

MOTION: NOHE

**June 20, 2017
Regular Meeting
Ord. No. 17-40**

SECOND: CANDLAND

**RE: TO CONSIDER AMENDING PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CODE
CHAPTER 17 – PARKS AND RECREATION, SECTION 17-1:
DEFINITIONS, SECTION 17-42: CARRYING OR DISCHARGING
WEAPONS, AND SECTION 17-43: MOLESTING, HUNTING, ETC.,
WILDLIFE**

ACTION: APPROVED

WHEREAS, an internal working group was established to actively endorse and promote wildlife management programs on private lands, promote existing federal and state wildlife management programs, and explore the feasibility of wildlife management activities on County land; and

WHEREAS, the working group consists of the Prince William County Department of Public Works, Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Executive Management Communications, Police Department, Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, a list of recommendations was drafted by the working group to address the analysis of information on white-tailed deer, their habits, and their impacts on people, landscapes, and ecosystems in Prince William County; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations include adaptive deer management alternatives that are available to reduce deer-human conflict that include a Pilot Archery Deer Management Program; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2017, by Resolution Number 17-167, the Board of County Supervisors authorized County staff to develop a Pilot Archery Deer Management Program at Locust Shade Park, Doves Landing Park, and Rippon Lodge Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Supervisors is authorized under VA Code Ann. Sections 15.2-1800 and 15.2-1209, to regulate the outdoor discharge of arrows from bows on County-owned parkland; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement a managed hunt on County parklands, the alignment of certain provisions of the County Code with the applicable Virginia statutory provisions is necessary; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing duly advertised was conducted on this date for the purpose of considering adoption of the proposed amendments to Sections 17-1, 17-42 and 17-43 of the Prince William County Code; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Supervisors finds it appropriate and in the public interest to adopt these amendments; and

WHEREAS, Section 17-1 of the County Code requires the addition of a definition of the term "Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program" as "the program approved and implemented by the County, as authorized by the County Executive or his/her designee, which employs specified activities to reduce deer-human conflict, including archery hunting of deer on select County-owned lands"; and

WHEREAS, Section 17-42 of the County Code prevents the outdoor discharge of arrows from bows on County parkland; and, in the absence of an amendment to this section of the County Code to read as follows "except as expressly authorized by and in compliance with the Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program", this activity is prohibited on County-owned parkland; and

WHEREAS, Section 17-43 of the County Code bars private citizens from hunting or chasing wildlife, including deer, on park property owned by the County; and without an amendment to read as follows "Section 17-42(a) shall not apply to any person expressly authorized by the Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program as defined in Section 17-1, and participating in the Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program in compliance with the terms and conditions of such the Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program, the County Code bars archery hunting on all County parkland;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby adopt the attached amendments to the Prince William County Code, Chapter 17 – Parks and Recreation, Section 17-1: Definitions, Section 17-42: Carrying or Discharging Weapons, and Section 17-43: Molesting, Hunting, etc., Wildlife to be effective July 1, 2017.

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed County Code Chapter 17, Section 17-1: *Definitions*
Proposed County Code Chapter 17, Section 17-42: *Carrying or Discharging Weapons*
Proposed County Code Chapter 17, Section 17-43: *Molesting, Hunting, etc., Wildlife*

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Votes:

Ayes: Anderson, Candland, Jenkins, Lawson, Nohe, Principi, Stewart

Nays: None

Absent from Vote: Caddigan

Absent from Meeting: None

For Information:

Chief of Police

County Attorney

ATTEST: _____


Clerk to the Board

CHAPTER 17 – PARKS AND RECREATION

ARTICLE I. – IN GENERAL

Sec. 17-1. – Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words or phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

“Park or recreation area” means all land owned or leased by the County or operated by the County as a park or recreation area and open to the general public for park or recreation purposes.

“Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program” means the program approved and implemented by the County, as authorized by the County Executive or his/her designee, which employs specified activities to reduce deer-human conflict, including archery hunting of deer on select County-owned lands.

ARTICLE II. – PARK REGULATIONS

Sec. 17-42. - Carrying or discharging weapons.

- (a) The discharging, in any park, of any firearm, air gun, gas gun, spring operated gun, BB gun, slingshot, dart device or bow and arrow is prohibited, except as: (1) expressly authorized by and in compliance with the Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program, (2) specifically authorized by the County Executive or his/her designee for purposes of this section in connection with a supervised recreational activity, or (3) may be carried by a duly authorized law enforcement officer.
- (b) A violation of this section shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-17; Ord. No. 04-39, 6-22-04, effective 7-1-04; Ord. No. 12-27, Attch., 6-5-12, effective 7-1-12)

Sec. 17-43. - Molesting, hunting, etc., wildlife.

- (a) No person shall molest, harm, frighten, kill, net, trap, snare, hunt, chase, or shoot or throw or propel by any means missiles at, any wildlife creature, be it animal, bird or reptile, on park property; provided that, this shall not apply to any law enforcement officer in the performance of his official duties.
- (b) Section 17-42(a) shall not apply to any person expressly authorized by the Prince William County Archery Deer Management Program (“Program”), as defined in Section 17-1, and participating in such Program in compliance with the terms and conditions of such Program.
- (c) A violation of this section shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor.

(Code 1965, § 13.2-4; Ord. No. 92-61, 6-23-92)

Cross reference - Animals and fowl, Ch. 4.