

July 8, 2025

RDN Launches TrailRider Pilot Program for the Summer

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has launched the TrailRider program to improve access to RDN parks. This program will help residents with mobility challenges to enjoy accessible trails within our region. The summer pilot program is running until the end of August 2025, with trained RDN staff providing orientation for TrailRider program participants. The program's success will be reviewed after the summer to explore possible expansion.

The TrailRider is a one-wheeled mobility device powered by two or more people that combines the features of a wheelchair and a rickshaw, enabling inclusive outdoor trail access. The TrailRider mobility device being used for the RDN pilot program was generously donated by local resident Murray Chantler who wants others to have the same opportunity he has had to explore trails.

Interested trail riders can contact RDN Parks at 250-248-4744 or recparks@rdn.bc.ca to arrange for orientation and access to the trail rider. To learn about RDN parks, visit rdn.bc.ca/parks-services.

Quotes

"We're pleased to pilot this exciting program which has seen success in other regions. Improvements to enhance safe and equitable access to parks where possible, whether through the TrailRider program or through other types of park improvements such as level trails, tapping rails, or audio recordings of natural habitat information, ensures more residents can enjoy the beautiful parks in our region."

Vanessa Craig, Chair, Regional District of Nanaimo

"I am very pleased that the RDN, through their Recreation and Parks Department, has agreed to partner with me in the interest of expanding recreational opportunities for the disabled in the Oceanside community. We are blessed with an abundance of natural beauty on Vancouver Island and the TrailRider allows those of us who are mobility challenged to access hiking trails and other recreational areas with our families and friends."

Murray Chantler

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