

SATA TRAILS SOCIETY CAMERA SURVEILLANCE POLICY

(April 11, 2026)

Purpose

The Gaetz Brook Greenway (GBG), overseen by the SATA Trails Society, is a nonmotorized active transportation trail found on Nova Scotia's eastern shore in Gaetz Brook. The 7 km path stretches from East Chezzetcook Road to the intersection of Trunk Highway 7 and Highway 107. Its civic address is 7422 Highway Trunk 7, Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Following five previous instances of vandalism - including two major incidents with racial graffiti—the SATA Trails Society obtained approval to install pictures surveillance cameras. This authorization comes from Letter of Authority (LOA) number 55B26LA11, issued by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR) on April 9, 2026, and is valid for one year thereafter.

The cameras' primary purpose is to discourage further illegal activities such as vandalism or dumping, with prosecution as a secondary goal if violations occur, aiming to reduce repair and cleaning expenses caused by such damage.

Collection

Vandalism has affected both toilets: two significant occurrences at the easternmost toilet and three minor ones at the western facility. Therefore, surveillance will focus on both toilet structures and their immediate surroundings. Cameras will be installed on nearby structures or trees about five meters off the trail surface, located on the north side and directed south toward the toilet facilities. These cameras will be positioned to avoid pointing directly inside the toilets but will capture entrances, exits, and the area around them. No neighboring properties will be recorded, as the cameras face away from those locations.

Since most vandalism took place during darkness, correlating with low trail activity, cameras will be programmed twice annually to record when usage is lower:

- Starting March 8 (Daylight Saving Time): recording between 7 pm and 5:30 am (ADT)
- Starting November 1 (end of DST): recording between 4:30 pm and 8 am (AST)

No monitors are paired with the cameras; pictures will be uploaded via cellular connection to secure cloud storage accessible only by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the SATA Trails Society.

Camera's photos can be taken up to thirty-two mega pixel and offer full-color daytime with infrared capability for black-and-white night pictures.

Notification

Appropriately sized signs featuring disclaimers and SATA contact information will be installed near each camera site, informing visitors of surveillance and its operator.

In addition, announcements about the cameras will be posted on the GBG Facebook page and website, along with this policy and the NSDNR Letter of Authority.

Copies of the policy will be given to the Area Manager of DNR, Halifax East (Jeddore office) before installation and upon each LOA update or renewal.

Usage

The cameras will operate in picture mode only, and no audio will be recorded. Pictures are strictly intended to deter illegal actions and aid prosecution if needed. If lawbreaking occurs, the goal is to capture identifiable features such as faces, body shapes, clothing, tools used for vandalism, and vehicles (ATVs, bikes, cars, trucks, etc.). Any incidental pictures of uninvolved individuals will be masked or edited out.

Pictures will not be used for promotional purposes or advertisements, nor shared on GBG social media—even pictures containing illegal activity. Pictures will not serve to monitor volunteers or paid staff.

An annual review will assess whether continued camera use is necessary, considering recorded incidents, public comments or concerns, and opinions regarding surveillance.

Disclosure

Pictures of illegal activity related to GBG structures or amenities will only be accessible to:

- The Chairperson and/or Vice Chairperson of the SATA Trails Society (for GBG matters)
- NSDNR Area Manager
- Local RCMP detachment

For criminal activity unrelated to GBG amenities, the pictures will only be released to the local RCMP upon request, following these procedures:

- Request accompanied by a court order specifying date, time, and required pictures.
- Only the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson accesses and provides the relevant pictures.
- The request must be documented, including a copy of the order.
- Clear identification of authority for disclosure under FOIPOP or MGA is required.

Security

Administrative Security: If unauthorized disclosure occurs, every effort will be made to contact the individuals filmed, such as posting notices on the GBG Facebook page. An investigation will be conducted to determine who accessed and released the pictures, followed by measures to prevent future unauthorized disclosures.

Physical Security: Cameras will be bolted to a tree five meters above the trail surface, preventing easy access. Each device will have a hidden GPS tracker (such as an Apple AirTag) to help recover stolen cameras through the RCMP.

Technical Security: Cameras feature auto-looping technology that continuously overwrites older pictures. The hard drive is PIN-protected and scheduled weekly overwrites are enforced. Pictures is sent via cellular connection to a secure, password protected website.

Personnel Security: Only the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are authorized to access Pictures. If editing is needed, only the relevant pictures will be provided to another board member with the expertise and software to remove unnecessary segments and digitally obscure unrelated individuals.

Retention

Pictures needed for criminal investigations will be retained just long enough to extract the relevant section and mask unrelated persons or property. Once delivered to the local RCMP, confirmation of receipt triggers complete deletion of all remaining copies - from the camera hard drive, cloud storage, and devices; edited versions will also be destroyed.

Access to Information Requests

Any trail user has the right to obtain copies of Pictures in which they appear. Notices on the GBG Facebook page and website will explain what details are needed - date, time, description (including clothing and walking direction), and reason for the request. Requests are overseen directly by the Chairperson, who reviews pictures for validity (ensuring the requester matches the individual on Pictures). If approved, the Chairperson will provide the requested segment after masking other visible users' identities.

Contact Information info@satatrailssociety.ca