



MOTOR VEHICLE ACCESS TO STATE LAND FOR PEOPLE WITH A MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT

Procedures for Application and Permitting

It is the policy of the Department of Environmental Conservation to provide a qualified person with a certified disability, access by a suitable motor vehicle to certain lands under its jurisdiction.

A qualified person with a certified disability who wants to access State land by a suitable motor vehicle, where either the desired location is closed to motor vehicles or is open to motor vehicles different from the type of motor vehicle desired to be used by that person, may do so only through the authority of a Permit. Such Permit shall provide that the qualified person with a certified disability is authorized to operate a suitable type of motor vehicle as designated in the Permit on all roads, trails and geographical areas designated by the Department for such use and elsewhere as specifically approved, consistent with current law and rules and regulations.

There is no restriction on or Permit needed by a person with a disability to access public lands by the use of a mechanized aid (wheelchair and related assistive devices).

In the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park, all motor vehicle access is restricted to designated and specifically marked roads in Wild Forest and Intensive Use Areas, and is prohibited on all lands classified as Wilderness, Canoe or Primitive Areas. Within Wild Forest and Intensive Use Areas, the use of an ATV is authorized only on roads specifically marked by a sign reading "ATV Access Route by Permit Only". ATV use is prohibited on all lands classified as Wilderness, Canoe or Primitive Areas. A person with a disability who wishes to use an ATV on the designated roads must obtain a Permit for that purpose.

- 1) A qualified person with a disability desiring to use a motor vehicle on designated Department roads, trails or geographical areas must first obtain a Permit. For the definition of a "qualified person with a disability", see the back of the "Certification of Mobility Impairment" form.
- 2) **Complete the Application form** - "Motor Vehicle Access for People with Disabilities Application for a Temporary Revocable Permit for the Use of State Lands". Be sure to sign and date the form. There is no fee for this Application.

3) **Have your Doctor complete and certify your qualifying disability**, using the “Certification of Mobility Impairment” form. The Regional Land Manager may waive the requirement for the “Certification of Mobility Impairment”, if he or she can see an obvious, visually identifiable permanent qualifying disability, or if you attach a copy of a current “Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit” issued by the Department to your Application.

4) If you want to have a single companion accompany you in order to provide necessary assistance, please indicate it in the space provided on the Application. (See number 6, below).

5) **Submit the “Application” and “Certification of Mobility Impairment” forms** to Albany (address is on Page 3) or any Regional Forestry Office of the Department. If approved, you will receive a Permit that will authorize travel on roads, trails or geographical areas which have been designated by the Department for the use of qualified people with disabilities using a suitable motor vehicle. Attached is a list of the Regional Offices.

6) The Permit shall specify the authorization for a companion to accompany the qualified person with a disability, if he/she chooses to be so accompanied. A copy of the Permit must be carried by the companion, and the companion should remain in sight of the permittee.

A suitable motor vehicle designed by the manufacturer for use by more than one person may be used to transport the qualified person with a disability and, when necessary to assist the qualified person with a disability, a companion to accomplish the purpose of the Permit.

Where the vehicle is not designed to accommodate more than one person, the qualified person with a disability may be accompanied by a companion using a vehicle designed for use by a single person. Any additional person(s) traveling with the person with a disability must do so on foot.

7) The Permit shall specify that in the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park, motor vehicle access is prohibited on trails and geographical areas and is limited to designated and specifically marked roads in Wild Forest and Intensive Use areas and prohibited on all lands classified as Wilderness, Canoe and Primitive areas.

8) There is **no fee** for the Application processing or for the Permit. If you are applying to use State land for a competitive event, please contact your local Regional Forestry Office for that Application and Instructions.

9) **If you wish to hunt from a motor vehicle**, you must also obtain a “Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit” and “Card ID” from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752, Tel: (518) 402-8985.

10) The operators of any type of vehicle must possess proof that they have met the statutory requirements for its operation.

11) Additional restrictions or stipulations may be imposed as necessary by the Regional Land Manager on a case-by-case basis. Any restrictions imposed are designed to protect the environment.

12) The Permit may be issued for any time period, not to exceed one year from date of issue, except that a Permit may be issued for a period of five years to a qualified person with a disability either certified or visually obvious as permanent.

13) The Permit may be renewed without re-certifying the disability, provided that the request for renewal is within the term of the disability as described in the original certification. You may request the renewal Application from Albany or any Department Regional Office.

14) If the Application is not approved, you will be notified in writing of that decision, including the reason(s) why the Application was not approved. You have the right to appeal that decision to the Department's Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources.

NYS DEC

Division of Lands and Forests

625 Broadway, 5th Floor

Albany, NY 12233-4254

518-473-9518

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