

## **Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department (RCPRD)**

### **ADA Title II Rule change**

#### **OPDMD (Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices)**

Effective March 15, 2011, the RCPRD as well as other public agencies around the country, will allow appropriate OPDMDs in parks and trails to assist persons with mobility disabilities to more fully enjoy park areas, facilities and trails.

#### **What Is an OPDMD?**

OPDMD is a new term described in recent changes to 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.

#### **What Type of Device Can I Use?**

There are a number of factors to consider in defining the type of OPDMD that will be permitted including: safety of the user, safety of other park guests, and the protection of the natural resources. 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. RCPRD is currently evaluating our facilities to better define and more easily communicate which OPDMD's will be appropriate for our variety of conditions.

#### **How can I find out if a specific device is suitable?**

In the meantime, while these evaluations are in progress, we invite persons with mobility disabilities to contact RCPRD about use of devices that are currently prohibited to other park users (i.e., motorized OPDMDs) but may provide better access and enjoyment to you in a safe manner, considerate of the natural resources (see contact information below). RCPRD can provide a special pass to identify the specific OPDMD and the places where we mutually determine its use will be suitable. Once RCPRD completes its evaluation of trails and areas, RCPRD will communicate more detailed information about the use of OPDMDs on our web site and at RCPRD facilities. We are also in communication with state agencies and public park and recreation systems to develop a plan that may be consistently applied throughout the state. Please check back for updated information as we develop our program to improve accessibility.

#### **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 RCPRD Administrative Office at 651-748-2500 or checking the RCPRD web site, under "Trails."

#### **Contact Information**

Passes for Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices are available in person at the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department, 2015 N. Van Dyke Street, Maplewood, MN 55109. For additional information on OPDMDs or the most current information about trails and trail conditions, we recommend calling RCPRD Administrative Office at 651-748-2500 or checking the RCPRD web site, under "[Trails.](#)"