



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
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Policy on the Use of Wheelchairs and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices Allowing Access to Individuals with Mobility Disabilities on Trails Owned or Managed by Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

This policy provides guidelines for use of power-driven mobility devices pursuant to the U.S. Department of Justice regulations amending the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II regulation, 28 C.F.R., Part 35, effective March 15, 2011.

Use of wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD), including electronic personal assistance mobility devices (EPAMD) such as the Segway PT or golf carts, is generally permitted on trails owned or managed by Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. It is recommended that park users who need to employ such devices for mobility and are otherwise unfamiliar with the trail first contact the agencies for local trail conditions at ADA@mrca.ca.gov.

The agencies' parklands contain many miles of trails, almost all of which are dirt or rocky substrate and located mostly in natural area wildlands. An existing trail may initially appear to be accessibly wide but may narrow, causing restricted access, have steep gradient sections, drop-offs, and have an uneven surface some distance along the trail, making OPDMD travel unsafe. Weather and environmental conditions may unexpectedly change, such that erosion, creek crossings, fire hazard, sensitive species breeding, or other seasonal conditions can impede trail use. Physical space to turn around an OPDMD or EPAMD and reverse direction on a trail may not be available.

Restrictions:

For the physical safety of mobility device users and other trail users, for protection of sensitive natural resources in parks, noise mitigation, and for seasonal fire prevention, additional restrictions are necessary:

- (a) The use of internal combustion engines is prohibited;
- (b) Noise emitted by OPDMDs and EPAMDs may not exceed 70 decibels; and
- (c) No person shall operate a OPDMD or EPAMD at a speed in excess of 5 miles per hour.

This policy may be revised as agency trails are further assessed to determine the extent of physical constraints, resource protection criteria, and safety concerns for all trail users.

Contact Information:

Please contact ADA@mrca.ca.gov or ADA Coordinator Zagreb De La Torre at (323) 221-9944 ext. 145 zagreb.delatorre@mrca.ca.gov with any questions.

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