

## Motorized Vehicles on Trails Policy

### Policy

A special permit to use other power-driven mobility devices, OPDMDs, is available for people who have mobility impairment that would prevent them from using park areas, facilities and trails in Washington County Parks

### Definition

OPDMD is a term described in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) that broadly defines other power-driven mobility devices used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of moving within outdoor recreation areas and trails designated for public use.

The type of OPDMD that is suitable may also vary based on a number of factors, including the type, volume of use, and design of the trail or recreation area.

### Guidelines

#### **Passes Not Required for Motorized Wheelchairs or Mobility Scooters**

Wheelchairs and mobility scooters can be used in areas open to pedestrians. Under federal law, the definition is “a manually-operated or power-driven device designed primarily for use by an individual with a mobility disability for the main purpose of indoor, or of both indoor and outdoor locomotion.” Special use passes are not required for these devices. Individuals should check on seasonal closings of areas and trails and for conditions of trails and other use areas to make an informed decision about whether you think you can safely use your device. For the most current information about trails and trail conditions, we recommend calling the Lake Elmo Park Reserve office at 651-430-8370.

Verification of the disability must be made in writing to the parks division.

- The vehicle used should not be capable of speeds greater than that of a typical bicycle.
- The width of the vehicle must not be more than 50% of the width of the trail.
- The permit is valid only on paved trails. An exception would be made if the verification were presented that the impact on the turf trail is minimal.

### Responsibility

#### **Contact Information**

Information about this policy is available at the park offices at Big Marine and Lake Elmo Park Reserves and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.