State Parks Beach Wheelchairs Frequently Asked Questions

Which state beaches offer beach wheelchairs?

Manresa, Sunset, Palm, New Brighton, Seacliff, Seabright, Twin Lakes, and Natural Bridges all offer beach wheelchairs.

Who can I call for more information on availability and usage, or to start the reservation process?

You can contact the State Park Special Events Office at SCD.specialevents@parks.ca.gov or 831-335-8487, Monday to Thursday excluding holidays, between 8:00am and 4:30pm. Email is preferred.

Can I reserve a beach wheelchair?

Yes. We strongly recommend you contact the State Park Special Events Office in advance to reserve a beach wheelchair.

What about requesting a wheelchair during the weekend?

We highly recommend that you plan ahead and reserve a wheelchair prior to the weekend. Wheelchairs that haven't been reserved can be requested during a weekend on the day of by speaking with a State Park staff member at a lifeguard tower, visitor center, or a kiosk.

Can I use a beach wheelchair without a reservation?

Yes. Any wheelchair that hasn't already been reserved is available on a first-come, first-served basis. We strongly recommend that you coordinate ahead to reserve your beach wheelchair.

Does it cost anything?

State Parks' beach wheelchairs are free to use. You will need to fill out a checkout form, provide contact information and a valid ID (license, real ID, passport, etc.) to take the wheelchair.

How long can I use the beach wheelchair?

Beach wheelchairs can typically be picked up after 9am and must be returned by 5pm.

Will my reservation be valid if I am late to pick up the beach wheelchair?

A reservation is valid up to one hour after the specified pick-up time. If the wheelchair is not picked up after the one-hour grace period, it will be made available for others to use. Please make sure to contact your designated state park staff (provided at the time of reservation) to inform them if you will be late.

What type of beach wheelchair is available?

The wheelchairs available are a standard fixed-frame, all-terrain, stainless steel model, with removable swing-away armrests. These wheelchairs can get wet but do not float.

Are there any restrictions for beach wheelchair use?

The beach wheelchairs can accommodate weight up to 300lbs and have a seat width of 18 inches. All are equipped with seatbelts, but none have chest straps. Please bring your own chest strap if needed.

Can I take the wheelchair to another beach or location?

No. A beach wheelchair can only be used at its designated location and cannot be taken offsite.

What if I want to use a beach wheelchair for more than a day?

There are other organizations, such as Shared Adventures, that rent beach wheelchairs for more than a day. Please visit www.sharedadventures.org for more information.

Special thanks to the California State Coastal Conservancy for a generous grant to Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks for the Beach Wheelchair Program.