



## **ATV Minnesota**

*"Your Voice For ATV Recreation in Minnesota"*

**April 27, 2022**

**Newsletter**

***200 New Members This Year***

***Welcome!***



### **Cold, Wet Weather May Delay Trail Opening Dates. Know Before You Go.**

Before you head out to ride, always check out the Minnesota DNR website that shows open/closed status for State ATV Trails and State Forest roads. Tap on this link to see it:

**<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ohv/closures.html>**



## **What's Around The Corner For ATV Riding In Minnesota? How Can It Be Improved?**

**Share Your Thoughts.  
Take The Survey!**  
(At [MNATVMasterPlan.org](http://MNATVMasterPlan.org))

We've been talking about this project for quite some and here it is!

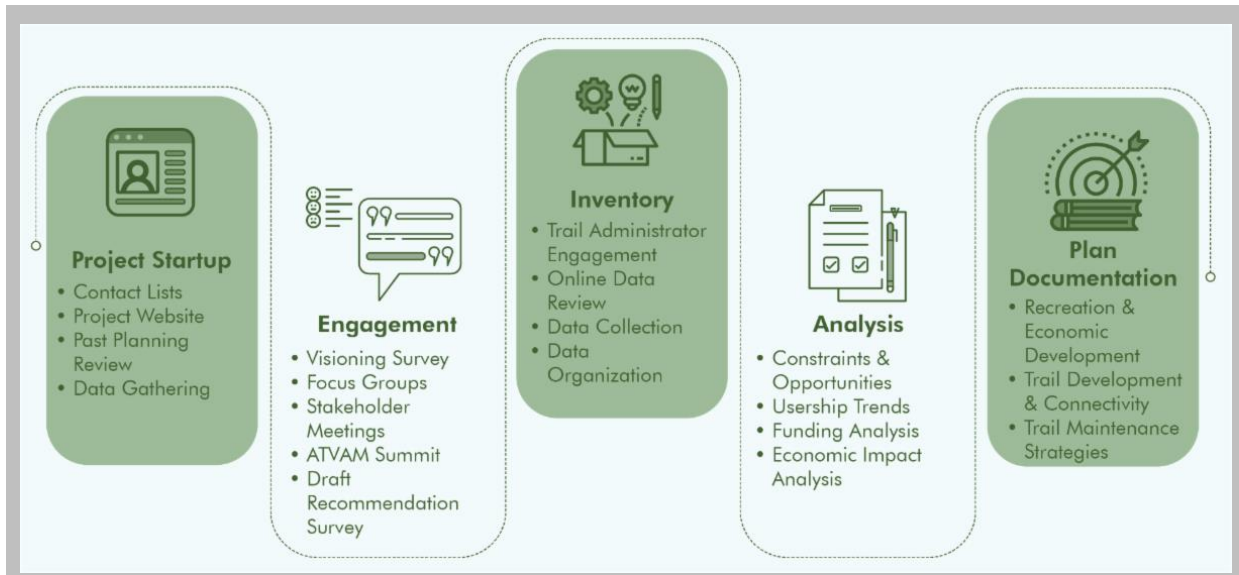
The Minnesota ATV Statewide Strategic Plan (aka Master Plan) will

identify strategies to enhance the ATV program of the Minnesota DNR, and address the growing demand for ATV riding opportunities, while also considering the long-term environmental and financial impacts of trail development. Plan recommendations will be informed by a thorough existing-conditions assessment, multiple public-engagement sessions, and a robust statewide spatial analysis that incorporates social, environmental, and infrastructure data.

### **The final plan will include:**

- Trail inventory and existing system audit
- ATV-user trends analysis
- Maintenance and funding recommendations to ensure future trail viability
- Economic impact estimates of ATV activity in Minnesota
- Sustainable trail development recommendations
- Trail development and connectivity opportunity analysis
- Program, policy, and process recommendations

**The infographic below shows the process:**



**Your Voice Matters. Take The ATV Visioning Survey!**

To learn more about the project and the process, and to take the survey, go to this website: [MNATVMMASTERPLAN.ORG](http://MNATVMMASTERPLAN.ORG)

The survey is on page 2 of the website and takes just 15-20 minutes. Best of all, it's your chance to say what you like about

ATV riding in Minnesota, and what you'd like to see in the future. There are also opportunities to participate in focus groups scheduled for the near future. **Please pass this on to your club members and riding groups, to take the survey.**



**Planning For 2022 And Beyond: Vision Conference Highlights**

The annual ATV Minnesota Vision Conference was held April 23-24, 2022, at the Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, Minn. Fifty people attended in-person or through Zoom for the Saturday meeting, including the ATV MN Executive Board, Regional Directors, members, our lobbyists, agency partners with Minnesota DNR Parks & Trails and Enforcement

Divisions. Also attending were two representatives of SE GROUP, the consulting team working with the DNR and ATV MN on a new State ATV Master Plan.

At the annual Vision Conference, all stakeholders are invited to discuss a wide range of topics, with one goal: creating a clear Vision for ATV MN, and the Action Items needed to move it and its 65 member clubs forward, and advance our state's awesome ATV trail system.

***Here is a recap of the topics discussed:***

**Strategic Plan Update** — Ron Potter, ATV MN president, reviewed the Strategic Plan with the clubs in attendance, including its main Objectives and Critical Issues:

- More riding opportunities - Utilizing the new Statewide Master Plan.
- Adequate & timely funding - Improving GIA, its training, identify funding options.
- Expertise in trail development and maintenance - Providing training for clubs and land managers, promoting training materials, developing Trail Management Objectives.
- Rider behavior - Promoting rider education beyond providing the DNR reg book.
- ATV owners not with ATV MN - Identify and reach out to non-members, create a corporate sponsor program for OEMs and dealers, identify under-represented groups, develop a youth association for future leaders, promote membership benefits.
- Volunteerism - Clubs vary in success, identify what works to boost volunteering.
- Trails within road right-of-way - Work with road authorities to develop possible design options for trails where R/W is needed for success of the trail system.
- Open trails and Forest Roads - Tackling a variety of issues related to use and maintenance.
- Adequate and sustained funding - Develop a multi-year financial plan, create additional revenue streams to meet goals of the ATV MN Strategic Plan.

**Corporate Sponsor Program** — A program was presented that would invite manufacturers, dealers, businesses and clubs to sponsor ATV MN annually, with specific benefits for 5 sponsor tiers.

**Legislative Update** — ATV MN lobbyists Ray Bohn and Tom Hackbarth updated the clubs on the progress of various bills at the State Legislature during the current Session.



**DNR Enforcement** — Bruce Lawrence reported on ATV Safety Training data, 2021 accident numbers, stats for the Trail Ambassador program, and an update on new public safety announcements, the next reg book and trail atlas. Watch for future newsletters with more details on these programs.

**ATV MN Safety Committee** — By unanimous vote, a new committee was created to focus on promoting ATV safety messages, events and activities, working with the DNR, manufacturers and rider groups to seek solutions to reduce ATV incidents.



**Minnesota ATV Master Plan** — Annaka Egan (left in photo) and Ayden Eickhoff, a consultant team with SE GROUP, introduced everyone to the Minnesota ATV Statewide Strategic Plan (aka Master Plan), its objectives, process and timing. It's now underway, with the SE GROUP working with the Minnesota DNR and ATV Minnesota. A visioning exercise was held during the meeting, with groups of riders sharing their experiences, and hopes for the future of ATV riding in Minnesota. See the article above to participate in the just-released Master Plan rider survey.

**ATV MN Communications** — The comm team updated its progress over the past year, improving communications with members and recruiting new members through new websites, a twice-monthly newsletter, social media and, with the help of our publishing partners at Pro Print, the new Minnesota Wheelin magazine; thanks to Creston and Ali for attending by Zoom to give us their thoughts on year one of our partnership.



**DNR Parks & Trails** — Those attending got to meet the current and some of the new P&T staffers they will be working with on the GIA program and other issues. Joe Unger, OHV Program Consultant, updated the group on improvements to the GIA program, manual, forms and club reimbursements. “We want to build great trails across the state and maintain them while being able to pay for those activities going along,” he said. (Photo L to R: Brandon Helm, Joe Unger, Karen Cladas)

**Winter Riding** — The committee tackling this issue gave an update on current winter riding opportunities, and ATV MN progress to work through existing barriers to create new ATV-only trails and riding opportunities during winter months.

**State Director Report** — Perry May reviewed his work, connecting with 75% of the 65 clubs during 2021, and reported on their concerns and priorities moving forward. He also discussed the habits of healthy and active ATV clubs across the state. See his full report below.



**Sunday Board Meeting** — The monthly meeting of the ATV MN board was held in-person at the hotel Sunday morning, tackling a long list of programs and issues on behalf of its members and clubs.

**Thanks to those who traveled** or connected online to attend the 2022 Vision Conference, to all presenters with ATV MN, MN DNR and SE GROUP, and to Erv Kleinschmidt, ATV MN Treasurer, and Jenn Jancsek, ATV MN admin (photo), for setting up the meeting room, managing

registrations and Zoom, displaying ATV MN gear and clothing for sale at the meeting, and more.



## Welcome New And Re-elected ATV MN Regional Directors

*By Perry May, ATV MN State Director*

During the Vision Conference, the following Regional Directors were approved by member vote to continue with another 2-year term. Congratulations to Ken Irish, Jeff Leese, Harlan Kingsley, Josh Boeckman, and Loren Arveson. These are exciting times for ATV MN with the development of the Trail Master Plan, the rapid growth of ATV registrations, and the challenges it presents. Regional Directors are vital to keeping the connection with clubs and understanding regional priorities. We also want to thank Greg Jones, Scott Floyd Peterson, and Brad Vandervegt for their two-year service as

ATV MN regional Directors, but not re-elected for another term. These Directors helped hold ATV MN together during our COVID restrictions, where clubs could not meet in-person and communications between members, clubs and ATV MN were challenged. Regional Directors are volunteers; as with all of us, family, work, or personal health, come first.



Congratulations to Garrett Pikus (photo), who was voted in as a new Regional Director for the Northeast Region. Garrett lives in the Hill City, Minn, area with his wife Jamie and three daughters. He is an active member of the Northwoods Quads ATV Club, a member of ATV MN, and is a certified ATV Safety Instructor and Trail Ambassador. His garage contains four Class 1 machines, (2 Polaris, 2 CF Moto), and two Class 2 SxS vehicles, (1 Yamaha, 1 CF Moto). Garrett and his family like to ride the Hill City, Emily Outing, and Blind Lake Trails, and use the Soo Line North Trail for connections. Garrett's ambitions align with the ATV MN mission, such as connecting more trails to form destinations, and ensuring new riders get the training they need to be safe on the trails. Please join me in welcoming Garrett to the ATV MN

Regional Director leadership role.

ATV MN now has 16 Regional Directors (3 Northwest), (8 Northeast), (3 Central), (2 Southern). The objective is to connect at least one Director with four ATV MN clubs. Get to know your Regional Director today! Their contact information can be found at [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org).



## Who You Gonna Call (or email)?

### A Directory of DNR OHV Contacts

*Save this information for your club leaders, trail coordinator and GIA funding sponsor.*

#### Statewide

Joe Unger (photo), OHV Program Consultant,

**[joe.unger@state.mn.us](mailto:joe.unger@state.mn.us)** 651-259-5279

•General OHV inquiries, trail status, Grant-in-Aid status  
Brandon Helm, OHV Planner,

**[brandon.helm@state.mn.us](mailto:brandon.helm@state.mn.us)** 651-259-5095

•State Forest trail planning, GIA environmental and public

review

#### Northwest Region

Karen Cladas, OHV Acquisition and Development Specialist, **[karen.cladas@state.mn.us](mailto:karen.cladas@state.mn.us)**  
218-308-2369

•Region-specific OHV inquiries, club information, GIA status  
•Counties served: Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall Norman, Otter Trail, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin

#### Northeast Region

Karine Finken, OHV Acquisition and Development Specialist,  
**[karine.finken@state.mn.us](mailto:karine.finken@state.mn.us)** 218-328-8992

•Region-specific OHV inquiries, club information, GIA status  
•Counties served: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine, St. Louis

#### Central Region

Ali Crofts, OHV Acquisition and Development Specialist, **[alexandra.crofts@state.mn.us](mailto:alexandra.crofts@state.mn.us)**  
612-354-1132

•Region-specific OHV inquiries, club information, GIA status  
•Counties served: Anoka, Benton, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Fillmore, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Olmstead, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wabasha, Washington, Winona, Wright

#### Southern Region

*Currently vacant, plans to fill soon*

•Counties served: Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dodge, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Sibley, Steele, Swift, Waseca, Watonwan, Yellow Medicine



## Reminder: Send Club Photos And Videos For The Ride & Rally "Salute To ATV Clubs" Short-Story Video

Planning is ongoing for the 2022 Ride & Rally, September 16-18, in Fifty Lakes. There will be many new features. One of them is a video on Friday evening following the general membership meeting. It will be a "Salute to ATV MN Clubs," thanking our member clubs for all they do across Minnesota. We are gathering club brochures, logos, pictures, videos and interviews that tell the story of your club, its rides, safety training, trail

construction and maintenance, fundraising, Trail Ambassador program, community events, charity rides and other programs. We want to include as much information as possible.

To have your club information included, we need to receive it by July 15, 2022. You can start sending your club's images and videos now, from 2021 and earlier. The sooner the better to avoid a flood of information at the last minute. Please coordinate your submissions with your club leader to avoid duplication. When you are ready to send your information, please email or call Blake Bogdanovich. He will give you the details on how to easily upload your information to a Drop Box. Blake's email: [atvmnmedia@icloud.com](mailto:atvmnmedia@icloud.com) Phone: 323-422-2000



## Ride & Roast Is Just 3 Weeks Away. Are You Registered?

Just \$20 dollars per adult, kids 10 and under free, for a full day of riding on the Red Top, Foxy Loop, Solana Loop and other local trails, with lunch on the trail and a roast turkey/pork dinner. This year: \$25 dollars at the door to cover the cost of going to the grocery store to buy more food.

Full details, lodging/camping options and registration at [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org). *Flyer design by Dean Schliek*





## ATV Minnesota State Convention (Ride & Rally) September 16-18, 2022

**New this year:** ATV Fair, food trucks, live bands, fireworks! Some lodging is starting to fill up. Contact your ride group, choose a ride option, and register today. Maximum of 25 vehicles on guided rides, or choose self-guided ride option.

Event details, daily schedules, guided-ride options, camping & lodging lists, sponsorship opportunities ... and did we mention food! food! food!

It's all lined up and registration is open at [atvmn.org](http://atvmn.org).  
Poster design by Dean Schliek



### Got a Good Story to Tell?

- Been on a memorable ride?
  - Have a fun story about your ATV club?
  - Know a volunteer who should be recognized for all they do for ATV riding?
  - An important ATV issue we should cover?
  - Want to submit an article or photos? We don't have a budget to pay you, but we will give you a byline and extra copies of the magazine your article or photo appears in.
  - Send your comments, stories, club news, and ideas to: [d.halsey@atvmn.org](mailto:d.halsey@atvmn.org).
- Thanks! From the ATV MN  
Communications Team: Dave Halsey,

Nick Wognum, Jeff Leese, Rod Wegner, Dean Schliek.

**Photo:** Dave Soular's article about Hester the donkey that greets everyone on the Jackpot Loop Trail in search of carrots was a hit with readers. Send us photos of your ride highlights and we'll print them in this newsletter or our Minnesota Wheein magazine.



**ATV MINNESOTA**  
**"Your Voice To Ride"**  
 Dedicated Volunteers  
 Building Fun & Sustainable  
 ATV Trails  
 (And Boardwalks, Kiosks,  
 Parking, Outhouses & More)  
 For The Riding Public  
**Invite friends and family to join  
 today. Gift memberships  
 available!**

**Photos:** Members of 6 ATV clubs met before the Vision Conference to talk about the State ATV Trails in their area, possible connecting trails and other riding

opportunities that could be included in the ATV Master Plan. **Below:** Cold wet weather doesn't stop our hardy ATV clubs; work days this week on the Prospector's Beaver River bridge are Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Bring warm clothes, extra gloves, waterproof boots, knee pads and TP.

See the mailing label on your Minnesota Wheelin magazine for your membership renewal date. Be sure to include your email address on the renewal form we send you to receive newsletters. Send renewals to ATV MN, PO Box 300, Stacy, MN 55079.

Belonging to ATV Minnesota, you join thousands of riders throughout the state, have fun, and help create a positive future of ATV riding in Minnesota.



**As a family or individual member, for just \$20 you receive:**

- A subscription to Minnesota Wheelin magazine (6 per year).
- Twice-monthly newsletter by email with the latest news.
- Membership card and ATV MN logo sticker for your ATV.
- Invitations to events, including our Legislative Summit, Vision Conference, Ride & Roast in the spring, and State Convention "Ride & Rally" in the fall, as well as membership meetings.
- Discounts at some business members

(watch for new list being compiled).

-A full-time lobbyist at the State Capitol, helping create pro-ATV legislation, and moving forward bills that help provide funding for new trail systems.

**As a business member, for \$75 you receive:**

All of the above, plus:

-Your business name and contact information listed in our Minnesota Wheelin magazine and on the ATV Minnesota website

-Discounts on advertising in Minnesota Wheelin. For details, send an email to Creston Dorothy at Pro Print in Duluth: [cdorothy@proprintus.com](mailto:cdorothy@proprintus.com)  
-Opportunities to reach more customers by sponsoring or donating to our events  
To join, contact **ATVAM** or call (800) 442-8826.

**[ATVMN.org](http://ATVMN.org)**

**Follow us for all the latest news!**



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