

Model Parks and Recreation Tobacco-Free Policy

Purpose

The [City/County] is committed to providing safe and healthy environments for all residents and visitors. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States.¹ Exposure to secondhand smoke has negative health impacts and the U.S. Surgeon General has determined there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.¹

Tobacco products consumed in outdoor public places and discarded on the ground pose a risk of ingestion by young children and animals, increase maintenance expenses, and increase fire risk. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, banning tobacco use in public places, including recreational areas such as parks, is a recommended strategy to prevent youth tobacco use.² As parents, coaches, leaders, officials, and community members, we can be role models in setting a tobacco-free example and helping youth stay tobacco-free. The [City/County] believes tobacco use is detrimental to the public's health and has determined that prohibiting the use of tobacco products and electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) in all [City/County] recreational areas serve to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Definitions

Tobacco or tobacco product means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product including but not limited to cigarettes; cigars and other smoking tobacco; snuff and other chewing tobacco, ENDS, and any other kinds and forms of tobacco. The term excludes any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems means any product used by a person to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. The term includes, but is not limited to, devices manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens, or e-hookah.

Tobacco-Free Environment

The [Name of Organization] prohibits the use of all commercial tobacco products including Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems at all times in all park and recreational areas restrooms, parking lots, picnic shelters, playground areas, and fields. Traditional tobacco use in or on park and recreational areas may be allowed upon prior request and approval from administration.

Signage and Compliance

Signage will be posted at strategic locations to inform the community and park and recreational area users about the policy. [City/County] staff will be notified about this policy through the employee manual.

The success of this policy depends on the consideration and cooperation of all. Enforcement of the policy is a shared responsibility of [City/County] staff and park and recreational area users. [City/County] staff will communicate the policy to event organizers. [City/County] staff will also make periodic observations of park and recreational areas to monitor compliance.

Any individual found in violation will be reminded of the policy and asked to comply before being directed to leave the park and recreational area. [City/County] staff found violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is effective on ____/____/____

Reviewed on ____/____/____

Contact [name and contact information] for questions regarding this policy

Resources

South Dakota Tobacco Control Program: <http://doh.sd.gov/tobacco>

SD QuitLine: <http://sdquitline.com> (1-866-SD-QUITS)

Be Tobacco Free South Dakota: <http://befreesd.com>

References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General](#). Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2018 June 13]
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs—2014](#). Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2014 [accessed 2018 June 13]
3. NACCHO <https://www.naccho.org/> collaborates with national, federal, state, and local organizations to provide local health departments with the resources they need to reduce tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in their communities. Resources and support cover a range of issues, including tobacco cessation, prevention of youth initiation, secondhand smoke prevention, electronic smoking devices and other emerging products, public smoking ordinances, tobacco retailer assessment and licensing, smoke-free housing, and more.