

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 12, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John H. Carnifax, Jr., Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Ordinance to Amend and Reordain Chapter 16, Public Parks and Recreation Facilities, Article II, Regulations Governing Public Parks and Recreation Facilities, Section 16-12, Control of Animals

Section 16-12 of the James City County Code of Ordinances prohibits dogs from being off-leash in County parks and recreation facilities.

In response to citizen interest in providing off-leash areas for dogs in County parks, staff has identified four locations where this type of area could be established. However, in order to offer this opportunity, an amendment to the County Code of Ordinances is required so that dogs can legally be off-leash in a County park. It is staff's intent to operate these areas on a trial basis in order to evaluate the effectiveness and potential to become a permanent addition to our park amenities.

Several communities around the country have implemented off-leash areas with great success and staff will be monitoring and working cooperatively with our Animal Control Division and citizens to ensure that these areas are utilized appropriately. If conflict or safety issues surface at any of the parks that are of a greater frequency than currently exist, we will either eliminate or adjust the locations of the off-leash areas as needed.

The proposed Code amendment would allow dogs to be off-leash in County parks only in areas designated for such by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Staff recommends approval of the attached Ordinance to Amend and Reordain Chapter 16, Public Parks and Recreation Facilities, Article II, Regulations Governing Public Parks and Recreation Facilities, Section 16-12, Control of Animals.

JHC/md
Ch16-12AnimCtrl-mem

Attachments