



Howard County

RECREATION & PARKS

SUBJECT: *Testimony Regarding Revisions to Title 19*

TO: Lonnie R. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer
Department of County Administration

FROM: A. Raul Delerme, Director
Department of Recreation and Parks

DATE: May 25, 2021

The Department of Recreation & Parks has proposed legislation for revisions to Title 19 - Recreation and Parks, Subtitle 2. - Park Land, Open Space and Natural Resource Regulations. The intent of this legislation is to make necessary revisions due to changes in technology and recreational trends over time; some sections of Title 19 have not been reviewed/changed since 1971. Most of the sections in Title 19 have not been reviewed/changed since 2004. The Department undertook a comprehensive review of Title 19 with assistance from the Office of Law to establish an up-to-date document.

There are no fiscal impacts associated with the recommended revision of Title 19.

Some examples of technological changes include: Electric bikes and scooters, unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones), off-road vehicles (ATVs), vaping

Some examples of recreational trends include: Paddle boarding, walkathons, deer management, geocaching

The most significant revisions are:

1. The addition of language to enhance protection of cultural and historic resources
2. Inclusion of no smoking or vaping in county parks and facilities. An older Executive order banned smoking in parks, but it was never included in the Code.
3. Strengthened the enforcement language for off-leash dogs
4. Revised the non-discrimination language to be consistent with the County's position
5. Strengthened the language regarding unauthorized use of county parks by for-profit commercial individuals and companies and non-profit entities

If you have any questions, I can be reached by email at rdelerme@howardcountymd.gov or by cell at (410) 370-6721.

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