

## **Town of New Castle** 450 W. Main Street PO Box 90

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# **Administration Department**

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#### Memorandum

**To:** Mayor & Council

**From:** David Reynolds

**Re:** Agenda Item: Consider Modification to Dog Leash Law in Frank Breslin Memorial Park

**Date:** 05/20/2025

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this agenda item is to evaluate potential changes to the current town-wide dog leash law as it applies to Frank Breslin Memorial Park.

#### **Background:**

During the May 6, 2025, regular Town Council meeting, the Council discussed whether Frank Breslin Memorial Park could serve as a location where dogs might be allowed off-leash. This discussion comes in the context of recent efforts to improve leash law compliance town-wide, which have highlighted a renewed need for open space where dogs can run freely.

While the newly constructed Castle Valley Ranch Dog Park was intended to meet this need, Council raised the question of whether one off-leash area is sufficient. Frank Breslin Memorial Park was previously considered for this purpose during planning for the dog park but was ultimately not pursued at that time.

#### Potential Benefits of Allowing Off-Leash Access at Frank Breslin Memorial Park:

- Located away from residential areas, minimizing neighborhood disruption
- Includes river access, providing opportunities for dogs to swim
- Already suitable for off-leash use without the need for additional fencing
- Can be designated with signage to inform users that leashes are not required
- Offers residents a second option for off-leash recreation, relieving pressure on the existing dog park

### **Considerations for Implementation:**

If the Council chooses to move forward with this change, the following items should be addressed:

• **Boundary Definition:** Clearly define where the park begins and ends

- **Signage:** Install appropriate signs to communicate off-leash status and boundaries
- **Community Messaging:** Provide clear and timely communication to residents about the change
- Monitoring and Feedback: Establish a plan to monitor usage and address concerns
- **Definition of Off-Leash:** Clarify that off-leash status requires dogs to be under voice control at all times