

## New Ski Trail Grooming Equipment Improves Trail Conditions

Sincere appreciation to the North Star Ski Touring Club (NSSTC) based in Minneapolis for a \$3,500 grant to allow the AELC to purchase ski trail grooming equipment for the 2020-21 winter season that made a big difference in providing good trail conditions even with this year's limited snow cover. The funding from the NSSTC was used to purchase a used Ginzugroomer and tracksetter from Maplelag Ski Resort.



The Ginzugroomer has “teeth” that can chew up old icy snow to recondition it and then set a new track. The new set-up also allows the tracksetter to be lifted up to leave a flat packed surface—useful in areas with too little snow to set a track and also on steeper grades where not having a track is safer for controlled descent. By packing the trails early in the season, the snow also stays intact longer on the trails as spring melt begins.

Thanks to Matt Forgit and Paul Stromstad in getting the equipment set up and making many extra passes to pack and track the trails. Thanks also to Craig Engelstad for his expertise and use of his shop resources to retrofit the City's snowmobile to pull the groomer and to Tanner West for setting up the electrical systems.

The North Star Ski Touring Club is the leading advocate for cross-country skiing in the Twin Cities and Minnesota. Their mission is “to enjoy and promote the development of cross-country skiing.” More information about the club at <https://north-stars.org/>.

