



# FOREST ACCESS POLICY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MOBILITY DISABILITIES

REVISED 5/4/2022

## **1. POLICY PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure Langlade County remains in conformance with title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S. C. 12131–12134), **as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADA Amendments Act) (Public Law 110–325, 122 Stat. 3553 (2008))**, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities.

Access requests under this policy will be limited to providing access to a specific site. An example of such a site may be a fishing location or hunting blind location. These locations must be directly accessible from existing trails or roads where motorized access is currently limited. No permits may be issued for use of mobility devices for the purposes of cross-country travel, motorized surveillance or hunting from a moving motorized device. Permits will be limited to the shortest possible distance from an open motorized roadway or trail to the specific site.

## **2. TYPES OF ACCESS AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

### ***A. USE OF WHEELCHAIRS AND MANUALLY-POWERED MOBILITY AIDS***

Any access open to pedestrian traffic on County Forest Lands shall permit individuals with mobility disabilities to use wheelchairs and manually-powered mobility aids, such as walkers, crutches, canes, braces, or other similar devices designed for use by individuals with mobility disabilities without the requirement of any permit. Such users shall do so at their own risk.

### ***B. USE OF OTHER POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICES.***

Langlade County will allow the use of other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD) by individuals with mobility disabilities in areas determined to be safe for use of the OPDMD described in the request for a permit. Permits will be without fee and the following conditions must be met:

1. The permittee must provide credible assurance that the power-driven mobility device is required by provision of one of the following:
  - Parking Identification Card issued by WI DOT
  - Disabled Parking License Plate Number
  - Disability Permit issued by WI DNR
  - Verbal assurance (*which is not contradicted by observable fact*)
2. The permittee must provide detailed description of the power-driven mobility device that will be used including the following:
  - Physical Description of PDMD (make, model, color)
  - Width of PDMD
  - Height of PDMD
  - Registration or License # as may be applicable

This data will be utilized to assess the safety of use and suitability in the area of requested



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- use.
3. The permittee must provide detailed location of the specific site to be accessed and a description of the trails that will be accessed by the power-driven mobility device to reach that site including:
    - Legal Description of General Area (Section, Town, Range)
    - Map of General Area (with assistance of the department)
    - Map of trail proposed to be utilized (with assistance of the department)
  4. Department Determination that based on the specific site and power-driven mobility device description assessment factors provided will:
    - Not create unsafe conditions for other pedestrian traffic in the area
    - Allow for safe operations within the confines of the facility or trail
    - Not create substantial risk of serious harm to the immediate environment or natural or cultural resources, or poses a conflict with Federal land management laws and regulations.
  5. The permittee must provide consent to the following limitations and conditions:
    - Only areas and trails listed in an issued permit will be utilized by the power-driven mobility device.
    - The applicant is responsible to observe all other applicable rules and regulations regarding the safe operation of the PDMD on the County property.
    - The PDMD shall not be operated in excess of 15 mph on any County trail;
    - The authorization to operate a PDMD is limited to the applicant only (*no passengers are allowed on the PDMD*);
    - The PDMD shall not be operated on any trail if the width of the PDMD (including the operator) exceeds 45% of the width of the trail;
    - The applicant is responsible for any damage that occurs as a result of the use of a PDMD under the terms of this Permit;
    - The PDMD may not tow a trailer;
    - No tree stands, blinds, or bait may be hauled on the PDMD.
    - The permit must be kept with applicant at all times while traveling on the Langlade County Forest in areas defined in the permit.
    - Permit is valid for 90 days after issued.
    - The Permittee agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Langlade County, its officials, officers, representatives, employees, and authorized agents from and against any and all penalties, liabilities, or losses resulting from claims or court actions, whether civil, criminal or in equity, which arise directly or indirectly out of the acts of the Permittee, its agents, servants, employees, guests, or visitors under this Permit, or by reason by any act or omission of such person(s), and/or arising out of duties or obligations under this Permit.
    - All gates must be closed and locked immediately after passing through them. A gate key permit and deposit (\$50.00) must be signed and on file at the Langlade County Forestry office.
    - The permit is limited to a specific entry point and area described on the permit



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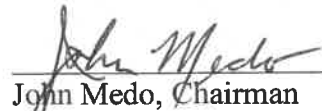
**3. PROCEDURE FOR PERMIT APPROVAL**

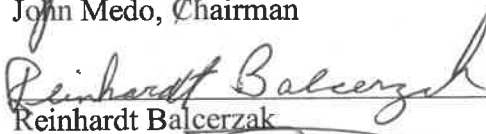
1. Provide the PDMD permit application to applicant.
2. Review information required with applicant. Advise applicant that all fields must be completed. Specific gated roads must be identified and only one point of entry will be approved.
3. Applications must be submitted to the Forest Administrator or designee to review.
4. Forest Administrator or designee will make determination on approval/denial in a prudent manner. If denied, the applicant can apply for another area, i.e., if denial was based on environmental issue (invasive species).
5. If approved, provide a copy of the approved for the applicant which must be carried when utilizing the PDMD
6. Complete placard for the permittee that must be placed and visible on the PDMD when in use
7. Complete the #1 Gate Key Authorization and have signed by the permittee
8. Collect the \$50 deposit from the permittee. Check box on permit to confirm receipt of deposit.

**4. APPROVAL**

The Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Committee officially approved this Forest Access Policy for Individuals with Mobility Disabilities by Committee action and this policy shall become effective \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ 2022.

**LANGLADE COUNTY  
FORESTRY & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Medo, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reinhardt Balcerzak

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Pierce

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Buck

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Mayr



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# Langlade County Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department Mobility Device Access Permit



Permit Location: [click here to enter text.](#)

Permittee: [click here to enter text.](#)

Device Permitted: [click here to enter text.](#)

Date Issued: [click here to enter text.](#)

Date Expires: [click here to enter text.](#)



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**Permit Terms and Conditions:**

1. This placard must be prominently displayed on the PDMD.
2. Permittee must carry PDMD permit and all attached documentation at all times of operation, and display the PDMD permit to the Department and its law enforcement officers on demand.
3. To operate only in areas specified in the permit and in a safe and responsible manner. Off trail operation is not permitted.
4. To comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
5. To clean and properly dispose of all soil, vegetation, and debris from device and clothing prior to each use.
6. Only the permittee shall occupy the device no passengers are allowed.
7. The permittee will not operate the PDMD in excess of [click here to enter text](#). mph.
8. Yield to all pedestrians by stopping and/or pulling over.
9. To adhere to all other restrictions, terms and conditions of the permit.

Map Attached

