



Memo

To: City Council

From: Ryan Dennison, Parks & Recreation Director

cc: Peter Brixius, City Manager

Date: 3/20/2025

Re: Park Naming Recommendation

The Craig Parks & Recreation Advisory Board held its monthly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2025. As part of the agenda, the board discussed a proposal by the Humane Society of Moffat County to change the name of the Craig Dog Park to Don Williams Memorial Dog Park. Attached you will find the proposal from the Humane Society of Moffat County. The following recommendations were made by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

1. Motion approved and recommends the city council approve the request to change the name of the Craig Dog Park to Don Williams Memorial Dog Park.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Request to name the Craig City Dog Park to the “Don Williams Memorial Dog Park.”



Don Williams passed away on November 21, 2024, in his home in Craig, Colorado. He was 72. This request is being made on behalf of the Humane Society of Moffat County (HSMC).

It is well known that the Craig City Dog Park does not have an “official name”. The HSMC would like to respectfully submit a request that the Craig City Dog Park be named in honor of Don Williams, one of the founding members of the Humane Society of Moffat County (HSMC). This dedication is to honor his outstanding achievements, continuous contributions, relentless effort, and steadfast devotion to the Humane Society (HS) and the surrounding community.

Brief History of Don Williams:

Don Williams was born in Aspen, Colorado on February 7, 1952. Don Williams, owner and operator of D& T Electrical, moved to Craig in 1995. Since 1995, Don has been working to improve the lives in the City of Craig and the surrounding community. During Don’s time in Craig, Don became concerned with the substantial number of feral cats and dogs.

Don started catching these animals and taking them to Bear Creek Animal Hospital to have them spayed and neutered with the hope of beginning the process of limiting overpopulation. Don and Tina, (his wife) would take the time and commitment to foster these animals and assist with the placement of these animals in the community.

Because of their concern with pet overpopulation, Don and Tina Williams became founding members of the Humane Society of Moffat County (HSMC) in 2002. The Society is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. This organization has grown independently with no affiliation to any regional, state, or national organization thanks to Don’s commitment. Don and Tina had one mission in mind when helping to grow the HSMC, serving the people of Craig and Moffat County by:

- Providing financial assistance for the spay/neuter and vaccination of family pets in our community.
- Providing food and medical assistance for the pets of families in temporary, unusual situations
- Providing animal foster care as needed in the community.
- Advertising adoptable Shelter pets on Facebook, in local newspapers, and Petfinder.com
- Holding adoption days for Shelter pets
- Distributing educational information to people adopting Shelter pets
- Managing a transfer program to transport unadopted Shelter animals to other area shelters and rescues
- Enlisting quality volunteers to assist at the Shelter and fostering pets.
- Educating the community by providing materials and learning activities at various community functions and events

Besides being the President and Secretary of the HS for many years, Don served some very important roles in the HS. Below are just a few of Don's achievements while living here in Craig and working with the HS.

- **Fundraisers:**

Don was instrumental in "keeping the wheels" on. Don was always there for any fundraisers that the Humane Society held. He would do the set-up and tear-downs of the fundraising booths, would deliver the tables, dog food and pamphlets for distribution.

- **Pet Food for the Community**

Don would always keep the inter-Faith Food Bank stocked with food for the community residents in need of pet food. One job that Don volunteered for was pet food delivery. Every Thursday, Don would go to one of the retail businesses in town and meet with the staff. This business would donate pet food that had broken bags, dented cans, food getting close to expired, dog treats that have open boxes. After Don would pick up the Pet food, he would go out and manage the HS locker that we store pet food. He would do a complete inventory of the pet food in the HS locker. If he noticed that the inventory was low, Don would go and purchase the pet food out of his own pocket, to make sure we had the food for the community.

- **Shelter Animal Transfers**

The HSMC manages and funds the transfer of unwanted pets who have been unadopted from the Craig Animal Shelter. Don was one of our main staff who would always step up to do animal transfers. He would ensure the pets being transferred would have the proper vaccinations, that they were spayed or neutered before the transfer. He would travel to Fort Collins, Summit County, Colorado Springs, on a regular basis. Don would log approximately 5400 miles per year and never requested reimbursement. We financially support the spay/neuter and vaccination of

these pets as well as the cost of transporting the animal to other area shelters and rescues where their chance of adoption will be greater.

- **Advertising for the HSMC**

D and T Electric would always advertise the HS in the local paper. Don would pull out advertisements for our fund raisers and end of the year accomplishment. Don would never ask for reimbursement for these expenses.

- **Fostering cat and Dogs**

Don and Tina Williams always had their door open to foster animals. This includes dogs or cats, not only found in the community, but from the animal shelter in Craig due to overpopulation. It was common for Don and Tina to have three to five pets that they were caring for. This includes days old kittens in need of round-the-clock feeding. Don and Tina were dedicated to fostering these pets for extended periods of time until they could find appropriate homes.

- **Craig Dog Park**

The Craig Dog Park in Craig would still be a dream for the community if it was not for the hard work and dedication that Don put into the construction of the Dog Park. Don was a leader in advertising for dog fencing that surrounds the dog park and concrete work that goes from the parking lot to the dog park. In other words, the entire project.



- **Shelter upgrades: Bear Creek Animal Hospital aka, Craig Animal Shelter**

Don would take time out from his business day and volunteer to make sure the electricity at the Animal Shelter at Bear Creek Animal Hospital was functioning facility wide. With a history as an Electrical Inspector in Moffat County, Don was known to fix light that no longer functioned and add light where lighting would improve the care of the animals.

Don's life in Craig was a blessing for all who met him. As you can see, Don dedicated his life to this community. Because of Don's dedication, character and commitment that served the Craig Community and surrounding areas of Moffat County, it would be a great honor to request, for a life well lived, that the Craig City Park and Recreation District name the Craig Dog Park, "Don Williams Memorial Dog Park."

Thank you and we look forward to assisting you with the name of the City of Craig Dog Park.



Humane Society of Moffat County volunteers Don Williams, left, Mary Blakeman, center, and Starlene Collins, right, promote giving to the Humane Society of Moffat County on Yampa Valley Gives Day, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022.

Craig Press archive

Respectfully submitted by:
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HCMC Board Member
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