

**TO: Williamsburg City Council
James City County Board of Supervisors**

DATE: November 4, 2004

SUBJECT: Joint Recommendation on Regional Dog Park

For the past few months, staffs of James City County and the City of Williamsburg have discussed a potential for a joint venture to develop a regional dog park.

The dog park contemplated would consist of a fenced area, partly wooded and partly open, of approximately 1.5 acres where owners can allow their dogs to run freely, similar to the Sandy Bottom Bark Park in Hampton (see photo). The dog park would include the following amenities:

- Separate fenced areas, one for smaller dogs and one for larger dogs.
- Split rail with wire mesh fencing.
- Double gated entry/exit.
- Drinking water for people and dogs.
- Seating areas.
- Nearby parking.
- Signs acknowledging the partnership and posting dog park rules.

Waller Mill Park, located in York County on Airport Road and owned by the City of Williamsburg, has been identified as a good location for the following reasons:

- The park has good access via Route 60 or Rochambeau Drive.
- Waller Mill offers a beautiful wooded setting with views of the Reservoir.
- The park has ancillary amenities such as restrooms, vending machines, picnic tables and pavilions.

- The park is attended with City Parks and Recreation staff.
- The park has adequate parking, and land area for more parking if needed.
- Owners are required to cleanup after their dogs thereby protecting water quality of the reservoir.

The staff supports a modest membership fee, to be determined by the operating entity, of \$10.00 per year. In addition to annual memberships, a provision for short term guests can be made. The fee would be used to:

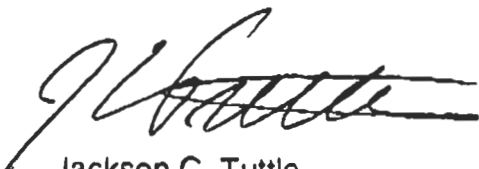
- Offset the ongoing operating costs, and renewal and replacement costs, of the dog park.
- Support upkeep of ancillary facilities such as parking and restrooms.
- Foster in dog park "members" a sense of ownership for the care and cleanliness of the park.

Preliminary discussions with York County have indicated that there may be an interest in York County joining the partnership. We suggest that Williamsburg and James City proceed with the joint venture, inviting York to participate on an equitable basis.

Initial start up and capital costs of developing the dog park - including land clearing and preparation, 1300 feet of fencing and running potable water to the site, benches, signs and water fountains - are estimated at approximately \$50,000, including the cost of some in kind construction by city crews. The proposal is that James City County would make a one time contribution to the City of \$25,000. The City would complete the improvements and operate the dog park. Should York County choose to come as a partner, they would be asked to provide an initial start up contribution as the parties may agree.

With the approval of the governing bodies as to the concept, a letter of agreement would be executed as outlined above. We anticipate that construction on the dog park can be completed within six months of receipt of capital funds.

Recommendation: That the Board of Supervisors of James City County and the City Council of City of Williamsburg endorse the concept of a regional dog park at Waller Mill Park and direct the staffs to implement the project.



Jackson C. Tuttle
City Manager
City of Williamsburg



Sanford B. Wanner
County Administrator
James City County

