

Quick Reference Guide for Trail Funding

Disclaimer: This guide is for general information only. Program details, deadlines, eligibility requirements, and contact information may change. This document may not always include the most current information. Before applying, applicants should confirm all details with the appropriate program officer.

Use this guide as a starting point to compare trail-related funding programs. Always review the official program page and contact the program officer before preparing an application.

Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage (CCTH)

Trail funding programs: <https://cch.novascotia.ca/trail-funding-programs>

Contact: ccthtrailgrants@novascotia.ca

Recreational Trail Expansion Capital (RTE) assists municipalities and not-for-profit organizations with developing new recreational trails, expanding existing trails, and making capital upgrades to improve trail infrastructure and connectivity. The program supports projects that help Nova Scotians recreate outdoors, connect with nature, and get moving in ways that align with the goals of the Shared Strategy for Trails in Nova Scotia.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
• Non-profit trail groups with an LOA • Municipalities, Mi'kmaq Band Councils • Have the authority to manage the trail. • Are registered in good standing. • Have landowner's permission. • Have trail insurance.	• Program opens September 1 • Expression of Interest Due November 1 • Application due February 1	April 30

Recreational Trail Expansion Operations (RTEO) is available to not-for-profits and municipalities that manage trails built on the province's acquired rail corridors as part of the Recreational Trail Expansion Program. Eligible applicants may apply to the capital funding stream, the operational funding stream, or both streams at the same time.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
• Not-for-profit entity or municipality managing a section of rail trail under a Letter of Authority with the Department of Natural Resources • Are registered in good standing. • Have landowner's permission. • Have trail insurance.	February 1	April 30

Trails Engineering Assistance Grant (TEAG) provides financial assistance to trail builders and managers who need to hire engineers for trail construction, maintenance, and infrastructure inspections. The program supports multi-use and non-motorized trails and helps keep trails in Nova Scotia safe and environmentally sustainable.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
• Non-profit trail groups with mandate and authority to build, maintain, support trails • Municipalities, Mi'kmaq Band Councils • Have the authority to manage the trail. • Are registered in good standing. • Have landowner's permission. • Have trail insurance.	April 1 - December 1 or until allocation is fully committed.	April 30

Trail Maintenance Grant (TMG) supports community trail groups by funding regular trail maintenance, so trails remain safe and accessible for users. The program also includes emergency funding for significant repairs caused by unforeseen events, such as fires or severe weather.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
Not-for-profit community groups who: • Have the authority to manage the trail. • Are registered in good standing. • Have landowner's permission. • Have trail insurance.	April 1 – December 1 or until allocation is fully committed.	April 30

NOTE: Rail trail groups are not eligible to receive this funding unless the work is classified as an emergency.

Off-Highway Vehicle Infrastructure Committee

Contact: OHVIF.Application@novascotia.ca

Capital Grant provides funding to OHV groups, not-for-profit organizations, and municipalities for OHV trail and riding-area development. Funding may support planning and design, capital upgrades, and maintenance of OHV-accessible infrastructure. Eligible applicants may apply to the capital funding stream, the operational maintenance stream, or both streams at the same time.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
- OHV groups; not-for-profit organizations; municipalities; landowners through an eligible not-for-profit organization. - Not-for-profit applicants must be members in good standing of SANS, ATVANS, NSORRA, or the Nova Scotia Trails Federation and operate under that organization's policies and principles. - Have the authority to manage the trail. - Are registered in good standing. - Have landowner's permission. - Have trail insurance.	- Program opens September 1 - Expression of Interest Due November 1 - Application due February 1	Check with program officer

Operational Rail Trail Maintenance Grant is available to not-for-profits and municipalities that manage trails built on the province's acquired rail corridors as part of the Recreational Trail Expansion Program. Eligible applicants may apply to the capital funding stream, the operational funding stream, or both streams at the same time.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
- OHV groups; Not-for-profit organizations and municipalities managing fully operational shared-use trails on abandoned rail corridors that allow OHV use. - Not-for-profit applicants must be members in good standing of SANS, ATVANS, NSORRA, or the Nova Scotia Trails Federation and operate under that organization's policies and principles. - Have the authority to manage the trail. - Are registered in good standing - Have landowner's permission. - Have trail insurance.	February 1	April 30

Emergencies and Special Projects Fund is available to OHV groups, not-for-profit organizations, and municipalities dealing with urgent trail issues, such as washouts, fallen trees, bridge failures, environmental concerns, or other problems that affect user safety, environmental protection, or trail continuity. The fund may also support special OHV-related projects that are not eligible under the regular infrastructure grant program.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
Special projects (Landowner permission and trail insurance if applicable.) Emergency grants • OHV groups; Not-for-profit organizations and municipalities managing fully operational shared-use trails on abandoned rail corridors that allow OHV use. • Not-for-profit applicants must be members in good standing of SANS, ATVANS, NSORRA, or the Nova Scotia Trails Federation and operate under that organization's policies and principles. • Have the authority to manage the trail. • Are registered in good standing • Have landowner's permission. • Have trail insurance.	April 1 – March 1 or until allocation is fully committed.	Check with program officer

Safety Funding supports OHV-related projects that are not eligible through the existing infrastructure grant program and that promote OHV safety and training.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
• OHV groups; Not-for-profit organizations and municipalities managing fully operational shared-use trails on abandoned rail corridors that allow OHV use. • Not-for-profit applicants must be members in good standing of SANS, ATVANS, NSORRA, or the Nova Scotia Trails Federation and operate under that organization's policies and principles. • Have the authority to manage the trail. • Are registered in good standing	April 1 – March 1 or until allocation is fully committed.	Check with program officer

Trans Canada Trail (TCT)

Funding page: <https://tctrail.ca/funding/>

Contact: project@tctrail.ca

Trail Catalyst Fund - The Trail Catalyst Fund is a comprehensive funding initiative designed to enhance the quality, connectivity, and sustainability of the national trail network. It supports strategic investments in trails and the broader trail sector, with the goal of fostering a safe, inclusive, and resilient Trans Canada Trail.

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline
- Eligible applicants include organizations or groups that own or manage a section of the Trans Canada Trail. - In some cases, the Fund may also support organizations in the broader trail sector (e.g., tree planting, youth employment, or Indigenous-led trail projects). - Most projects must be located on or along the Trans Canada Trail, with some stream-specific exceptions. - Applicants must meet insurance, good-standing, and project delivery requirements as outlined on our funding page.	The Trail Catalyst Fund has a year-round intake, with applications reviewed quarterly: - January–March (response by May 15) - April–June (response by August 31) - July–September (response by November 15) - October–December (response by February 15)	Check with program officer

Funding streams - Applicants apply through a single intake and select the most appropriate funding stream during the application process. Streams include: Planting for Tomorrow, Disaster Relief, Indigenous Knowledge and Trails, Infrastructure and Adaptation, Signage, Training and Professional Development, Trail Care, Trails for All

Municipal Programs

Please contact your municipality for more information on their programs:

Eligibility	Application Deadline	Final Report Deadline