

# Improving accessibility for people with disability in forest reserves

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Environment  
and Water

# Disability Statistics

- Spectrum of disability is wide and varied
- 4.4 million Australians living with a disability,



# Context for access and inclusion

- United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Disability Inclusion Act 2018
- Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023
- DEW Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020-2024
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)



# Health and Wellbeing Benefits

- Spending extended time outdoors has enormous health and wellbeing benefits.
- Contact with nature is critical for our physical, mental, social and spiritual health
- People with disabilities find it more difficult to access our natural environment



# Accessible Outdoors Program

- Bedford Group
- NPWS
- SA Water
- ForestrySA
- Nature Play SA



# Accessible Outdoors Program

## Activities



# Accessible Outdoors Program

Extended to 6-12month program with possibility of creating a permanent program within Bedford.



# Accessible Outdoors Program

[Bedford Day Options' Accessible Outdoors Program - Tree Climb \(May 2024\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Day Options' Accessible Outdoors Program - Snorkelling \(youtube.com\)](#)



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# Designing and building with disability in mind

- Basic services and experiences must be accessible to visitors of all abilities, while maintaining the intrinsic qualities and values of the forest reserve
- Incorporating accessibility into the design of areas must begin early in the planning process
- Maintenance can also be an opportunity to improve accessibility
- Accessibility is to be considered up front, not as an afterthought and should include people with a lived experience.



Equality



Equity



Accessibility

# Universal Design

- The best way to integrate accessibility is to use the principles of universal design
- Seven guiding principles-



1. Equitable use
2. Flexibility in use
3. Simple and intuitive use
4. Perceptible information
5. Tolerance of error
6. Low physical effort
7. Size and space for approach and use



# Things to Consider

- Good access between facilities or features in forest reserves.
- Watch for changes in levels
- Width of access routes and trails
- Access gate and barrier placement





# MT Push and ETrike

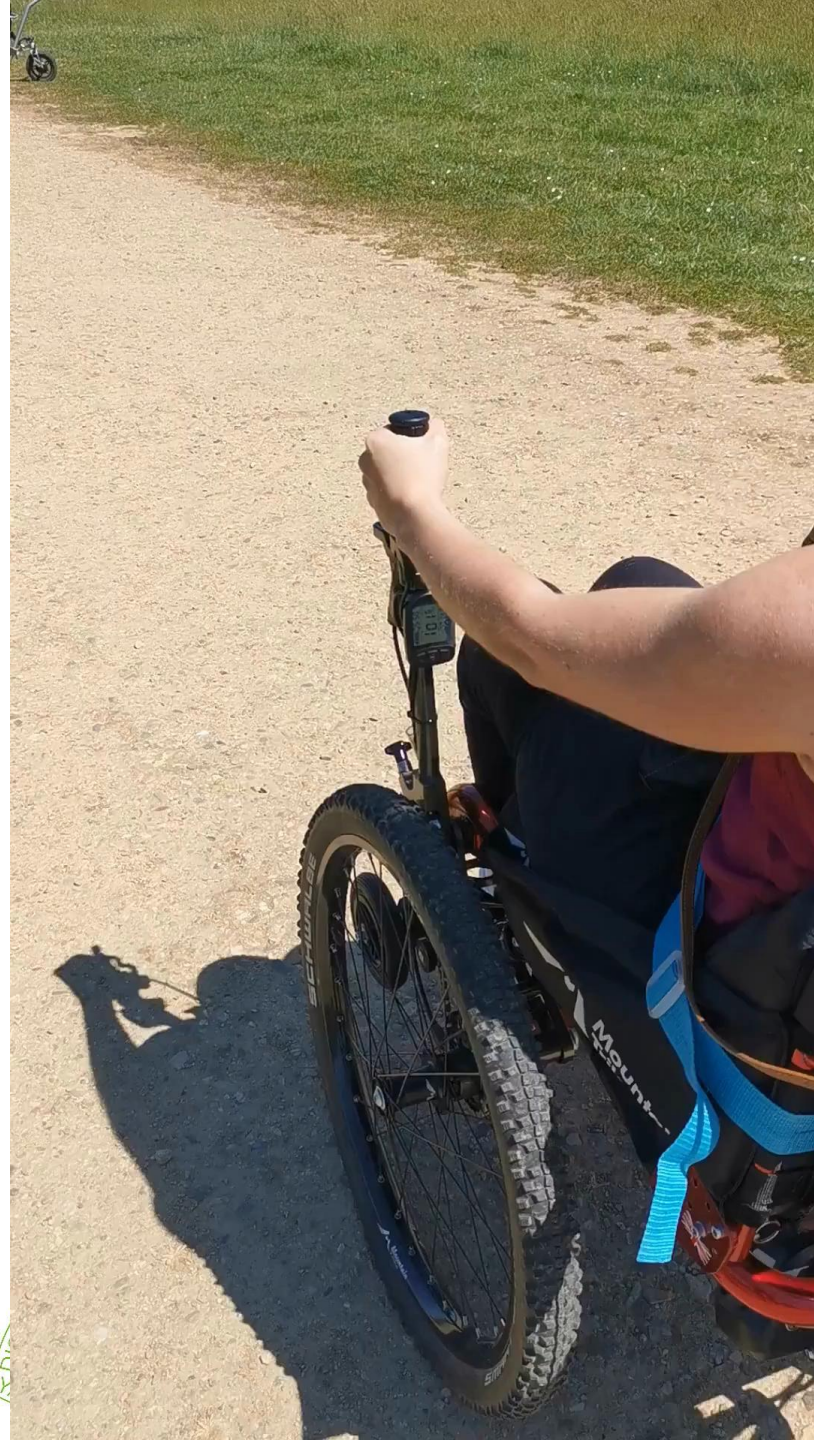
- 2 Types of chairs
- MT Push for non independent users
- Etrike for independent users



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Opening  
the Door  
to Nature



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**“It is only impossible until it’s  
done”** Nelson Mandela

