

March 21, 2021

Council Bill No. 49-2021 Testimony Regarding Revisions to Title 19

Testimony given by John Marshall, Acting Director of Recreation & Parks. Michael Milani, Bureau Chief of Administrative Services, and Kevin Vest, Operations Supervisor III, were in attendance.

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 but are not limited to: Electric bikes and scooters, unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones), off-road vehicles (ATVs), vaping

Some examples of recreational trends include but are not limited to: 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

We would be happy to answer any question you may have at this time.