

- Gates shall be closed; adjacent clubs shall be informed until further notice.

If the club is unable to access the “open portion” of their trail system, they shall request grooming assistance from the adjacent club in the area. The assisting club will be reimbursed at their contracted rate per mile and the club requesting the assistance will be credited for that week of grooming. Both clubs must agree on the mutual aid before entering another club’s trail system and the specific period shall be discussed and agreed upon before the time of grooming.

G. VAST Trail Debrushing – *(Revised 12/15)*

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 each 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 Number 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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 all other sources in determining a net figure as the 100% reimbursement amount.
 - 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 if 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.

H. Plowed Parking Areas

VAST Clubs and contractors may be eligible to be reimbursed for the winter maintenance of parking areas that access the VAST Statewide Snowmobile Trail System. To be eligible for the plowed parking area program, the club/contractor shall have an annual agreement with VAST stating the following:

- Responsible parties for the winter maintenance of the parking area
- The name and location of the parking area