

## APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 3, 2019.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Pittsylvania County  
Program Title: Dog Park Project  
Program Category: Parks and Recreation

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Mark Moore  
Title: Director  
Department: Parks and Recreation  
Telephone: 434-432-1764 Website: pittsylvaniacountyva.gov/recreation  
Email: mark.moore@pittgov.org

### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Richard Hicks  
Title: Assistant County Administrator  
Signature: 

## **Executive Summary**

Thanks to almost \$49,000 in funding generated from two local grants and the sale of brick pavers for a new Pet Center, Pittsylvania County built and equipped a new dog park for a cost to county taxpayers of less than \$1,700. The dog park is located on land purchased by the county for the construction of a new \$3.1 Million Pet Center. The land was home to a former car dealership. The Pet Center is the result of a renovation of that dealership and the dog park sits on land that was formerly the car lot for that dealership.

With the dog park located within sight of Highway 29, the park is highly visible to residents and travelers alike. The dog park is also located approximately one block away from one of the middle school parks, Cavalier Park behind Chatham Middle School, that was awarded the top VACO Achievement Award in 2018. The 90'x120' dog park located beside the new Pet Center includes a 5'x30' steel dog park sign built by local welding students, fido fountain, real fire hydrants, a shade area with seating for owners and dogs alike and dog waste stations. All benches, trash cans and waste stations have paw prints and dog bones embedded in them by the manufacturer. The marriage of a new dog park beside the county's new Pet Center was an opportunity realized and resulted in community and quality of life added with minimal financial impact to county taxpayers enhanced by strong partnerships and collaborations.

## **Brief Overview**

In 2018, our new dog park opened next door to our new \$3.1 Million Pittsylvania Pet Center just off Route 29 North in Chatham. Thanks to almost \$49,000 in park funding generated from the sale of brick sidewalk pavers for the new Pet Center as well as grants from The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region and the Chatham Rotary Club, the park was built at minimal cost to county taxpayers. These three entities comprised 97% of the dog park funding. In addition to these monetary donations, there were also in-kind services donated to this project by the Chatham Rotary Club and the Pittsylvania County school division. As a community service project, the Rotary Club helped spread more than 150 yards of wood chips to create the dog park floor. Further, as part of a collaboration with the Pittsylvania County school system, the five-foot tall metal dog park sign that faces Route 29 was built, painted and installed by welding students at the nearby Pittsylvania Career and Technical Center (PCTC). With labor provided, materials for the sign were paid for by Pittsylvania County. Another partnership at the park was with Danville Utilities. Because no dog park would be complete without fire hydrants, the park was in need of a small hydrant for the small dog side and a large hydrant for the large dog side. Working with a neighboring locality, the City of Danville, we were able to secure two fire hydrants from Danville Utilities at no cost to the county. The hydrants were cleaned, painted and mounted on a small, round concrete pad in the center of each dog area. The hydrants add a unique touch to the park. Strong partnerships and collaborations around the region made the dog park a reality at very little cost to the taxpayer.

## **Problem, Challenge or Situation**

The new Pet Center was a renovation of an old car dealership on Highway 29 North. The dealership had a large car lot beside it. A parking lot for the new Pet Center would not be utilizing that

large car lot since there was adequate parking in front of the building. That large asphalt lot was removed during center construction and replaced with topsoil and grass. Working with the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region (CFDRR), a brick paver fundraiser was created that generated funds to go towards the dog park. Those pavers now line the sidewalk entering the Pet Center. Other fundraisers including obtaining a CFDRR grant as well as a grant and in-kind services from the nearby Chatham Rotary Club. With the 8- year-old parks and recreation department recently completing a VACo award-winning middle school park project, the department was actively looking for ways to expand its impact on quality of life. Understanding the growing trend in communities for dog parks and realizing the opportunity to capitalize on the new Pet Center on-site and that captive animal-loving audience, the parks and recreation department got to work. Collaborations included the student welders at the Pittsylvania County School's Career and Technical Center next door, the nearby Chatham Rotary Club and a large grant from a local non-profit, the Community Foundation of the Dan River Region.

## **Implementation**

The design of the dog park was completed by county staff. Both the parks and recreation director and assistant county administrator visited a dog park in Danville as well as discussed dog park design with friends at the City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation. With the Chatham Rotary Club looking for a local project to sponsor, staff presented this project to them for review. After review, the Rotary Club was excited to take on this project both financially and with volunteer help. Their volunteer help included two days of spreading wood chips for the dog park floor. The Career and Technical Center principal was approached by the parks and recreation director about the sign project for her welding class. After discussing with the welding instructor, he contacted the director and within one month the sign was built, painted and installed by his welding class. The instructor realized the impact that the sign would



have on the park but also saw a perfect opportunity to give his students real-world experience in fabrication. With the success of the newly opened Pet Center and the opportunity to build a dog park on existing property next door, the Community Foundation was eager to accept our grant application and award us a grant for dog park construction. All of these funding partners are included on a sponsor sign at the front entrance of the dog park.

### **Finance & Staffing**

The total cost of the dog park was \$50,580.77. Our funding partners included the sale of bricks through the Community Foundation that generated \$11,689.75; a Community Foundation grant of \$29,269.12; Rotary Club of Chatham grant of \$8,000; and Pittsylvania County funds of \$1,621.90. We were also able to purchase all of our benches, trash cans, shade umbrella, fido foundation and pet waste station from GameTime Corporation. We were able to realize a significant cost savings from them given the partnership we have with them through prior projects. They were a major partner in equipment on our top VACO award-winning park project last year. The Rotary Club also provided in-kind labor to spread the hundreds of yards of wood chips that serve as the park floor.

The dog park is a Parks and Recreation facility that receives regular service and maintenance by both parks and recreation maintenance staff and the county's public works division. The Pet Center and dog park are under the county's contracted mowing and receives weekly mowing and trimming as needed. There is also monitoring of the park by Pet Center staff.

### **Program Results**

Pittsylvania County now has the first dog park in the history of the county. This park helps to round out our young departments offerings that already include a rail trail, athletic fields, community

center and award-winning parks. The dog park sits just south of the county seat of Chatham, right in the middle of the county. It is very conducive for all residents to take advantage of and, additionally, on a major corridor for anyone traveling through to stop off for a break. As anyone with a dog will tell you, dogs are a part of the family. Now, thanks to dog supporters in our county, Pittsylvania County dog owners, Pet Center adoptions or anyone traveling along U.S. Highway 29 North have a safe place to let their dogs run free. Marketing materials have also been created and taken around to local veterinarians, county offices and the Pet Center. Community value has been added with minimal financial impact to county taxpayers because of strong partnerships and collaborations. Another successful quality of life addition to Southside Virginia.

The dog park is also a great sense of pride for the welding class that helped design, build, paint and install the metal dog park sign that faces Highway 29. They helped create a landmark sign in the county that they all can be proud of. The welding instructor, Career and Technical Center principal and Pittsylvania County Schools superintendent were elated that their students got real-world experience in building something that is highly visible in the county. The instructor, principal and superintendent all came to the ribbon-cutting for the park with the superintendent speaking on behalf of the school system and were thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this project.

Highlights of the 90'x120' dog park include:

- The dog park is split into two sides with one side for dogs under 40 pounds and the other side for dogs 40 pounds and up.
- As previously mentioned, real fire hydrants were installed on each side of the park adding a unique feature to the park.

- Situated along the fence line separating the two sides of the park is a “fido fountain” or dog water fountain. The double-sided fountain has two bowls, one lower to the ground to suit the small dog side and one bowl raised to suit the large dog side. With the cost of the double-sided fountain nearly \$4,000, we were able to get the fencing contractor to fence around the center pedestal of the fountain so that each side of the park could access their bowl. This was a significant cost savings for the project and provided another unique feature to the park.
- Benches were placed on concrete pads and a large, commercial umbrella was installed over the seating area to provide shade for owners and pets alike.
- Each side has a fenced “holding area” for the dogs to allow the owners to bring their pets inside the exterior park perimeter fencing and un-leash their dog prior to opening the interior gate to let them run free. This area also serves a similar function when owners are re-leashing their dogs prior to leaving the park.
- Extensive signage in the park display the rules and regulations of the park when you first step onto the sidewalk leading to the entry gates as well as inside the park as you leave the holding area.
- Dog waste stations are located on both sides as well as trash cans.
- All chain-link fencing at the park is black vinyl-coated chain link that better handles weathering over time, makes it a bit softer than the galvanized metal and can be safer for any dogs that may run or rub up against it.
- With the new Pet Center next door, newly adopted dogs can be brought over to get acquainted with their new owners and the location near the center helps to better market the park to animal lovers.

The success of this project has been predicated on the cooperation between the county, non-profit partners, the school system and a neighboring locality, City of Danville. This community-minded thinking has created another win-win park project that has greatly affected the quality of life in Pittsylvania County. This project was made possible by staff recognizing an opportunity to pair a dog park with a new Pet Center and using the momentum around that large capital project to fundraise and bring about a new recreational asset to the community and improve quality of life here in Pittsylvania County.

## Pittsylvania Co. Career & Technical Center Welding Class – Dog Park Sign Creation & Install





## Chatham Rotary Club – Community Service Project

### Spreading Wood Chips at New Dog Park





# New Pittsylvania County Dog Park





## New Pittsylvania County Dog Park (cont'd)





## New Pittsylvania County Dog Park (cont'd)





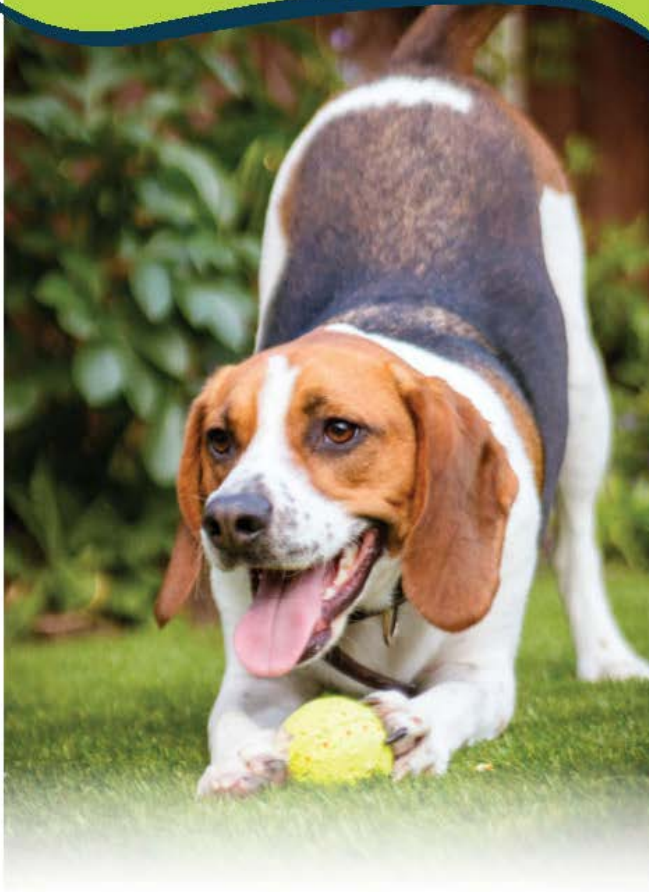
## Dog Park Marketing Brochure

# PITTSYLVANIA

COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## PARKS AND RECREATION

# DOG PARK



This park is dedicated to fun and exercise activities with your dog and was made possible by generous donations from the citizens of Pittsylvania County, Community Foundation of the Dan River Region and the Chatham Rotary Club. Dogs may run off-leash, under voice control and within the confines of the fenced area. There is a small dog area for dogs under 40 lbs. and a large dog area for dogs 40 lbs. and over. Take a minute to review the rules of the park online at [pittsylvaniacountyva.gov/recreation](http://pittsylvaniacountyva.gov/recreation) and enjoy!



### Park Amenities:

- Gated entry and exit
- Fido fountain
- Six-foot-tall perimeter fencing
- Two benches with shade umbrella
- Separate enclosed areas for small dogs and large dogs

**PARK HOURS**  
SUN UP TO SUN DOWN

### DOG PARK

 11880 US 29, Chatham, VA 24531

Located beside the Pittsylvania Pet Center

 (434) 432-7736  [recreation@pittgov.org](mailto:recreation@pittgov.org)

[pittsylvaniacountyva.gov/recreation](http://pittsylvaniacountyva.gov/recreation)

  @pittgovrec

# Dog park ribbon cutting, dedication Aug. 9

By MATT BELL

Star-Tribune Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 10:31 am

The Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new dog park on Thursday, August 9 at 10 a.m. at the Pittsylvania Pet Center located at 11880 Highway 29, Chatham.

“It’s a great addition for those who don’t have an abundance of land for their dogs to enjoy,” said supervisor Ben Farmer noting he lives on a farm with land for his dogs to run but, “for folks who live in town this is a great opportunity for them to run and be free.”

Building the dog park sign was completed by the Career and Technical Center’s welding class who designed, built, painted, and installed it.

The park is privately funded, and no taxpayer dollars went into it.

“This is the only dog park in Pittsylvania County,” Pittsylvania County director of parks and recreation Mark Moore said.

It was funded by the Chatham Rotary Club and bricks outside the Pittsylvania Pet Center.

“It’s a project I’ve been working on with county administration for the past several months,” Moore said.

Moore said he and Richard Hicks visited the Danville Parks and Recreation dog park in addition to contacting other parks departments across the state to learn what they have and best practices to put in place for a dog park.

Moore also reached out to Danville Utilities and requested fire hydrants for use at the dog park.

“There is a small hydrant in the middle of the small dog side and a large hydrant in the middle of the large dog side,” Moore said.

Chatham Rotary volunteered time to spread wood chips at the dog park.

“There’s probably 150 yards of wood chips there,” Moore said.

Rules and regulations are posted as visitors go into the park as well as inside each pin.

Dogs do not have to be registered in the county to use the park.

“The pet center is a good starting point for Pittsylvania County providing animals with a safe shelter to have and have a second chance at life. I think the pet park provides residents an avenue to get outside and spend



## Dog park ribbon cutting, dedication Aug. 9

The dog park located at the Pittsylvania Pet Center will have a ribbon cutting on August 9. The park is privately funded, and no taxpayer dollars went into it.

time with your pets without any hinderance of being on someone else's property or running out into the road." Farmer said.

"This park will also increase the quality of life not only for the pets but also for the pet owners. It gives a great opportunity for owners to have fellowship as well as travelers along 29 to have a place to stop and let their dogs out while on trips," Bob Warren, board of supervisors Chairman said.

"I think it says a lot that this was a project supported by our citizens and a project they wanted collectively. It makes a statement that they believe in the direction that the county is headed and that improvements are coming to the county," Warren said.

"I see merits in the facility to be able to promote economic development. Industries want to see good schools and parks when they visit an area. There are so many things on their checklists and this is a big check off the list," Warren said.

"I'm excited about the opening of the dog park here in Pittsylvania County. It's definitely a step forward in the right direction. I look forward to seeing the park utilized by the public and their pets," supervisor Elton Blackstock, chairman of the animal welfare committee for the board of supervisors, said.



## PHOTOS: Dog park opens in Pittsylvania County

Aug 9, 2018

Pittsylvania County and organization officials celebrated the official opening of the Pittsylvania County Pet Center's new dog park Thursday morning. The speakers thanked donors and community help with creating the park including students from the county's career and technical center who created the sign. A few dogs were running around the dog park that morning, playing in the pen reserved for larger dogs.

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**An owner brought her dogs to play in the park on Thursday morning.**

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**The dog park is split into two play areas, one for larger dogs and one for smaller dogs.**

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**Pittsylvania County Attorney Vaden Hunt and Assistant County Administrator Richard Hicks help one of the dogs in the park take a few sips of water as the morning heated up.**

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**An owner brought her dogs to play in the park on Thursday morning.**

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**The dog park is split into two play areas, one for larger dogs and one for smaller dogs.**

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**Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors chairman Bob Warren thanked the community for its support during the ribbon cutting for the dog park on Thursday.**

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**Supervisor Elton Blackstock, chairman of the animal welfare committee, said the dog park is another amenity that will help move the county forward during the ribbon cutting for the dog park on Thursday.**

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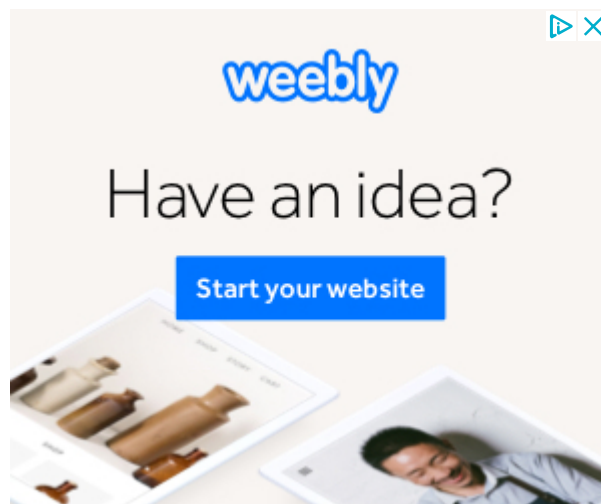
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**Pittsylvania County Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Jones said pets play a cherished role in people's lives during the ribbon cutting for the dog park on Thursday.**

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**Pittsylvania County Parks and Recreation director Mark Moore thanked the students of the career and technical center for their work in the spring on the dog park's sign.**

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**Pittsylvania County Administrator David Smitherman provided the closing remarks during the ribbon cutting for the dog park on Thursday.**

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As featured on

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## Tails wag as Pittsylvania County celebrates new dog park

Pittsylvania County and organization officials celebrated the official opening of the Pittsy...



## PHOTOS: New park is going to the dogs

May 16, 2018

Pittsylvania County partnered with the Career and Technical Center's welding class to design, build, paint and install a sign for the new dog park on U.S. 29 beside the Pittsylvania Pet Center. The dog park is scheduled to open this summer. The class — all juniors — includes Lance Hilton, Dylan Cline, Brian Weimer, Jimmy Doss, Seth Wyatt, Ethan Yeaman, Kamden Lewis, Joseph Knighten, Zane Stewart and Caleb Hines. Travis Woods is the instructor.

Want to submit a photo or story for the Your Community page? Email it to [news@registerbee.com](mailto:news@registerbee.com).



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## Pittsylvania County's only dog park to open Thursday

by Elizabeth Tyree  
Thursday, August 9th 2018

AA



(Pittsylvania Co. Parks and Rec.)



PITTSYLVANIA Co., Va. (WSET) -- If you've been looking for a safe space to take your pup on the southside, a new dog park is opening in Pittsylvania County.

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The county is holding a ribbon cutting for the dog park Thursday.

[The Career and Technical Center's Welding Class](#) and Pittsylvania County teamed up to create the sign that you will see on Route 29 north.



Pittsylvania County partnered with Travis Woods Welding Class at the Career and Technical Center to design, build and install a sign for the county's new Dog Park on 29 North beside the Pet Center. They did an awesome job! Students pictured are Lance Hilton, Dylan Cline, Brian Weimer, Jimmy Doss, Seth Wyatt, Ethan Yeaman, Kamden Lewis, Joseph Knighten, Zane Stewart and Caleb Hines.



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Students in the class designed, built, painted and installed the sign at the park which is right next to the Pittsylvania Pet Center.

The Pittsylvania Pet Center is on Route 29 in Chatham.

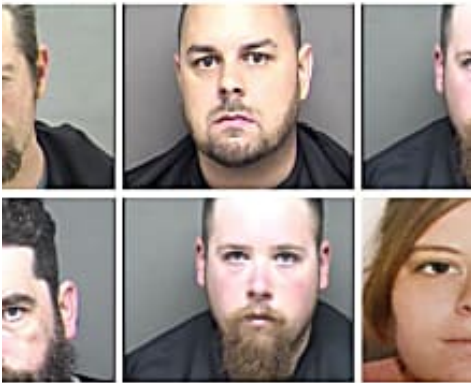
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The park, which is the only one in Pittsylvania County, is privately funded.

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