

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Town of Fletcher Proposal to Build a Dog Park at Westfeldt Park

PRESENTER: Selena Coffey introduction followed by Mark Beiberdorf, Fletcher

ATTACHMENTS: Final Proposal for Westfeldt Dog Park by Town of Fletcher

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

At their October 20, 2010 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board heard a proposal to locate two fenced dog park areas within the County's Westfeldt Park. This project will be 100% funded by the Town of Fletcher. During the initial presentation, the Board requested that County staff and the Town of Fletcher work with the family who originally donated the land to the County to get their input on the concept and location. County staff and Town representatives have collaborated with the donor family and have agreed upon the location for the dog park areas.

Attached you will find a map showing the revised location for the dog park areas (initially proposed for alongside Old Fanning Bridge Road). Also provided is the original narrative proposal from the Town of Fletcher, provided for your background information.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff requests that the Board of Commissioners approve this revised proposal by the Town of Fletcher

Suggested Motion:

I move that the Board direct staff to move forward with this project working with the Town of Fletcher to finalize their plans for the dog park at Westfeldt including the County Manager/Assistant County Manager's execution of an agreement with the Town based on their proposal with the County having no financial commitment.



WESTFELDT PARK—Proposed Dog Park

Town of Fletcher Proposal to Build a Dog Park at Westfeldt Park

Background for Request:

The demand for a dog park in Fletcher has been one of the top recreational facility requests that the Town receives from the public. It has received enough attention to also be included as a capital facility item in our annual budget. The Town's dilemma has been where to construct the dog park.

It would seem logical to construct a dog park at Fletcher Community Park. This is our marquee destination for recreational activities. However, we have had several problems with trying to locate an acceptable site either within or near the Park. Our biggest obstacle has been other planned uses for open space within the existing Park. The other has been an inability to gain permission to use adjoining property that would also be a suitable location.

As a result of these struggles in identifying an acceptable location, Town Council came up with a suggestion from our last budget retreat. The suggestion was made to place the dog park at the County owned Westfeldt Park. Westfeldt was suggested for several reasons. First, it is a park that does not have a significant amount of traffic or use by the public. Second, it is a location that is still within the Town of Fletcher. Third, there is space at this site for this type of a use.

The Town has also discussed this concept with multiple parties. Staff from the Town first approached Henderson County staff to see if this something that would be feasible. The Town's Parks & Advisory has looked at the site and provided their input. The Town has also used its Connect-Cty calling system to survey its residents on interest in the dog park at this location.

Description of Proposed Facility:

The Town of Fletcher would like to construct two dog runs that would comprise the dog park area. The first dog run would be for larger dogs. The dimensions would be 200 feet by 200 feet. The second dog run would be for smaller dogs and consist of a 150 foot by 100 foot area. Approximately 2 acres will be needed to construct the dog runs and have a reasonable buffer around the fenced in areas.

Other amenities that were identified as desirable for the dog park but not absolutely necessary were the following:

- More parking spaces at the entrance of the park.
- Water access for the dogs.

- Rest rooms
- Sun shade or a shelter
- Signage identifying the dog park area and a list of the rules

The Town of Fletcher is proposing to build the base facility out of its Park Development Fund. The approximate cost to do this is \$12,000. Other amenities could be added either through fund raisers, contributions from outside groups, or contributions from the County.

A map outlining the proposed area of the park where this would located is attached for your review.

Next Steps In The Process:

The Town of Fletcher would like to enter to discussions with Henderson County to consider a long-term lease for a dog park area at Westfeldt Park. The Town would pay to construct the dog park and be responsible for maintenance of the facility. In return the County would be providing to the Town and area residents a long-term location at no cost to the Town.

The Town would like to make a formal presentation of this request to the Board of Commissioners. It is our hope that if this proposal can be approved by the Board that the facility would be built in the fall of 2010.