



SUMMARY REPORT

Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund

Fiscal Year 2023-2024



Introduction

The Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (OHVIF) was established as a result of recommendations of the Voluntary Planning Task Force on Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) in response to public concerns over the impact off-highway vehicle use in the Province. The fund is managed by Nova Scotia Department of Public Works and in part through the OHVIF Committee which reports to the Minister of Public Works (the Minister). Funds are distributed in the form of grants to the OHV trail user community, supporting the intent of the OHV ACT by developing and improving the usability, sustainability, and safety of riding opportunities in the province.

The Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund Committee is comprised of representatives as follows:

AFFILIATION	NUMBER OF REPS	NOTES
Chairperson	1	
Member at Large	1	
Snowmobile Association of Nova Scotia	1	Plus alternate
Nova Scotia Off Road Riders Association	1	Plus alternate
All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia	1	Plus alternate
Nova Scotia Trails Federation	1	Plus alternate
Municipal Representative	1	
NS Department of Natural Resources and Renewables	1	
NS Department of Environment	1	
NS Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage	2	
Administrative support	1	Non-voting

This report contains activities from the Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (OHVIF) for fiscal year 2023/24. Previous years reports can be found online here:

<http://novascotia.ca/natr/ohv/fund.asp>

Disclaimer

This report has been compiled for information purposes, the Province of Nova Scotia publishes, on an annual basis, official financial statements for this fund at

<https://beta.novascotia.ca/public-accounts>

Income

The Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund is a **Special Purpose Fund** as prescribed by the Province’s *Finance Act*. Funds are collected by government from OHV users for a specific purpose. It consists of money acquired by agreement, gift, donation, bequest or contribution; income accruing to the fund; and penalties received by Her Majesty in the right of the Province pursuant to the *Off-Highway Vehicles Act*.

Count of OHV registration for calendar years 2019-2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	CHANGE	AVE.
4 Wheel Drive	440	601	826	1114	1409	295	878
6 Wheel	18	13	17	17	17	0	16
8 Wheel	7	6	5	8	13	5	8
Argo 8 Wheel	40	48	52	60	57	-3	51
ATV 3 Wheels	190	154	181	165	167	2	171
ATV 4 Wheels	36,815	36,495	42,771	41,863	41,756	-107	39,940
ATV 6 Wheels	78	57	80	73	77	4	73
Dune Buggy	19	19	16	17	18	1	18
Mini Bike	50	32	61	54	48	-6	49
Motorcycle	805	703	1,082	1,027	1,032	5	930
Multi-purpose	261	249	277	300	317	17	281
Snow Vehicle	6,779	6,682	7,640	7,450	7,015	-435	7,113
Total	45,502	45,059	53,008	52,148	51,926	-222	49,529

Summary of Income to OHVIF for the past 5 fiscal years, ending on March 31, 2024

Year	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024
OHV Contributions	\$1,762,520.00	\$1,897,080.00	\$2,558,369.00	\$2,010,666.00	\$2,013,122.00
Interest/Invest	\$41,407.00	\$18,336.00	\$21,629.00	\$103,511.00	\$179,387.00
Total	\$1,803,928.00	\$1,915,416.00	\$2,579,998.00	\$2,114,177.00	\$2,192,509.00

Reporting of OHV registration is calculated by calendar year (January to December), SAP financial information is by fiscal year (April to March).

Disbursements

The OHV Infrastructure Fund is managed in part through a committee drawn from both non-government and government stakeholders and reports to the Minister of Public Works.

Funds are distributed in the form of grants to the OHV trail user community to support:

- ▶ Core Funding for recognized provincial off-highway vehicle organizations;
- ▶ Special Projects
- ▶ Safety Program
- ▶ Trails - sustainable development and maintenance of OHV trails;
 - ▶ Emergency Funding
 - ▶ Operational Rail Trail Maintenance
 - ▶ Small Projects
 - ▶ Infrastructure Projects

	Core Funding	Special and Emergency Projects	Small Grant Projects	Infrastructure Projects/Operational Maintenance	Safety Program
Allocated in 2023	\$525,000	\$100,000	\$300,000	\$1,012,000	\$25,000

Note: Monies allocated and not used, remain in the fund. Over the life of the fund, approximately \$300,000 has accumulated from yearly carryover. Majority of this one-time allocation was directed to large projects such as bridges and other projects requiring a high percentage of capital outside the normal funding formula of the OHVIF.

A comprehensive description of funding criteria and eligibility is available on the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables website at <https://novascotia.ca/natr/ohv/fund.asp>

Core Funding

The recognized provincial OHV associations: Snowmobile Association of Nova Scotia (SANS), All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia (ATVANS), and Nova Scotia Off Road Riders Association (NSORRA) contribute to managed OHV use by addressing injury prevention, creating riding opportunities and building organizational capacity. Core funding supports the operation and administration of those organization. Core funding decisions are the purview of the Minister and will be considered based upon advice from the OHV organizations and in consultation with Public Works staff and the OHVIF Committee. Recommendations respecting the disbursement of core funding among the three OHV organizations are made to the Minister of Public Works based upon advice from the Presidents and executive of the three OHV organizations.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Totals
SANS	\$107,000	\$107,000	\$107,000	\$107,000	\$157,000	\$585,000
ATVANS	\$163,000	\$163,000	\$163,000	\$163,000	\$303,000	\$955,000
NSORRA	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$65,000	\$285,000
Total	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$525,000	\$1,825,000

Emergency Funding

An annual emergency fund is set aside each year to help groups cope with the expenses resulting from damage from downed trees, washouts, infrastructure failure or other unforeseen conditions that occur outside the normal time frame for grant applications. In fiscal year 2023/24, there was one Emergency Funding application approved for a grant.

Applicant	Description	Approved Amount
Sutherlands Lake Trail Groomers Association	Emergency funding to replace a broken bridge on trail 200 in the Silica Lake area.	\$80,820.00
Total		\$80,820.00

Special Projects

Special Project Funding is designed to address Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) related projects which are not eligible for funding through the existing infrastructure grant program. The project is to be non-trail related and not part of the organizations core operations. In fiscal year 2023/24, no special projects were funded.

Safety related Projects

Safety Project Funding is designed to address Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) related projects which are not eligible for funding through the existing infrastructure grant program and promote OHV safety and training. In fiscal year 2022/23, one safety project application approved for a grant.

Applicant	Description	Approved Amount
SANS	Implement the SANS Safety Program being put in place to address issues related to safety across the trail system.	\$25,000.00
Total		\$25,000.00

Small Project Grants

The small grant fund is a portion of the OHV Trails fund assigned to SANS and ATVANS to fund smaller projects. Groups can apply for up to \$7,500 in funding. \$150,000 is allocated to both SANS and ATVANS which is topped up annually based upon reportable disbursements within the previous year.

ATVANS Small Project Grants 2023

Applicant	Project Description	Total Value	Approved
St Margarets Bay Rails to Trails	Rock removal, trail repairs along 1km of rail trail in Queensland area.	\$5,948.63	\$2,824.00
Kings County ATV Club	Repair/Rebuild 3km of Trail 12(Butler Rd)	\$10,730.00	\$5,365.00
Isle Royale ATV Club	Trail 646 Mohawk LK Rd to McCarrons property water damage repair.	\$17,606.00	\$7,500.00
North Shore ATV Club	Trail 551 Glen Rd to Hwy 256 ditching, grading and brush clearing.	\$15,034.68	\$7,500.00
Cumberland Trails Association	Trail 263 Ditching, culvert replacement and re-surfacing.	\$16,285.00	\$7,500.00

Egg Mountain Trails Association	Trail 716(Maple Ridge Rd) Ditching, culvert replacement and re-surfacing.	\$9,101.77	\$3,740.82
Chedabucto Multi Use Trails Association	New trail construction from trail 713 to amenities at Hanahams Gas and Convenience.	\$14,750.00	\$7,187.50
West Richmond Riders Association	Tree & brush removal, ditching and surface repair on 1.3km of Scotch Rd (Trail 60).	\$19,675.00	\$7,500.00
East Richmond ATV Riders Society	Trail widening, ditching, culvert replacement, signage & gates on 1km of trail 63.	\$26,682.00	\$7,500.00
Chignecto & Area ATV Club	Brush cutting, ditching and surface repair along 10km of trails 4 & 4A.	\$14,707.00	\$7,107.00
Mid Valley ATV Club	Replace decking and railings on Suckers Brook Bridge.	\$13,311.40	\$5,795.70
Marine Riders Trails Association	Brush cutting and barrier placement along 8 km of the Shearwater Flyer Trail.	\$17,020.00	\$7,500.00
Sunrise Trails ATV Club	Ditching, culvert repair and resurfacing on 3.0 km of trail 263 north of Hwy 6.	\$19,115.00	\$7,015.00
Pictou County ATV Club	Ditching, re-surfacing, culvert repair /replacement on 33 km on trails 501 & 104.	\$69,170.00	\$7,500.00
St. Mary's ATV Club	Brush cutting, ditching, culvert repair and resurfacing of 10.6 km of trail 512.	\$15,866.00	\$7,500.00
PUMA ATV Club	Flood Damage Repairs on the approach to the Bed Rail Bridge.	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Sheet Harbour ATV Club	Repair 3 washouts on trail #107 near Big Brook Lake caused by 22 July 2023 flooding.	\$5,750.00	\$5,750.00
Sunrise Trails ATV Club	Ditching, brush cutting and mudhole repair on trail 264A	\$11,000.00	\$5,500.00
Isle Royale ATV Club	Bridge redecking, culvert replacement and resurfacing of 900m of trail #633.	\$17,718.40	\$7,500.00
Isle Madame ATV Riders	Culvert replacement (3), ditching and resurfacing on 500m of trail #603 at Dry Lake.	\$15,016.00	\$7,500.00
Digby County ATV Club	Brush cutting and debris clean up on 10km of trail 102 from Weymouth to Henry Maillet Rd.	\$15,170.00	\$7,500.00
Cumberland County Riders	Vegetation removal and mudhole repair on trail 460 at Anderson Rd.	\$9,836.00	\$4,918.00
Shore Riders ATV Club	Flood damage repairs on Shingle Mill Rd and Hwy 103 right-of-way near Beech Hill Rd.	\$6,238.75	\$6,238.75
Total		\$374,831.63	\$153,041.77

SANS Small Project Grants 2022

APPLICANT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL VALUE	APPROVED
Crowdis	Trail 710 - widen, resurface, replace bridge decking.	\$49,612.00	\$7,500.00
Pictou Co Sno Riders	Brush cutting along several kms of trails number 104.	\$17,740.00	\$7,500.00
Chignecto	Replace 4 culverts, replace decking on one bridge, brush cutting on trails 30 and 35.	\$16,837.00	\$7,500.00
SLTGA	Replace bridge decking, supply and install signs and posts.	\$16,346.00	\$7,500.00
Whyco Business	Brush cutting, reshaping, ditching and gravel.	\$71,712.08	\$7,500.00
Cabot	Trails 811 & 812 - ditching, widening, upgrade bridge approaches, brush cutting to open up trails.	\$17,254.60	\$7,500.00
North Shore	Reroute a section of the 104 due to loss of landowner permission (5KMS).	\$17,292.00	\$7,500.00
Cumberland Trail	Trail 260 - replace culverts, install fences, new signage, ditching and resurfacing of the trail.	\$29,503.00	\$7,500.00
Cumberland Snow	Trail 104 - trail repair, ditching, brush cutting.	\$4,697.66	\$2,348.83
Crossburn	101 Peters Stillwater rerouting a trail to avoid logging issues, resurface, and ditching.	\$24,062.31	\$7,500.00
Sutherlands	Trail 202 - Bridge deck installation and sign upgrades.	\$11,902.00	\$5,922.00
Fundy	Widen three bridges to accommodate the new groomer, two on the 104 and one on the 30.	\$19,032.77	\$7,500.00
Margaree	Trail 805 -Redeck a bridge, brush cut 10 kms, replace 3 culverts and fill in washouts.	\$18,789.59	\$7,500.00
SANS	Sign Posts.	\$15,000.00	\$7,500.00
Crossburn	Urgent redecking of a bridge on the 101, install snow fence for 1.6 kms on a causeway to keep snow on the trail.	\$14,563.00	\$5,596.36
Cabot	Emergency repairs to trails 811 and 814 due to washouts and sinkholes, install two culverts and resurface.	\$15,244.00	\$6,573.55
Cumberland Snow	19 hours brush cutting along trail 367.	\$7,698.00	\$3,795.00
Cumberland Trails	Trail 260 - Dewar Bridge Redecking, privacy fence, new signage, one culvert and ditching.	\$31,200.00	\$7,500.00
HTGA	Temporary bridge on trail 105 until the spring.	\$18,466.00	\$7,500.00
Hants	Trail 101, 11 brush cutting and trail signs.	\$14,955.00	\$6,622.88
Cape Clear	Brush cutting along several kms of trails number 104 and 408.	\$19,223.00	\$7,500.00
Margaree	Replace two culverts, ditching and brush cutting on the 630.	\$13,508.00	\$6,641.38
TOTAL		\$464,638.01	\$150,000.00

Trail Infrastructure Projects

Grants are distributed to projects based on project fit to the fund’s goals and principles. Monies are awarded on a 50% contribution to overall value of the project and provided as a grant.

Over time, the Off-highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (OHVIF) has accumulated funds due to annual carryover. This provides the committee with an opportunity to review projects outside the normal model of 50 percent funding or to a maximum \$50,000.

To be considered for additional funding outside the normal parameters the project application must have illustrated:

- ▶ Lack of in-kind opportunities
- ▶ High over-all capital expenditures
- ▶ Lack of additional funding options

In fiscal year 2023/2024, eighteen trail projects were approved totaling **\$859,524.95**.

FILE	APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED
2022-11-15-001	South Shore Annapolis Valley Recreational Trail Association	Continue to upgrade the trail along the entire 125 kms length, including the sections in Clarence along with sections in New Germany. Work includes, new trail surfacing, bush cutting, improve signage, and ditching.	\$49,209.75
2022-11-15-002	Central Nova ATV Club	Continuation of Naugler Road Connector Trail. Work includes, laying 300ft of basecoat material, mowing 2,500 ft, brush cutting, leveling, signage and laying 600 ft of bluestone.	\$9,406.00
2022-11-15-007	Tatamagouche Area Trails Association	The 3.7 km section of Short Line trail between Rte 6 (Tatamagouche) and the Upper River John Road will be resurfaced to bring it up to the standard of the rest of the TATA-managed Short Line.	\$9,250.00
2022-11-15-009	Fundy Trail Snowmobile Club	Restore Trail #310 by building a base using geotextile fabric, rock and material.	\$43,386.25
2022-11-15-015	Cobequid OHV Club	Replace a bridge on Trail # 1 into Springhill next to the cemetery.	\$199,700.00
2022-11-15-016	Chignecto Glooscap Snowmobile Association	Replacement of an existing temporary bridge on a main multi-use trail with a more suitable bridge design for this location.	\$195,000.00
2022-11-015-017	Municipality of Digby	Restore seriously degraded trail surface in the Smith's Cove area. Work includes replacing/repairing a dozen exposed, blocked or damaged culverts, install 9 more gates eastward to the Joggin Bridge area, begin landscaping and creating defined fenced or rocked entrances to three main trailheads. Two in Digby and 1 in Weymouth.	\$18,000.00

2022-11-15-019	Pictou County Trails Association	Replacement of critically worn decking on River John Bridge on the Jitney Trail. The project will include removal of existing decking and replacement with treated 3" decking material.	\$36,056.00
2022-11-15-020	Annapolis County Trails Society	Resurfacing of 4.2 kilometers of previously unsurfaced rail corridor to improve safety for motorized users. The current surfacing is loose and unstable.	\$10,500.00
2022-11-15-021	Celtic Shores Coastal Trail Association	2 capital infrastructure projects - Project 1 - Phase 2 of the engineering assessment for the Deepdale Trestle at Km 56 to address the remediation in stages as resources permit. This 2nd phase will include exploratory excavations, concrete testing, and detailed engineering of the 12 pillars supporting the steel structure. Project 2 - The second project is to the initial replacement of 30 of CSCT's 58 bollards with gates to comply with the 66" established guidelines for shared use rail trail.	\$40,575.00
2022-11-15-022	Cumberland Snowmobile Club	Long Lake/Tidnish Area - repair trail, fill in with shale where required and upgrade trail surface from dirt to gravel 3.7 km Long Lake/Fort Lawrence Area - repair trail, use dozer to re-crown trail and shale wet spots 4 km Truemanville - ditch/train wet spot, crown and rebuild trail 500 m Oxford/Little River - mulching/widening trail 3.1 km and shale/gravel to upgrade surface where required	\$50,000.00
2022-11-15-023	Ocean Lake Riders ATV Club	Trail work for the Bull Horn and look off Trail. Phase one includes clearing and upgrading existing trail, ditching, signage and installing culverts, gates and gate posts at both ends of trail.	\$29,500.00
2022-11-15-025	Bay to Bay Trail Association	Continue 1.8 kms of trail recapitalization from Schnare's Crossing Road to the end of the Trail in Lunenburg. Work includes vegetation management, ditching and adding base and top coat.	\$15,000.00
2022-11-15-027	Sutherland Lake Trail Groomers Association	Continue with phase 4, restore top coat the Portapique Wilderness Area includes repairing, filling holes, resurfacing, stabilizing and ditching the Castlereigh side of Trail 202 as well as hurricane Fiona clean-up.	\$22,750.00
2022-11-15-028	ATVANS	Wagner Agreement	\$50,000.00
2022-11-15-029	NSORRA	Maintenance for 5 Riding Parks	\$15,000.00
2021-11-15-003AF#2	Oxford & Area Trails Association	Additional funding to Sandblast exposed metal on the red bridge crossing the River Phillip and properly coat in a primer epoxy paint.	\$52,000.00
2023-09-01-001	SANS	Railway crossing reconstruction, repairs and maintenance.	\$14,191.95

TOTAL**\$859,524.95**

Operational Rail Trail Maintenance

Starting in the fiscal year 2022/23 the OHVIF Committee initiated a three-year pilot program of operational rail trail maintenance funding for rail trail that permits OHV use at a rate of \$150 per km under the normal model of 50 percent funding.

This is to help cover general maintenance costs such as shaping, grading, rolling, surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting/vegetation management, repair/adjustment of culverts, ditching, minor bridge repairs (e.g. minor decking and railing repairs), fencing/barrier repairs, signage repairs/replacement, parking lot repairs and trail maintenance equipment rentals.

In fiscal year 2023/2024, nineteen operational rail trail maintenance applications were approved for a grant totaling **\$112,200.00**.

FILE	APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED
2022-11-15-001M	South Shore Annapolis Valley Recreational Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 110 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling, surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, vegetation management, barriers, signage, parking lot repairs, dust control, culverts and ditching.	\$16,500.00
2022-11-15-003M	Cumberland Trails Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 54 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling, surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, vegetation management, repair of culverts and ditching.	\$8,100.00
2022-11-15-004M	Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 79 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier & sign repairs and equipment rentals.	\$11,850.00
2022-11-15-005M	Yarmouth County Trail Development Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 87 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier & sign repairs, equipment rentals and beaver damage.	\$13,050.00
2022-11-15-006M	Coal Town Trail Society	Operational rail trail maintenance on 13.5 kms including, grading, vegetation management, culverts & ditching, barriers, signage, parking lot repairs and trail maintenance equipment rentals.	\$2,025.00

2022-11-15-007M	Tatamagouche Area Trails Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 32.5 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, barrier & sign repairs and equipment rentals.	\$3,825.00
2022-11-15-008M	St. Margaret's Bay Area Rail Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 32.5 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier & sign repairs, parking lot repairs and equipment rentals.	\$4,875.00
2022-11-15-010M	Kings County Trails Society	Operational rail trail maintenance on 27 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier & sign repairs.	\$4,050.00
2022-11-15-013M	St. Mary's Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 6.5 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier repairs, and equipment rentals.	\$975.00
2022-11-15-014M	Bull Run Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 27 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier repairs, signage and equipment rentals.	\$4,050.00
2022-11-015-017M	Municipality of Digby	Operational rail trail maintenance on 42 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts and ditching.	\$6,300.00
2022-11-015-018M	Ceilidh Coastal Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 22 kms including, equipment rentals, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, signage repairs and replacement.	\$3,300.00
2022-11-15-019M	Pictou County Trails Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 36 kms including, equipment rentals, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, signage repairs and replacement.	\$5,400.00
2022-11-15-020M	Annapolis County Trails Society	Operational rail trail maintenance on 54 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier, sign, and parking lot repairs and equipment rentals.	\$8,100.00
2022-11-15-021M	Celtic Shores Coastal Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 87 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier, sign, and parking lot repairs and equipment rentals.	\$9,750.00
2022-11-15-025M	Bay to Bay Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 11 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, barrier, sign, and parking lot repairs and equipment rentals.	\$1,650.00

2022-11-15-026M	Adventure Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 15 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, barrier, sign, and parking lot repairs and equipment rentals.	\$2,250.00
2022-11-15-030M	Dynamite Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 10 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, sign repairs and equipment rentals.	\$1,500.00
2022-11-15-031M	Brookfield Mines Trail Association	Operational rail trail maintenance on 18 kms including, shaping, grading, rolling and surface repairs, mowing, brush cutting, culverts, ditching, minor bridge, sign repairs and equipment rentals.	\$2,700.00
Total			\$112,200.00