor adventures and rural charm. Explore stunning landscapes, friendly towns, and a rich cultural heritage in East Qu'Appelle. They are in the process of adding metred signage to their Kapo Kraze and Sunny Side Up trails, along with building a trail head sign between the Screeching Jay and Corky's Revenge trails. This will offer checkpoints to hikers and give a better sense of direction and distance on these existing trails.

CANADIAN TRAILS FEDERATION

The Canadian Trails Federation (CTF) is a collaborative network comprising provincial and territorial trail organizations across the country. The STA takes pride in being an active participant in this alliance, where we consistently represent our province on a national platform, exchanging valuable insights and sharing best practices. The CTF is also a member of the National Trails Coalition (NTC), which encompasses representatives from the snowmobile and ATV communities.



Thank you to all those who donated their time, energy and funds to the trail community this year!

Thank you to our core funding supporters:



**Saskatchewan
Parks and Recreation
Association**

*Recreation
An Investment for life*

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SASKATCHEWAN TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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