



Ride Right - Ride Safe

When Will the Oneida County Snowmobile Trails Open?

Many people think once the trails have a decent snow base, the trails can open for snowmobile enthusiasts to enjoy.

Unfortunately, it is not quite that simple. Oneida County partners with nine local snowmobile clubs to maintain the snowmobile trail system well beyond simple grooming of the trails. These clubs are comprised of members that include volunteers that graciously spend many hours working to ensure the trails are safe and ready for snowmobilers.

Maintenance of the trail system (approximately 800 miles) usually begins in the fall with clubs confirming hundreds of land use agreements with private landowners that offer the privilege of using their property as part of the snowmobile trail system. While landowners spend time hunting their lands through mid-December, clubs are not able to perform trail maintenance throughout many of these areas.

Trail maintenance continues with hundreds of miles of trail brushing and removal of dead/downed trees. The next step is to ensure proper signage is visible to offer a safe riding experience.

Now comes the weather factor. The trail system needs consistently cold temperatures for weeks to help freeze and pack wetland areas of the trail. Early snow can actually lengthen this process as the snow insulates and hinders this freezing progression. Once these areas are adequately frozen and a good snow base of at least several inches is available, clubs are able to pack or groom their trail segments, open hundreds of gates and prepare for opening.

Once the above processes are complete, the final step is a public service announcement announcing the opening of the county trail system. Public service announcements are typically posted 48 hours before trail opening and there is no set date when this will occur.

Oneida County Snowmobile Council, Inc.