



## NSMBA 101: TLDR Version

*Updated November 2025*

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### Land Acknowledgement

The NSMBA builds and maintains trails on the shared lands of the Coast Salish peoples: the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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### Mission, Vision & Strategic Direction

**Mission:** We are a volunteer driven non-profit organization dedicated to caring for a sustainable trail network within the community.

**Vision:** Trails for all, trails forever.

#### [Strategic Plan \(2022–2027\)](#)

Three guiding pillars:

1. **Responsible Land Use:** Advocacy, partnerships, and best practices.
2. **Community Impact:** Engage and retain diverse riders, volunteers, builders, and staff.
3. **Financial Resilience:** Sustainable funding to support long-term growth.

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## Origins and Organizational Evolution

### Founding (1997)

The NSMBA formed in response to trail sabotage, threatened trail closures, and lack of unified advocacy. An informal meeting at the Black Bear Pub launched the organization, which soon incorporated as a registered non-profit charity (#870778461RR0001).

### Purpose (Constitution)

- Preserve and enhance trail access for mountain biking
- Maintain, repair, and construct mountain bike trails
- Protect the environment and forest areas through sustainable trail management.

### Growth (2010–present)

Following renewed vision and mission work in 2010, the NSMBA strengthened land-manager relationships, reestablished community engagement, and revitalized major trail networks on Fromme, Seymour, and Cypress. The NSMBA recognizes that trail authority rests with land managers and that community respect must continually be earned.

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## Governance & Operations

### Board of Directors

Elected volunteers responsible for strategic direction. The board shifted from a “working board” to an advisory governance model in 2020.

Internal systems, policies, and engagement processes are continually updated to meet the needs of a growing organization.

### Executive Director

Leads organizational operations, staff, priorities, and financial/strategic execution.

### Staff Teams

- **Trail Crew:** Conducts maintenance, reroutes, and new trail construction under land-manager approval.
- **Admin Team:** Supports fundraising, grants, events, payroll, communications, and general operations.

## **Volunteer Builders**

A [group of ~50 trained builders](#) who are dedicated to caring for the sanctioned trails across the network. Many of them host public and private trail days, contributing significantly to annual maintenance capacity.

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## **Stewardship, Education & Community Programs**

### **Trail Adoption Plan (TAP)**

Trail sponsors adopt specific trails, enabling increased maintenance capacity. Work plans are created by an NSMBA builder, approved by land managers, and delivered through volunteer hours and group trail days. TAP accounts for 120+ trail days and over 8,000 volunteer hours annually.

### **Youth Stewardship Program**

Engages local schools and youth groups in education, volunteerism, stewardship, trail care, sustainability, and recreation management.

### **Builder Apprentice Program**

A comprehensive mentorship and onboarding program for those interested in being one of the permitted trail builders. Training in sustainable trail practices, hosting volunteer trail days, land manager requirements.

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## **Membership & Why It Matters**

### **Membership Benefits**

Members gain access to our events and [member discounts](#).

Members strengthen the NSMBA's voice with land managers and government, and help fund:

- Materials, tools, and equipment
- Insurance for sanctioned trail work
- Educational programs
- Engagement with land managers

- Professional trail-building labour for priority projects

Membership categories: Adult, Family, Youth, Super Member, Corporate.

### **Why Join?**

Membership is an impactful contribution to the trails that funds trail maintenance and adds to our “power in numbers”. More members means we have more clout when we speak with land managers and potential funding sources! Membership directly supports the work that keeps the trails of the North Shore in great condition for all and forever.

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## **Trail Building Standards & Best Practices**

### **Standards Used**

- Whistler Standards
- IMBA Guidelines
- LSCR Trail Standards
- Kootenay Adaptive Sports Association aMTB Standards
- Land-manager Best Management Practices

Applied with a focus on long-term sustainability, accounting for North Shore conditions: high use, heavy rainfall, easy access, year-round riding.

### **Core Principles for Sustainable Trails**

- **Education:** Build community capacity.
- **Relationships:** Maintain trust with land managers and other user groups.
- **Unity:** Foster a cohesive trail community.
- **Capacity:** Engage volunteers and partners to meet rising demand.
- **Etiquette:** Promote respect and shared responsibility.
- **Communication:** Keep the community informed and involved.

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## **Trail Ratings & Signage**

## **Trail Difficulty Ratings**

Ratings are specific to each separate land manager, and aim to:

- Help users choose appropriate trails
- Manage risk
- Improve user experience
- Support system-wide planning

## **Trail Signage**

Developed with land managers; design varies slightly between jurisdictions but conveys consistent information. Key designations include:

- **Multi-Use**
- **Hiking Only**
- **Mountain Bike Primary**
- **One-Way**
- **Mountain Bike Ascent Trails**
- **Commercial dog-walking allowance**

All users are encouraged to share the trails respectfully.

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## **Land Managers & Jurisdiction**

### **Primary Land Managers**

- BC Parks (Cypress and Seymour)
- Metro Vancouver - LSCR (Seymour) and Regional Parks (Fromme)
- CMHC (managed by RSTBC)
- District of North Vancouver (DNV)
- District of West Vancouver (DWV)
- Grouse Mountain Resorts Ltd.

Trail work on Metro Vancouver, CMHC/RSTBC, DWV, and DNV land **requires permits**. BC Parks riding is only permitted in explicitly signed areas. Unauthorized trail building is illegal.

### **Grouse Mountain**

Owns land above the 6th switchback on Fromme. No formal NSMBA agreement exists; NSMBA avoids investing resources where we do not have a formal agreement with the land manager.

### **Public Land Use Context**

Much of the network lies on unceded first nations traditional territories administratively governed by various provincial or municipal bodies. Each land manager uses its own legislation, bylaws, and policies to regulate trail use and construction.

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## **Policy on Unsanctioned Trails**

The NSMBA does **not** support construction of unauthorized trails or features. Key reasons:

- Environmental impact
- Damage to relationships with land managers
- Risk to future sanctioned trail approvals
- Safety and sustainability concerns
- Lack of respect for original builders and land-use agreements
- Impact to indigenous traditional practices and harvesting areas

While acknowledging the motivations behind independent building, the NSMBA encourages working within approved systems and maintains open communication with independent builders where capacity allows.

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## **Work Plans & Permitting**

Each year, the NSMBA submits detailed work plans to each land manager. No trail work—by NSMBA or independent builders—may occur without land-manager approval and permits.

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## **Looking Forward**

The NSMBA revisits its mission and vision regularly to stay aligned with community needs. Future focus includes:

- Expanded opportunities for riders of all abilities
- Continued evolution of sustainable trail practices
- Stronger community etiquette and respect
- Ongoing collaboration with land managers
- Growing volunteer and membership engagement

**The NSMBA's progress is powered by volunteers, guided by community values, and dedicated to ensuring a world-class trail system for generations to come.**