



2025 Annual Report



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, the Saskatchewan Trails Association (STA) continued to advance a province-wide vision for a sustainable, accessible, and well-coordinated network of recreational trails that supports community well-being, tourism, and economic vitality across Saskatchewan.

Guided by its strategic priorities, the STA maintained strong governance and accountability while expanding its role as a trusted source of trail information and sector leadership. Through its website, interactive trail mapping, social media platforms, and digital publications, the STA significantly increased awareness of Saskatchewan's diverse trail systems and the communities and volunteers who steward them. SaskTrails Explorer Magazine completed its first full year as the association's flagship promotional tool, reaching tens of thousands of readers per issue and showcasing trail stories from across the province.

STA also delivered tangible, on-the-ground impact by supporting community-led trail development and enhancement through its Member Trail Grant Program. Funded projects improved trail safety, accessibility, signage, and user experience in communities throughout Saskatchewan, reflecting the diversity of trail users and landscapes. Strategic partnerships supported additional initiatives, including accessibility-focused infrastructure improvements and youth engagement through the SaskTrails Storyteller program.

Collaboration remained central to STA's work. The association strengthened relationships with provincial and national partners, contributing to shared advocacy, knowledge exchange, and alignment with broader recreation priorities.

STA's achievements in 2025 were made possible through the dedication of its members, volunteers, partners, and supporters. The Association gratefully acknowledges Saskatchewan Lotteries, whose core funding continues to provide essential, stable support for STA's operations and its ability to serve trail organizations and communities across the province.

ABOUT US

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: Vacant

Secretary: Ryan Goolevitch

Board Member: John Meed

Board Member: Chris Exner

Board Member: Leslie Beck

Board Member: Rob Wells

Administrator/Ex-Officio:

Pat Rediger

Ex-Officio: Joe Milligan

Ex-Officio: Andrew Exelby

STRATEGIC PLAN

The STA follows a strategic plan that 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 they will have on meeting these priorities. A detailed copy of our strategic plan can be found on our website: <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 10 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.

Website (Sasktrails.ca)

The STA website 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. Along with a comprehensive interactive-map providing trail locations and details on hiking, cycling, ATVing, paddling, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling, the website features everything from trail etiquette and safety, to the how-to's of organizing a fundraising event.

The website features the STA's bi-annual online magazine SaskTrails Explorer, with special stories and photography highlighting the province's unique and fascinating trails found both near and far. The STA's popular blog posts featured this year's SaskTrails Storyteller Ella Gidluck, and her adventures on Saskatchewan trails this summer.

Social Media

Social media is where the fun and thrills of trail adventures are shared. With more than 9,500 followers, SaskTrails has an active social media community on Facebook, Instagram and X, where trail enthusiasts share information, along with stunning photos and video, of hidden gems found throughout Saskatchewan.

The STA's social media platforms also actively support and promote upcoming events and adventures posted by fellow trail groups, nature enthusiasts, and Saskatchewan residents. STA's social media provides updates about our members, key stakeholders in the trail community and other groups. It's the latest information on trail news, funding information, and promotions in our community.

Give Us Your Best Shot Photo Contests

This year we once again held our popular photo contests, one in the summer and the other in the winter, capturing the best of both seasons in gorgeous trail photography. And the results from our photo contests were nothing short of breathtaking.

The month-long summer contest began on June 1 – Saskatchewan Trails Day! – and was open to anyone who loves Saskatchewan trails, whether it's hiking, paddling or biking. Out of dozens of submissions, our board members selected two top photos in the Action Shot and Best Scenery categories, with one lucky participant chosen in our Random Draw.

Meet the Winners



Action Shot: Jonathan Behuniak, Douglas Provincial Park, with his photo-capturing motion, companionship, and that quiet thrill of exploring somewhere wild and unexpected.

Jonathan received the Adventure Bundle prize package featuring:

- *Mustang APF RFD*
- *Katadyn BeFree Water Filter*
- *Morakniv Knife*
- *UCO Fire Strikes*



Best Scenery: Karla Pratt, Saskatchewan Landing Park, who captured one of the most stunning scenes in Saskatchewan.

Karla received the Chill Trail Bundle prize package featuring:

- *Eureka Tagalong Lite chair*
- *Goodeer sunglasses*
- *Fresh Air Hat*
- *Granite Gear Hiker Wallet*
- *Shemagh Scarf*
- *Nalgene Bottle*
- *Waterproof Phone Case*



Random Draw: Andrew Tram, Katepwa Lake, who came across this scene mid-run at Katepwa Lake as he found this beautiful viewpoint at the top of the ridge.

Andrew received the Trail Starter Pack prize package featuring:

- *Cotopaxi Fanny Pack*
- *Fresh Air Hat*
- *Waterproof Phone Case*
- *UCO Switch Spork.*

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRIZE PARTNERS



The winter photo contest was held during the month of January, and once again the submissions were stunning. It was difficult for the Board to choose the best among the many submissions which captured the serene beauty of our Saskatchewan winter wonderland.

Meet the Winners



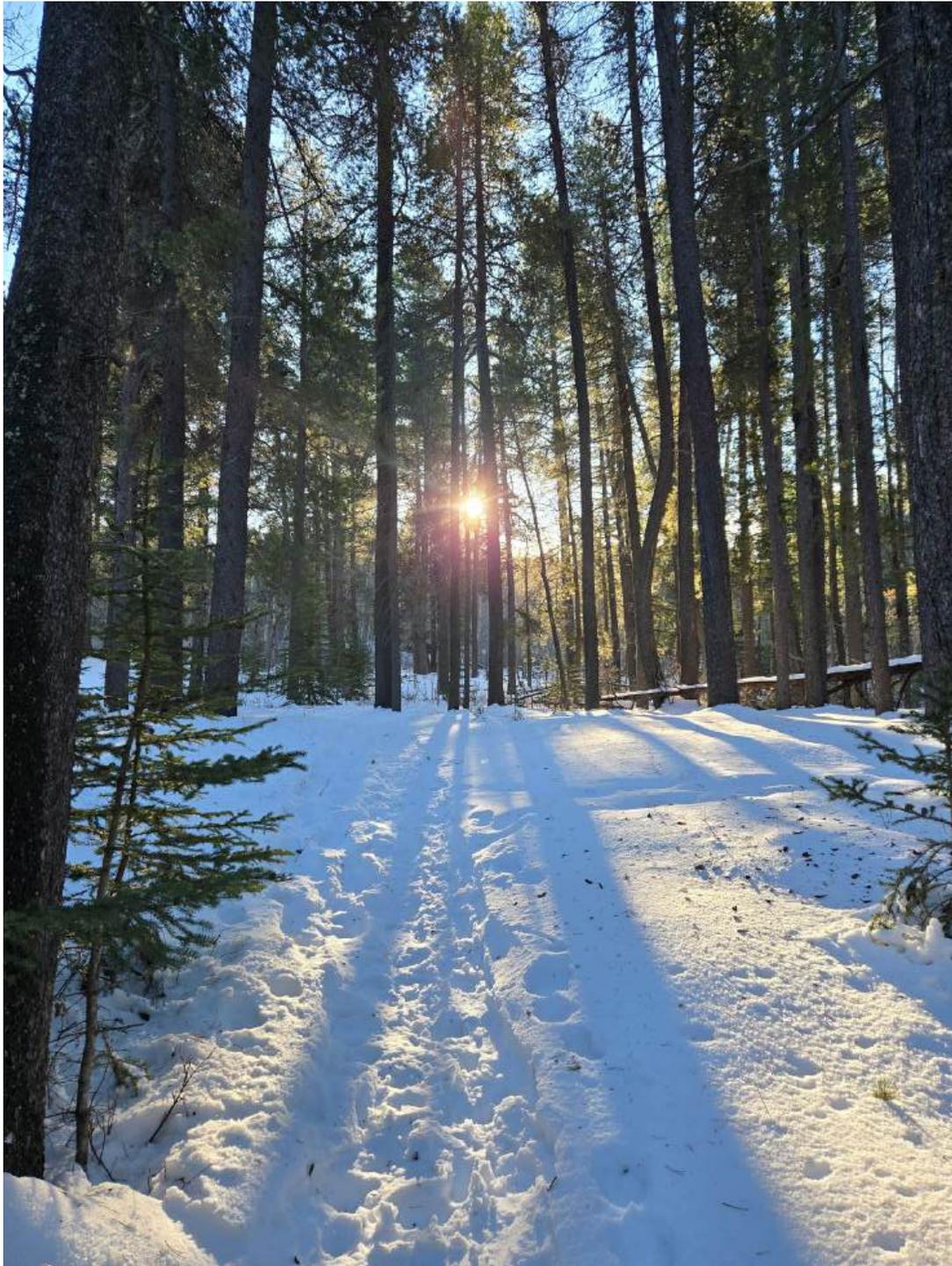
Overall Winner: Jennifer Gauthier, who received a prize package featuring:

- *Odoland Backpacking and Camping Cookware Set*
- *Waterfly Waist Bag Fanny Pack with Water Bottle Holder*
- *Snowtrek Collapsible Trekking Hiking Poles*
- *Deesoo 20×52 Binoculars*



First Honourable Mention: Leslie Beck who received a prize package featuring:

- *GT Bottles 18oz Stainless Steel Vacuum Insulated Wide Mouth Water Bottles*
- *Sunland Outdoor Neck Gaiter*
- *2 Pack Hand Warmers, Rechargeable, Portable*
- *Tudequ Hiking Waist Packs Fanny Pack with 2 Hidden Pockets*



Second Honourable Mention: Katherine Salberg who received a package featuring:

- *YETI- Rambler 20 oz Tumbler, Stainless Steel*
- *Trekking Poles, Collapsible Hiking Poles*
- *6000mAh Battery Rechargeable Heated Socks*
- *LED Flashlight, Ultra Bright XML, T6 Handheld*

Thank you to everyone who entered the summer and winter photo contests, and helped us showcase the beauty of Saskatchewan's trail systems and the spirit of trail adventure.

Tales from the Trails

Our monthly e-newsletter Tales from the Trails is Saskatchewan's source for all the latest in Saskatchewan Trails information and news. It features the most comprehensive and up to date details on trails, upcoming events and funding opportunities, and all the latest trail happenings.

SaskTrails Explorer Magazine

Following its inaugural Winter 2024/2025 issue, *SaskTrails Explorer Magazine* has become the go-to source for all things Saskatchewan trails. The STA's new twice-annual digital magazine promotes a wide variety of issues and topics about the province's trail community. Designed to showcase trail activities in greater depth, with an emphasis on showcasing the visual beauty of our provincial trails with stunning photo spreads, *SaskTrails Explorer* has become the heart of the STA's promotional activities.

This year marks the first full year for the magazine. The summer issue was filled with fascinating trails stories, from a profile of the expanding trail network in Bengough, to a trip back in time showcasing historic walking tours in places like Whitewood and Radville, to safety advice for ATVers, tick season and hiking with toddlers. Other highlights included profiles of unique and interesting trails created with community heart and spirit.

The winter issue helped trail lovers prepare for and leap into the magic of Saskatchewan's snow-filled winter season, with profiles on Ness Creek, the Elbow Trail, and how the Qu'Appelle Valley Nordic Ski club built a premier biathlon destination. Also included is a fascinating tale about one man's drive and determination to create one of the province's most beautiful trails – and the volunteers who keep his dream alive at Eb's Trails, along with a story about the Wascana Para Ski club and how they're making skiing accessible for all abilities.

The magazine is intended to highlight trail developments and issues, with updates from important trail stakeholders about events and activities. *SaskTrails Explorer Magazine* is an on-line digital magazine using the latest communications technology.

The magazine is distributed directly to all members, and via a link to our approximately 9,500 social media followers. Current and past issues will be archived on our website at Home | Saskatchewan Trails Association (sasktrails.ca). Each issue receives more than 40,000 views.

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.

Fish Filleting Facility at Pasqua Beach

This past summer, we served as the administrative organization to install a new fish filleting facility at the Pasqua Beach boat launch near Regina. The facility incorporates accessibility features such as a multilevel stainless steel table and a large barrier free surface for all to enjoy. This was a partnership initiative involving us, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, and the Trans Canada Trail.



Saskatchewan Storyteller

This past summer, Ella Gidluck joined the STA as our SaskTrails Storyteller. Through a series of blog posts, social media videos and photos, Ella brought Saskatchewan's wide vistas of scenic trails to life.

As a storyteller and someone who has grown up in the province, Ella's travels, and her reflections and conversations with people who care deeply about trails showcased so much of the beauty trails have to offer. It was a journey of discovery for Ella as she covered a large part of Saskatchewan's scenic beauty.

The STA believes that youth, with their enthusiasm and love of the outdoors, are the future leaders of our provincial trail movement. We engage youth through our social media content and photo contests, and by inviting them to share their stories about favorite hikes or trail gear.



As part of our commitment to youth, the STA once again successfully received funding through the Trans Canada Trail Green Jobs Initiative and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association's Parks for All Grant to hire Ella as this year's SaskTrails Storyteller.



Here is an overview and links to the stories she created:

Welcome to the Trail: Ella-vated Trails Tracing Prairie Trails Through Memory, Discovery, and Home	https://sasktrails.ca/welcome-to-the-trail/
Not Far, Not Long, Just Right: Wolseley and Whitewood	https://sasktrails.ca/not-far-not-long-just-right-wolseley-and-whitewood/
Echo Valley – Built by Heart, History, and Hikers	https://sasktrails.ca/sasktrails-echo-valley-story/
Madge Moments: My Trail Start at Duck Mountain	https://sasktrails.ca/madge-moments-duck-mountain-lodge/
Madge Moments Part 2: Trails Worth the Bug Spray	https://sasktrails.ca/madge-moments-part-2-trails-worth-the-bug-spray/
Trailside Discoveries: From Disc Golf to Doukhobor History: Melville, Canora and Veregin	https://sasktrails.ca/beyond-the-trail-off-path-stops-from-madge-lake/
Friends of Madge Lake, Building Community Beyond the Cabins	https://sasktrails.ca/friends-of-madge-lake-community/
Big Muddy Adventures: Castle Butte and Beyond	https://sasktrails.ca/castle-butte-big-muddy-adventure/

PRIORITY 4:

To effectively support and grow membership

The STA is the go-to place for all things Saskatchewan trails, whether it's sharing the latest news about advances within the province's trails system, advocating at various government levels, or simply sharing the latest and greatest information about our beautiful trails for trail lovers everywhere. And at the heart of the Association is its members. The STA actively promotes its members and their tireless work through its website, its active blog and on a variety of social media platforms. There's always something new to explore with the beauty and diversity of our provincial trails. The STA also provides direct financial assistance and technical support for members working to raise funds for local initiatives.

Churchill River Water Trail Legacy Project

The latest addition to the Churchill River Water Trail Legacy Project is a new composting toilet, recently installed at Corner Rapids. The area's growing network of eco-friendly toilets already includes Dieter's Rapids, Hank's Hotel, and both ends of Barker Lake. These facilities are designed to contain waste for natural decomposition and prevent runoff into the river.

This eco-friendly initiative also boasts a trial currently underway to divert toilet paper to a local burn facility to reduce what ends up in the chamber. Trail volunteers have also been working with Churchill River Canoe Outfitters to develop a maintenance schedule.

Future expansion plans include Mosquito Point on Manitou Island, although more remote builds may require helicopter support. This work has become a reality through the countless hours of work provided by volunteers and donors, making this legacy project a reality.



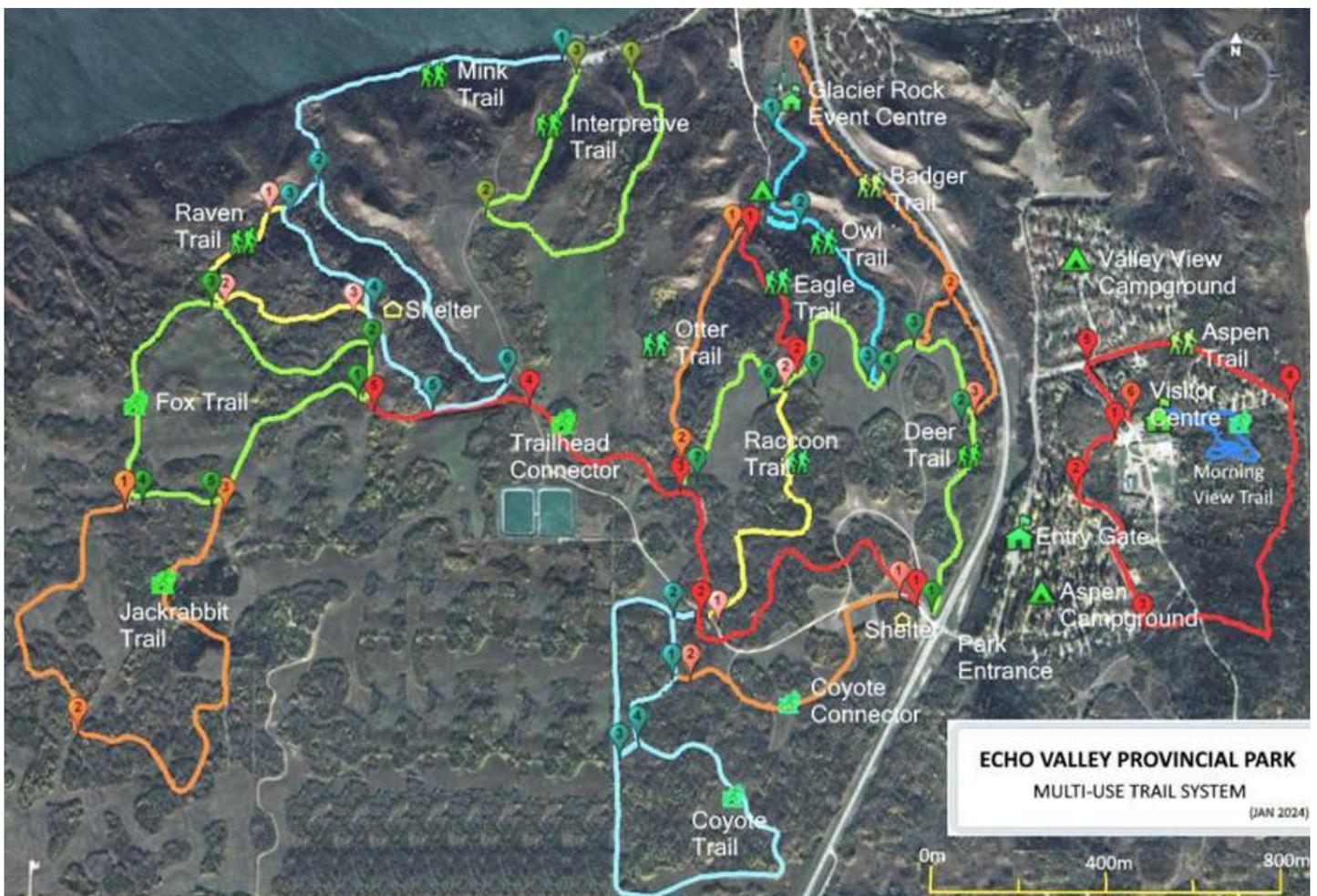
STA Member Trail Grant

The STA supports its members through its annual Member Trail Grant Program. This year funding was provided to Echo Valley Trail Advisory Group, Prairie Sky Trail and Wâhkôhtowin Trails Committee.

Echo Valley Trails Advisory Group (EVTAG)

To help users more easily navigate the Echo Valley Provincial Park trail system, EVTAG partnered with the provincial park to purchase and install coloured trail markers and signs along its network. The park also installed large maps of the full trail system at each of the three major trail heads.

Funding from our Member Trail Grant Program allowed EVTAG to purchase 10 permanent “You Are Here” trail maps, posted strategically along the trails and showing users exactly where they are. The maps are crucial to the safety and enhanced experiences for all trail enthusiasts.



STA funding also supported EVTAG in purchasing a second battery for its cordless trimmer, enhancing its trails maintenance work. Members can now complete a full trail pass when trimming vegetation, meaning more work can be completed in less time. This is particularly useful during its spring and fall volunteer trail maintenance workdays, ensuring trails are clear and safe for public use.

EVTAG works in consultation with and supports the Echo Valley Provincial Park staff to enhance the development, maintenance and use of recreational trails within the park. Its vision is to help the park manage a sustainable, user-friendly system of multi-seasonal, multi-purpose trails within Echo Valley Provincial Park.

Prairie Sky Trail Project

In 2025, Prairie Sky Trails Association, with funding support provided by an STA grant, constructed a 515-meter trail section addition to the Wild Sage Trail at Sunset Beach, Lake Diefenbaker, Saskatchewan. This new section connects the north and south entry points of the existing Wild Sage Trail.

Prior to the extension, trail users had to use a municipal road to travel from the north and south trail entry points. This posed a safety concern from vehicle traffic.

The new trail addition provides users with a safe and secure experience well away from vehicles, enhancing the overall trail user experience. The project included marking and staking along the new trail addition,



the laying aggregate on the addition with necessary levelling, two new culverts and the purchase and installation of directional signage.

The trail addition was added to the existing 3.5 kilometers of recreational trails constructed since 2022. The trail system has several amenities to enhance the trail user experience, including a trailhead kiosk with mapping, an accessible public washroom,

scenic rest points with benches and picnic tables, and directional signage. Ten interpretive trail signs focus on the history of Lake Diefenbaker, Indigenous history, local site history, and natural flora and fauna in the area.

The Prairie Sky Trails Association is a non-profit organization created in 2012 to enhance and develop trails, public parks, green spaces, and offer community programming in association with Rural Municipalities and developing organizations. To date, it has developed several kilometers of recreational trails, enriched public green spaces through the planting and nurturing of trees, flowers, and shrubs, and has supported the construction of new playgrounds and play structures in public parks.



Wâhkôhtowin Trails Committee Project

Since its inception only a year ago, the Wâhkôhtowin Trails Committee has created a trail at Phantom Lake on the border of Creighton, Saskatchewan and Flin Flon, Manitoba.

In 2025, the Wâhkôhtowin Trails Committee received an STA Association Member Grant to create two new trails: Tom's Trail, a five kilometre all-season trail developed in partnership with the Town of Creighton, including temporary signage for winter snowshoeing; and the Denare Beach Trail, a new route planned in partnership with the Village of Denare Beach on their peninsula.

The Wâhkôhtowin Trails Committee is a community-led initiative working to create a connected network of trails in the tri-community region of Creighton and Denare Beach in Saskatchewan, and Flin Flon in Manitoba.

Rooted in the Cree word wâhkôhtowin, meaning kinship and the interconnectedness of all people and nature, its goal is to enhance community well-being by fostering outdoor recreation, cultural connection and environmental stewardship.

Meeting and Collaborating with Trails Manitoba

As part of our efforts to share information and align with common interests with other organizations mandated to enhance and promote Canadian trails, the STA



**Trails
Manitoba**
**Sentiers
Manitoba**

Administrator, met with the Trails Manitoba Executive Director in late 2025 to discuss common concerns and share best practices.

Key takeaways from that informative meeting included: Trails Manitoba's structure and funding model, endowments as a sustainable strategy, grant program design and matching funds, and government relations and sector priorities.

Annual General Meeting

The guest presenters at the STA's Annual General Meeting were Dean Grove and Shari Anderson from Wâhkôhtowin Trails and the Flin Flon Ski Club. They provided an overview of the development and growth of community trail initiatives in the Creighton-Flin Flon area, which straddles the Saskatchewan–Manitoba border.

The area's first trail, the Phantom Lake Trail, was created in 2024 with momentum from local residents who increasingly turned to outdoor activities like hiking, skiing and snowshoeing during the pandemic. Anderson elaborated on the trail's creation, chosen for its accessibility and local history, and located two kilometres from the towns.

Its location on private land owned by Hudbay Minerals allows the group to avoid the complexities of working with Crown or municipal lands. A volunteer committee of snowshoers, skiers, and hikers cleared and marked a 1.6 km loop trail, and later flagged a 5.6 km extension for winter use. The trail includes signage, trailhead information, and interpretive storyboards.

Following the success of Phantom Lake Trail, the Wâhkôhtowin Trails group and the Flin Flon Ski Club worked together to establish new trails in Creighton and Denare Beach. Grove and Anderson highlighted the support these communities have provided, offering assistance and resources. A 5 km trail behind Creighton's Tourist Bureau was developed with strong backing from the Town of Creighton.

Grove provided an overview of the Flin Flon Ski Club, which has 161 members and has maintained trails in the area since 1973. The club oversees 28 km of groomed ski trails, including a 2.3 km lit loop open to users until 10 p.m. Last spring the club hosted the provincial ski championships.

Grove noted the invaluable partnership between the ski club and Wâhkôhtowin Trails, with opportunities for shared maintenance and multi-use expansion including hiking, trail running, geocaching and mountain biking. He emphasized the safety benefits of increased trail use and highlighted the club's history of volunteer leadership and community involvement.

Canadian Trails Federation

The Canadian Trails Federation-Fédération Canadienne des Sentiers (CTF-CFS) represents provincial and territorial trails organizations across Canada, including the STA. It is a united voice for Canadian trails, linking communities and supporting diverse cultures and trail users in outdoor recreation and healthy living. It actively promotes Canada's unique landscapes and the creation of sustainable trails. The STA is an active participant in this alliance, representing Saskatchewan nationally, and exchanging valuable insights and sharing best practices. The CTF-CFS is also a member of the National Trails Coalition, which includes representatives from the snowmobile and ATV communities.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

A Huge Thank You to Outter Limits



The STA sends out a huge thank you to Outter Limits for their amazing support. Their 2025 Fun Run raised \$6,000 for the Saskatchewan Trails Association, helping us to continue our work to improve, maintain and promote trails in the province.

The 10 km run and 5 km run\walk was held on September 20, 2025, in Waskesiu. Last year's Fun Run raised \$5,000 for STA initiatives.

The STA is grateful to everyone who ran, walked, volunteered, sponsored or cheered on participants. Outter Limits race participants help to create more accessible, enjoyable outdoor experiences for communities throughout Saskatchewan. Thank you Outter Limits for helping keep Saskatchewan on the right path!

*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
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