



City of North Port

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-R-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA AMENDING AND RESTATING THE DESIGNATION OF DOG-FRIENDLY AREAS IN SPECIFIED CITY PARKS; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR RATIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 10-31 of the City of North Port Code adopts and enforces the Sarasota County Animal Control Ordinance within the City of North Port; and

WHEREAS, Section 14-48 of the Sarasota County Code prohibits animals in certain public areas, including parks, but allows for certain sites to be specifically designated by resolution for activities involving animals such as dogs; and

WHEREAS, Section 14-48 of the Sarasota County Code requires dog owners to immediately pick up after their pets and dispose of their waste in a lawful manner; and

WHEREAS, Section 14-41 of the Sarasota County Code requires that dogs shall not be permitted to run at large and shall be leashed; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Port recognizes that citizens and visitors wish to enjoy public outdoor recreational spaces with their dogs; and

WHEREAS, dog parks (also known as paw parks) serve as places where dogs can safely be off-leash in a fenced area specifically designed for such use and dog-friendly parks are places where pets are welcome, but must be leashed at all times within the areas designated as such; and

WHEREAS, designating dog-friendly areas in parks will contribute to the health and wellbeing of dogs and their owners; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2017, the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida adopted Resolution No. 2017-R-18 designating dog-friendly areas in sixteen specified City of North Port parks; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to expand the designated dog-friendly areas to include two additional City park locations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1 – INCORPORATION OF RECITALS

1.01 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated in this resolution by reference.

SECTION 2 – DESIGNATION OF DOG-FRIENDLY AREAS IN CITY PARKS

2.01 The City Commission hereby amends Section 2.02 of Resolution No. 2017-R-18 to add Boca Chica Park and the Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway Trail to the list of designated dog-friendly areas.

2.02 The Commission hereby restates that all areas of the following parks are dog-friendly areas, except any areas of said parks that include playgrounds, courts, batting cages or sports fields.

- i. Blue Ridge Park
- ii. Butler Park
- iii. Boca Chica Park
- iv. City Center Front Green
- v. Dallas White Park
- vi. Highland Ridge Park
- vii. Hope Park
- viii. Kirk Park
- ix. LaBrea Park
- x. Marina Park
- xi. Marius Park
- xii. McKibben Park
- xiii. Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park
- xiv. Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway Trail
- xv. Oaks Park
- xvi. Pine Park
- xvii. Veterans Park
- xviii. Sumter Boulevard Linear Park

2.03 The Commission hereby restates that the Canine Club as a dog Park, the entirety of which is a leash-free recreational space.

2.04 Appropriate signage, guidelines, fines for littering, emergency and contact phone numbers, and other information shall be posted to identify the designated dog-friendly areas.

SECTION 3 – RATIFICATION

3.01 All other provisions of Resolution No. 2017-R-18 not amended herein shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4 – CONFLICTS

4.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this resolution and any other resolution, in whole or in part, the provisions of this resolution will prevail to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY

5.01 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this resolution is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional, that provision will be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the resolution.

SECTION 6 – EFFECTIVE DATE

6.01 This resolution takes effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, in public session on March 24, 2026.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

PETE EMRICH
MAYOR

ATTEST

HEATHER FAUST, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

MICHAEL FUINO, B.C.S.
CITY ATTORNEY