



Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Department of Environmental Resources Management

Use of “Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices” at Natural Areas

In compliance with the United States Department of Justice's final regulations that became effective March 15, 2011 relative to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II Regulations (28 CFR PART 35) for states and local governments, Palm Beach County's (County) Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) has developed and established an Access Policy that allows persons with mobility disabilities to use certain Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) on specific County natural area trails and other public use facilities. Click on the link below for the complete policy.

[OPDMD Policy](#) 

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- OPDMDs may only be used by persons with mobility disabilities who can provide credible assurance that the use of such device is required because of their disability. Such assurance may include, but not be limited to, the presentation of a valid, State-issued disability parking placard or card, or other State-issued proof of disability.
- Only electric-powered OPDMDs are permitted on the County's natural areas. The use of fuel-powered OPDMDs is strictly prohibited.
- The use of electric-powered OPDMDs that are 30 inches or less in width, and the use of wheelchairs and manually-powered mobility aids, is permitted on any natural area trail or public use facility that is designed and constructed for use by pedestrians and that can accommodate their entry.
- OPDMDs, in combination with the operator, which exceed 800 pounds total weight are prohibited on nature trails (concrete and boardwalk portions), observation platforms, overlooks, boat docks, piers and similar structures.
- OPDMDs that are between 31 and 48 inches in width and limited to a maximum weight of 2,000 pounds, including passengers, will require a no-fee permit from ERM to gain access to a natural area property. Click on the following link for the permit application or contact ERM at 561-233-2400.
[OPDMD Permit Application](#) 
- Unless otherwise indicated, OPDMDs may not be operated at speeds that exceed 5 miles per hour.
- OPDMDs must stay on the trails approved for their use and certain trails on a given natural area may be closed to OPDMD use due to safety factors, because of the presence of environmentally sensitive areas or species protected under State or Federal law, or potential degradation of the trail. For trail restrictions, click on the following link [OPDMD Trail Status](#) 
- The County does not represent that the trails and accessways found on the natural areas are designed, maintained, managed, or safe for use by any particular person, manually-powered mobility aid, or OPDMD. Certain risks are inherent in the use of any trail or access way, and the County

assumes no liability for the user's decision to traverse any particular trail or access way. The County does not accept liability for injury to any person or for damage to a manually-powered mobility aid or OPDMD, whether caused by the operator, another visitor to a natural area's trail or facility, or any other circumstance.

- **Individuals with mobility disabilities should carefully consider whether their mobility device can safely operate under existing trail conditions and whether they have the specialized training/experience necessary to safely use their mobility device under extreme trail conditions.**
- The County reserves the right to change, modify, or amend this policy at any time.