



Council Agenda Item 25-0899R

MEETING DATE: 11/24/2025

SUBJECT/TITLE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH DRIFT TOPPERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB FOR THE GROOMING AND MAINTENANCE OF SNOWMOBILE TRAILS.

SUBMITTED BY: Matt Andrews, Trails Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION:

24-0960R – Resolution authorizing acceptance of a cross-country ski Grant-in-Aid Assistance Program Grant for FY2025 with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in an amount not to exceed \$17,245.10.

24-0451R – Resolution authorizing annual funding application to the snowmobile Grants-in-Aid Assistance Program. The resolution authorized applications for funding annually through December 31, 2027.

23-0400R – Resolution authorizing an agreement with Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club for the grooming and maintenance of City snowmobile trails at no cost to the City.

BACKGROUND: The Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club is a non-profit volunteer organization that provides maintenance of 18.6 miles of Grant-In-Aid snowmobile trails in eastern Duluth. This agreement allows Drift Toppers to perform trail maintenance activities on City snowmobile trails under the terms and conditions set forth in the agreement. Drift Toppers will perform duties in coordination with the Parks and Recreation Department. The agreement requires Drift Toppers to maintain liability insurance while performing trail maintenance and grooming activities.

Annually, the City enters into a snowmobile trail maintenance grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ("MnDNR") through its Grant-in-Aid program. The City utilizes Drift Toppers to perform a portion of the grooming and maintenance requirements associated with the Grant-in-Aid program, and these requirements are incorporated into the agreement with Drift Toppers. A local unit of government must sponsor the snowmobile club's participation, where the City of Duluth accepts the funding under this Program and distributes the funding to the clubs based on their successful completion of required maintenance activities and grooming.

The funding awarded through the Grant-in-Aid program varies annually, and the awarded funds are passed from the MnDNR to the City, and then to the snowmobile club. Authorization to accept the Grant-in-Aid funds is completed through a separate resolution annually

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: The Night-Riders is one of two local snowmobile clubs that the City of Duluth coordinates with for maintenance and grooming of snowmobile trails in Duluth. The Grant-in-Aid program offsets costs of maintaining and grooming snowmobile trails by these clubs at no cost to the City. These Grant-in-Aid funds are critical to ongoing operations for these clubs and maintaining the level of service on snowmobile trails.

OPTIONS: Authorize acceptance of this trail maintenance agreement with the Night-Riders to allow clubs to perform maintenance and grooming of City snowmobile trails or decline authorization to cancel the partnership.

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize the Trail Maintenance Agreement with the Night-Riders Snowmobile Club.

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A – Trail Maintenance Agreement.