

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: October 20, 2010

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

ATTACHMENTS: Town of Fletcher Proposal

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Representatives from the Town of Fletcher will be in attendance at this meeting to present a proposal for building a dog park at the County-owned Westfeldt Park. This facility is proposed to be built and operated by the Town of Fletcher and comprised of two fenced areas to allow dogs to run off-leash while accompanied by their owners. The area proposed for the dog park is located in the open field at the front of the park along Old Fanning Bridge Road.

Staff has met with the Town's Manager and Recreation Director are in general agreement with the concept of the proposal, given that it is being proposed at no County cost and addresses one of the projects identified within the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment completed in 2007.

Obviously, if the Board of Commissioners wishes for staff to continue in negotiations with the Town of Fletcher with regard to this request, staff would need to evaluate and make some revisions to the Animal Ordinance and would recommend entering into a formal agreement with the Town of Fletcher for this project.

Attached you will find the Town of Fletcher proposal for your review.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff requests that the Board of Commissioners discuss the Town of Fletcher proposal and give County staff direction as to how it wishes to proceed.

Suggested Motion:

I move that the Board authorize staff to further negotiate with the Town of Fletcher and draft an agreement with the Town based on their proposal with the County having no financial commitment and that the agreement be brought back to the Board of Commissioners for approval at a future meeting; And further that staff make the necessary revisions to the Animal Ordinance to address the issues pertaining to allowing animals to be off-leash within the confined areas approved for project.

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.

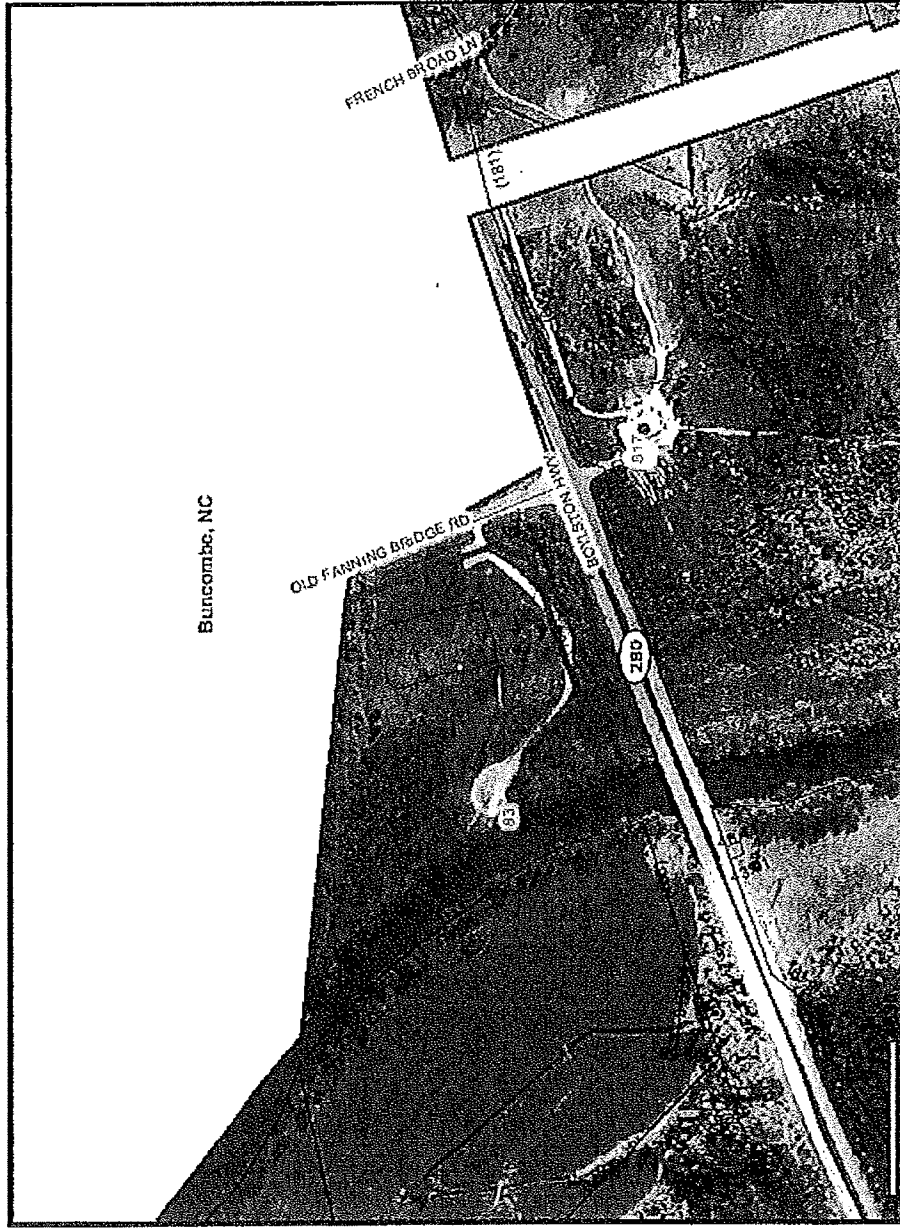
A map outlining the proposed area of the park where this would located is attached for your review.

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.

GoMAPS - Henderson County NC Public Access



LEGEND

- NC_State_Line
- County_Boundary
- Parcels
- Lot_Line_Hooks_Leader_Line
- Parcels_Hooks
- Parcels_Leader_Line
- Parcels_Lot_Line
- ISO_Courtesy
- NC_Courtesy
- Streets
- Major_Roads
- Addresses
- Aerial_Photo_2007

Tuesday, June 29 2010

WARNING: THIS IS NOT A SURVEY!

This map is prepared for the inventory of real property found within this jurisdiction, and is compiled from recorded deeds, plats, and other public records and data. Users of this map are hereby notified that the aforementioned public primary information sources should be consulted for verification of the information contained on this map. The County and mapping company assume no legal responsibility for the information contained on this map.