



Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Inc.
 26 Vast Lane
 Barre, VT 05641
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 www.vtvast.org

Debrushing Grant-In-Aid Program Application

Project Number

(A project number will be assigned upon approval)

The following affiliated snowmobile club of the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Inc. is applying for funding of trail debrushing work on the Statewide Snowmobile Trail System (SSTS) or affiliated costs for a brush bar.

**Club
 Information**

Club _____ Date _____

Club Address _____

Town, State, Zip Code _____ County _____

**Project
 Information &
 Description**

Project Coordinator: _____ Phone Number: _____

Project Location: _____ Town: _____

Land Ownership: Private Municipal State Federal

Clubs Contract Mileage: _____ Mileage to be Debrushed: _____

Project Description: _____

**Brush Bar
 Description &
 Cost**

Manufacturer & Description: _____

Cost: _____ Installation: _____ Paid Donated Total Cost _____

**Estimated
 Time & Cost**

Please Estimate Costs For:

Brush Hog (Pull behind ATV/Tractor):	(Hours) _____	\$ _____
Articulated Sidearm Mower:	(Hours) _____	\$ _____
Excavator w/Brush Head:	(Hours) _____	\$ _____
TOTALS	(Hours) _____	\$ _____

Field Inspection

The work and costs outlined in this application have been reviewed and are in compliance with the *VAST Guide for the Development of Snowmobile Trails, and VAST Trail Policy Manual*, latest edition.

County Trails Coordinator: _____ Date: _____

Submit this application, a map showing the exact location of this proposed trail project, copies of necessary permits, signed landowner(s) permission form(s) or copies of all itemized estimates for a brush bar.
Application must be at the VAST office by June 30th!
 Funding will not be approved without the above!!

**For Office Use
 Only**

The work and costs outlined in this application have been reviewed and are in compliance with the *VAST Guide for the Development of Snowmobile Trails, and VAST Trail Policy Manual*, latest edition.

VAST/SSTP Project Number: _____ County: _____

Project Estimated Cost: _____ Funding Allotted: \$ _____

Approved by VAST Trails Administrator: _____ Date: _____



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Debrushing Grant-In-Aid Program Trails Agreement

(Agreement is not necessary for applications for brush bars)

This agreement is made between the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers, Inc. hereinafter called VAST, and

(Club Name)

hereinafter called the Project Applicant, for the purpose of providing assistance for the development and maintenance of the snowmobile trails detailed in this application.

VAST agrees to reimburse the Project Applicant 100% of the **approved** snowmobile trail project costs or the actual cost, whichever is the lesser of the two, for materials, and leased/rented or contracted equipment necessary to complete the project. Reimbursement will be made upon the completion of the project, final inspection/approval by the County Trails Coordinator and receipt of documentation of actual costs incurred. Donated equipment, materials or services will not be reimbursed.

VAST reserves the right to consider reimbursement or funding from any and all other sources in determining a net figure as the 100% reimbursement amount. Any and all reimbursement or funding available or anticipated, from any source, to offset the cost of the project shall be disclosed to VAST prior to any determination of the project cost. VAST reserves the right to reevaluate its determination of the project cost in the event that funds become available to offset the cost following its initial determination.

All documentation that supports the total cost of the project must be submitted. The Trails Request for Reimbursement form shall be approved by the County Trails Coordinator before the final project paperwork is submitted to the VAST Office.

By signing the Trails Agreement below the Project Applicant acknowledges that:

- A representative from the applying club has attended the most recent VAST Spring Construction Seminar or has reviewed the approved course curriculum, understands it, and will adhere to the information contained within the curriculum while performing this trail project.
- Landowner permission to complete the trail project has been obtained.
- All necessary local, State and Federal permits have been obtained to complete the trail project.
- The trail project meets acceptable standards as outlined in the *VAST Guideline for the Development of Snowmobile Trails*, latest edition.
- All trails are signed according to the *VAST Guideline for Snowmobile Trail Signing and Placement*, latest edition.
- None of the requests for reimbursement are fraudulent in any way and that all expenses being reimbursed have been paid by the Project Applicant.
- The trail will be open for use by VAST members for the upcoming snowmobile season.

Trail projects must be completed, and all necessary paperwork must be submitted by December 15th of the application year. All projects not completed by December 15th of each year may be carried over. Extensions should be requested in writing to the VAST Trails Administrator prior to December 15th.

By: _____
(Project Director) (Date) (Printed Name)

By: _____
(VAST Trails Administrator) (Date) (Printed Name)



1. Local clubs are responsible for maintaining the trails within their area. It is the intent of this policy to assist local club volunteers by providing grants that will allow clubs to;
 - a.) Hire individuals, or contractors to complete planned woody brush and limb removal.
 - b.) Aid clubs in the purchase of brush bars or similar equipment attached to grooming power units and/or drags and designed for debrushing trails.
2. Trails must be corridor trails that are part of the SSTS and be shown on the current VAST map. This policy does not include routine removal of blow downs.
3. Grants for debrushing by a contractor or individual with brush hog, or side arm type equipment are authorized on existing VAST trails to the extent that funds budgeted for this purpose allow.
4. VAST may earmark a maximum of 25% of the budgeted line item for debrushing in a given year to be used for aiding clubs with the purchase of brush bars or similar equipment as noted in 1b above.
5. Grants for brush bars or similar equipment may provide a maximum of 50% of the net purchase price (as defined below) of the equipment. Net purchase price may include reasonable costs associated with the installation. Maximum grant amounts will be \$3,500.
6. Grants for debrushing or the purchase of brush bars or similar equipment will be made to clubs only.
7. Applications for debrushing must be made in accordance with the procedures outlined for trail construction. Applications for equipment must be made in accordance with the procedures outlined for equipment. The application deadline is **June 30th**.
8. All Clubs must have a current W9 and EIN on file with the VAST office in order to be eligible for Debrushing Grant in Aid funding.
9. Reimbursement for debrushing will be made at the following rates according to the type of equipment used to debrush the trails:
 - **\$45/hour** for mechanized equipment that is towed by a tractor or ATV. This classification is for brush hog and other types of mowers.
 - **\$65/hour** for a tractor with a side arm mower or another type of attachment capable of removing overhead limbs and woody brush.
 - **\$130/hour** for a brush head on an excavator with a weight of 7 tons or more.



9. There shall be no reimbursement for debrushing completed with handheld equipment except where mandated by the USDA Forest Service or the State of Vermont. This work will be reimbursed at **\$25/hour** as approved by the VAST Trails Administrator.
10. All debrushing for which a grant is received must be completed in accordance with the standards in the VAST *Guide for the Development of Snowmobile Trails*, latest edition.
11. Clubs or grooming contractors responsible for the area may be reimbursed for up to 1/3 of the mileage within their area of responsibility each year. The County Trails Coordinator and the VAST Trails Administrator will determine club mileages. Payments will not be made until the Trails Coordinator has verified the debrushing is completed. Donated equipment, materials or services will not be reimbursed.
 - Net purchase price means the total paid for the brushing equipment after deducting the value of any trade-ins, credits, discounts, incentives, grants (*whether received or pending*). All amounts of potential funding shall be clearly disclosed by the applicant prior to the release of any grant in aid funding by VAST.
 - VAST reserves the right to consider reimbursement or funding from any and all other sources in determining a net figure as the 100% reimbursement amount.
 - Any and all reimbursement or funding available or anticipated, from any source, to offset the cost of the project shall be disclosed to VAST prior to any determination of the project cost. VAST reserves the right to reevaluate its determination of the project cost in the event that funds become available to offset the cost following its initial determination.
 - Once a club receives a grant to purchase a brush bar or similar equipment, they will not be eligible for a debrushing grant for the next two fiscal years.
 - All reimbursement for equipment and/or debrushing as part of this program will be up to the discretion of the Trails Administrator.