

OPENING POLICY
ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
PROGRAM FUNDED SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM
&
NON-PROGRAM FUNDED (CLUB) TRAILS ON COUNTY FOREST LAND
&
TRAILS ON LAND USE AGREEMENTS HELD BY ONEIDA COUNTY

Oneida County Snowmobile Council Adopted 10/01/25

The official opening of the Oneida County Funded Snowmobile Trail System will be announced by the Oneida County Forestry Department via an official Public Service Announcement released to various media outlets. The preferred opening of the Program Funded Trail System will be on a county - wide basis; however, the trail system may partially open by zones (north or south zone defined by Corridor 12). Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis without creating a fragmented trail system.

1. Before the Forestry Department announces the opening of the Oneida County Snowmobile Trail System, each club must submit the following documents to the Forestry Department:
 - A fully executed Snowmobile Trail Signing, Grooming Maintenance Contract;
 - Current Land Use Agreements and/or Easements and Certification Form;
 - Certificate of insurance providing proof of public liability naming Oneida County as additionally insured;
 - Worker's compensation declaration form along with worker's compensation insurance certificate, if needed;
 - Signed Review of Current Snowmobile Program Outline;
 - Land use agreement status form;
 - Update of re-routed trail map(s), if needed;
 - Town route ordinance, if any changes;
 - Equipment listing for physical damage insurance coverage form, if necessary;
 - Trail maintenance log records - monthly;
 - Signed Trail Opening Inspection Form (after December 1st); and
 - Trail maintenance records by January 1st and at the end of the season.
2. By December 1st of each year, the Oneida County Snowmobile Trail Coordinator shall check the status of all required paperwork and contact the Oneida County Snowmobile Council President regarding any delinquent paperwork. The OCSC President shall contact any club with delinquent paperwork and notify those club(s) that the delinquent paperwork shall be submitted without further delay.
3. Before trail opening, each snowmobile club must physically check all segment(s) of the snowmobile trail system they are contracted to maintain for the purpose of assuring proper signing (according to WDNR and Oneida County Standards) and elimination of any safety hazards (such as encroaching brush, leaning trees, and debris) before completing and submitting the trail opening inspection form.
4. The Oneida County Forestry Department will begin the process of opening gates on Oneida County Forest Land following the 9-day Wisconsin Deer Gun Season **and** frozen conditions exist.

5. Snowmobile clubs are responsible for all private, state, industrial, and/or federal gates along their trail system. Clubs must physically check all gates are open prior to the official opening of the Oneida County Snowmobile Funded Trail System.
6. At the request of the Oneida County Snowmobile Coordinator or the Oneida County Snowmobile Council President (or their designee), the Oneida County Snowmobile Coordinator shall poll each club president (or their designee), to determine if trail conditions allow for trail opening. A poll will be conducted to determine if/when the program funded trail system should open. The following polling system has been adopted by the Oneida Snowmobile Council and the Oneida County Forestry Department to determine trail opening:
 - Each member club of the council, will receive one (1) vote and the Oneida County Snowmobile Coordinator will have one (1) vote. The trail system will only open if at least 7 of 10 votes are affirmative.
 - If less than 7 affirmative votes are received, the Oneida County Snowmobile Coordinator will tally the votes by zone (north or south as determined by Corridor 12). Each member club located within the northern/southern boundary will receive one (1) vote and the Oneida County Snowmobile Coordinator will receive one (1) vote.
 - The northern zone will only open if at least 5 of 8 votes are affirmative (NTU & NWP are excluded from the northern zone poll).
 - The southern zone will only open if at least 6 of 9 votes are affirmative (Bo-Boen is excluded from the southern zone poll).

Based on the Oneida County Snowmobile Council's poll, the Oneida County Snowmobile Coordinator shall set a funded trail opening date, no less than 48 hours after the affirmative vote. The Oneida County Forestry Department will send out a news release announcing the opening date and time. The clubs have up to 48 hours to have the funded trail system open and ready for public use (including club inspection to ensure trails are properly clear of debris, signed appropriately, all gates are open and trails are adequately frozen and snow covered and deemed safe for public use).

7. The Forestry Department will contact the Willow Flowage Property, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, Northern Highland American Legion State Forest, Bearskin State Trail – DNR and the USDA Forest Service as a courtesy to inform them of the trail opening date.
8. The Oneida County Forestry Department and/or the Oneida County Snowmobile Council reserves the right to suspend any and all payments to the clubs for failure to comply with the County's snowmobile trail opening policies, which have been established and distributed to the clubs.