

Strathcona Park TrailRider Wheelchair Program



(photos - compliments of BCMOS - The BC Mobility Opportunities Society)

What is a "TrailRider"?

The TrailRider is a unique single-tire wheelchair designed to allow individuals living with physical disabilities to explore and enjoy the outdoors. Assisted by 2-6 operators or "sherpas", this unit provides opportunities for participants to access and explore terrain and trails that might otherwise be beyond their limits. The TrailRider has been tested on various terrains from Mount Everest base camp, to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro as well as city parks, provincial wilderness areas and everything in between.

Once fully funded, the Strathcona Park TrailRider program will be offered by the non-profit Strathcona Wilderness Institute (SWI) in partnership with BC Parks and totally dependent on volunteers. SWI will always be looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help push/pull the TrailRider and who enjoy hiking and eager to share that experience with those who may never have had that opportunity.

Each volunteer will work as part of a team to assist in guiding the TrailRider (either pushing or pulling the unit) along existing trails.

Video of TrailRider in use:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7ZQWswTFu8>

History of the TrailRider:

(extracted from the BC Mobility Opportunities Society website)

As a teenager, Sam Sullivan enjoyed hiking in the wilderness of British Columbia and promised himself that he would return to it regularly. But in 1979, at age 19, he broke his neck in a skiing accident and became a quadriplegic. The wilderness seemed forever out of his reach but Sam pursued his passion and founded the BC Mobility Opportunities Societies (BCMOS) in 1985, with a goal to make it possible for

people with significant disabilities to access BC's great outdoors.

In 1988, Sam met Paul Cermak, a volunteer with the Tetra Society, another organization founded by Sam, which recruits engineers and technicians to create customized assistive devices for people with disabilities. Sam and Paul became friends fast and one day in 1995, over lunch, they sketched a design of the "bush chair" on the back of a serviette. Within a week Paul produced a prototype made from a recycled aluminum lawn chair and after a series of design modifications, the first functional TrailRider was crafted. That summer, Sam went camping overnight for the first time since his injury, fulfilling the promise he made to himself. Since that time the TrailRider has experienced steady refinement. Along with the development of other equipment, such as specialized protective clothing, hiking and camping is now entirely possible for everyone.

Today, BCMOS is the leading not-for-profit association in British Columbia Canada providing challenging outdoor recreational activities for people with significant disabilities. Based out of Vancouver in Pacific Spirit Regional Park, BCMOS completes over 200 hikes each season.

View BCMOS website here: <http://www.bcmos.org/main/index.php>



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Strathcona Park TrailRider Wheelchair Program:

The Strathcona Park TrailRider program is focused on providing access to Strathcona Provincial Park, specifically the Forbidden Plateau area through TrailRider dayhike adventures. Other areas may be offered in the future, but the unit will be available on loan (\$10 maintenance and administration fee will apply) for independent adventures.

Strathcona Park website: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/strath/>

PHOTOS: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/strath/photos/>

Highlights of the program:

As a Rider:

- Experience new places – visit areas you never thought possible
- Friendship – meet new people all with the same passion for the outdoors
- Enjoy the outdoors – experience backcountry nature up close
- Challenge – enjoy doing something a bit different in a safe and supported way
- Fun – a hike with others is always fun!

As a Volunteer Sherpa:

- Enriching an individual's quality of life by providing opportunities to explore hard to access backcountry areas.

- Team work – become part of a new team of friends or strengthen existing teams.
- Community involvement – contribute to community spirit and inclusiveness
- Physical activity – explore new areas while improving your own health and fitness
- It's fun! A day hike is enjoyable and doing that hike with others is even better, but sharing that experience with someone for the first time provides long lasting great memories.

If you are interested in being a rider or volunteer Sherpa, or know someone who might enjoy adventuring into the backcountry of Strathcona Park on day trips, we strongly encourage you to get involved with us!

NOTE: The 2014 season is the start-up year for this program involving planning, logistics development, volunteer recruitment, equipment acquisition and first time trips. Therefore there may only be limited trips while the program evolves. However, to ensure ongoing success, it is hoped that both volunteers and "riders" will contact the Coordinator, Kyle Smith, at the email address or phone number listed below, to get your name on our lists for future trips. Thank you for your support.

No Costs:

While a \$10.00 maintenance and administration donation is requested for each single day use, this amount will be waived if affordability is a factor. There are no other costs associated with the program. The intent of the program is to make the backcountry accessible to as many people as possible.

Access to Other TrailRiders:

Although the Strathcona TrailRider program is new in 2014, there are other TrailRiders around for public use. The two closest units within the same region are at City of Campbell River, Recreation and Culture Department <http://sci-bc-database.ca> 250-286-1161 and in Powell River with the Powell River Mobility Opportunities Society <http://prmos.org>

How to get involved:

We are always looking for volunteers to help push/pull the TrailRider on every scheduled outing. To explore using the TrailRider or to get on the volunteer list please contact Kyle Smith for more information and/or bookings.

Kyle Smith:

Email: KSmith-Trailrider@outlook.com

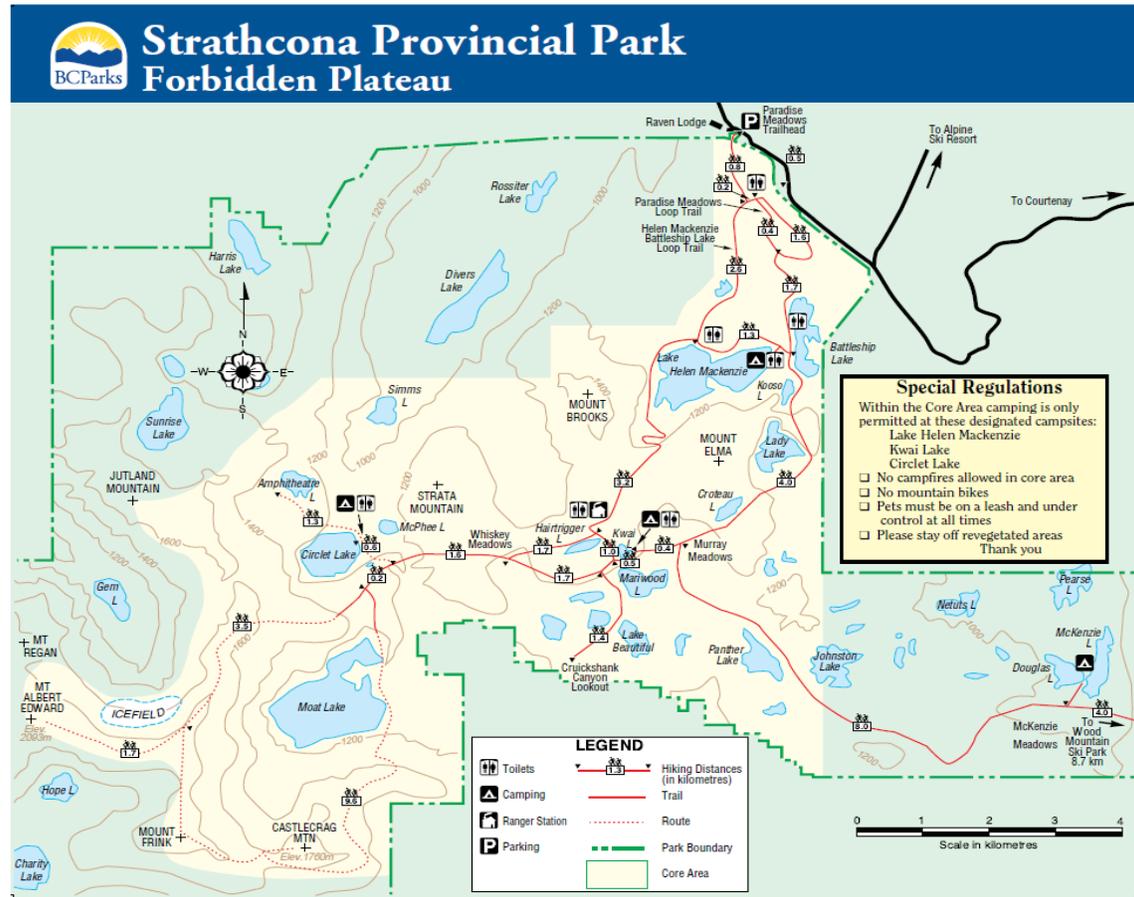
Phone: (250) 898-7919

Other contacts/Links:

View BCMOS website here: <http://www.bcmos.org/main/index.php>

Strathcona Park website: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/strath/>

Forbidden Plateau Map



PDF version can be found at the following website link:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/strath/strath_forbidden_area.pdf

Photos of Strathcona Park
Forbidden Plateau Area:









Trailrider Loan Procedures:

The following procedures are applicable for persons wishing to borrow the TrailRider for personal use.

1. Loan Fees

A nominal fee of \$10 per trip/use is required prior to equipment use. This fee covers administration and maintenance costs. If the borrower requests the equipment for longer than one day, another \$10 per week is charged (providing that the TrailRider is not previously booked).

2. Damage Deposit

A damage deposit of \$100 (cash, cheque or VISA/MC imprint) is required prior to use. Cheques and VISA imprints are not processed, but are held until the equipment is returned. Upon the return of equipment, a staff person thoroughly inspects the equipment's condition. If no damage is noted, cheques/imprints are destroyed or cash is returned.

3. Conditions for Borrowing

No one will be permitted to borrow the TrailRider unless they have:

- a) Completed an orientation for the use of the TrailRider with a Strathcona Wilderness Institute designated volunteer.
- b) Fully completed, signed, dated and had witnessed the EQUIPMENT RENTAL WAIVER and RENTAL INFORMATION FORM.
- c) Given written notification of route, date(s) and time(s) of trip. Equipment cannot be used outside of these parameters without notification to the Strathcona Wilderness Institute.
- d) Provided to the Strathcona Wilderness Institute a photocopy of their Driver's Licence or other Picture ID (e.g. BC ID card) with their current address as identification.

4. Bookings & Pick Up of Equipment

All bookings are recorded and must be booked a minimum of 24 hours in advance.

Availability of volunteer staff to do the orientation may determine whether or not the equipment is available in 24 hours. Pick up and drop off times need to be arranged with the Strathcona Wilderness Institute but generally between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm during seasonal operating period (July 1st to September 30th). During the winter and shoulder periods, it may be possible to access the TrailRider by contacting Strathcona Wilderness Institute to discuss proposed use.