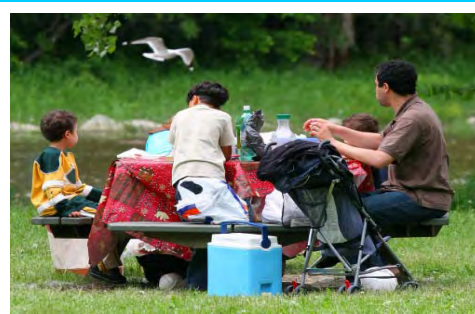


A Policy Maker's Guide to Tobacco-Free Policies for Community Park Systems

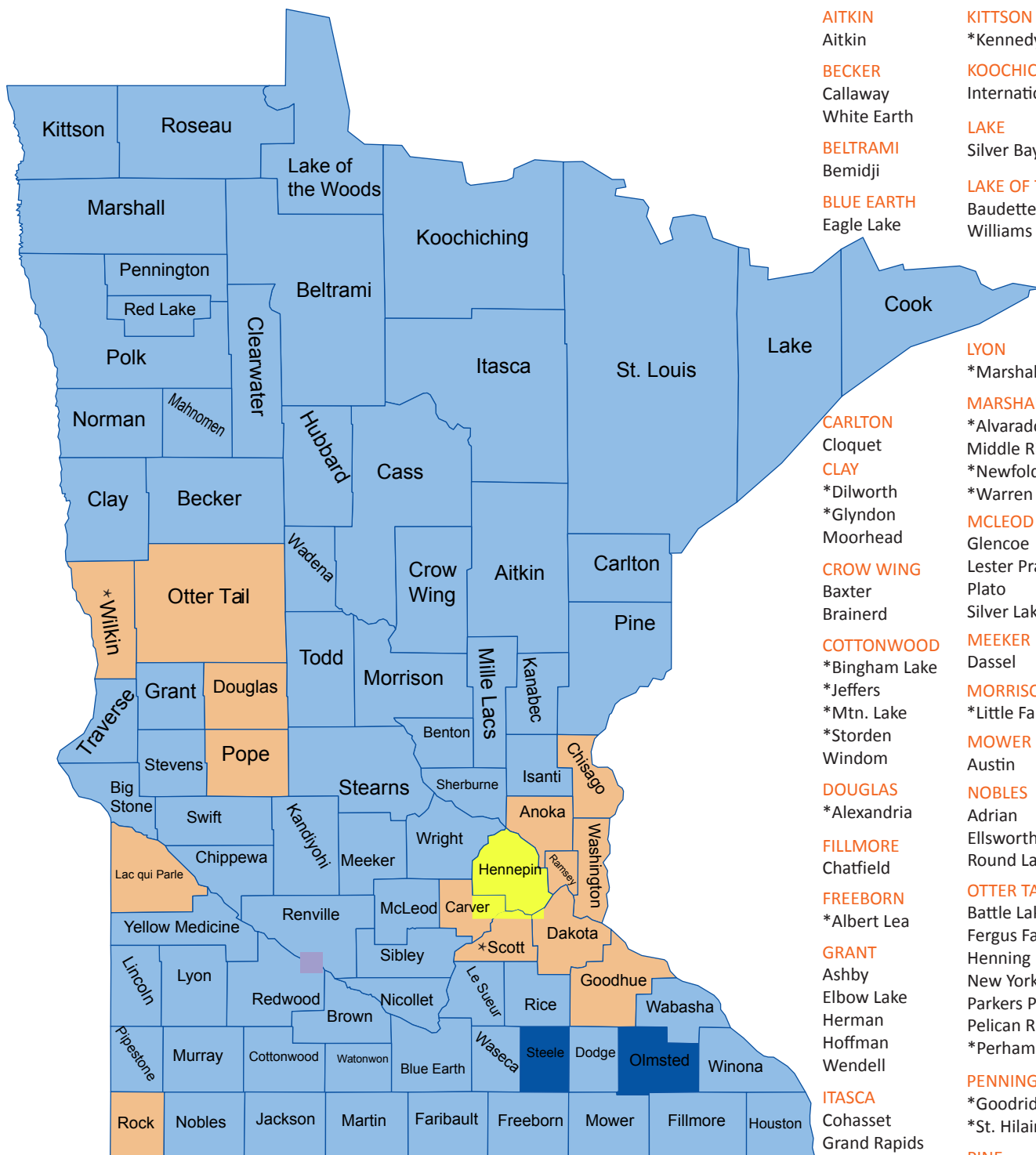


In this guide, you will find:

- Model Tobacco-Free Policy
- Sample policies from Minnesota cities with tobacco-free park policies
- Map of Minnesota cities and counties with tobacco-free parks
- Policy enforcement and publicity information
- Ordering information for free tobacco-free metal signs
- Frequently Asked Questions
- References from communities with existing tobacco-free park policies

Tobacco-Free Parks: For a Healthy Community

Tobacco-Free Public Parks Policy (178 Total Policies & Ordinances)



AITKIN Aitkin	KITTSOON *Kennedy	RICE Faribault
BECKER Callaway White Earth	KOOCHICHING International Falls	RENNVILLE Fairfax Olivia
BELTRAMI Bemidji	LAKE Silver Bay	ROCK Hardwick Luverne
BLUE EARTH Eagle Lake	LAKE OF THE WOODS Baudette Williams	ROSEAU *Badger *Greenbush
		SIBLEY Arlington Gaylord Winthrop
	LYON *Marshall	SHERBURNE Elk River Zimmerman
CARLTON Cloquet	MARSHALL *Alvarado Middle River	STEARNS St. Cloud Sartell
CLAY *Dilworth *Glyndon Moorhead	*Newfolden *Warren	STEVENS Donnelly Hancock Morris
CROW WING Baxter Brainerd	MCLEOD Glencoe Lester Prairie Plato Silver Lake	ST. LOUIS Aurora Biwabik Buhl *Duluth Ely Eveleth Fayal Twnshp Hermantown Hibbing Hoyt Lakes Mtn. Iron Virginia
COTTONWOOD *Bingham Lake *Jeffers *Mtn. Lake *Storden Windom	MEEKER Dassel	TRAVERSE Wheaton
DOUGLAS *Alexandria	MORRISON *Little Falls	WASECA New Richland Waseca
FILLMORE Chatfield	MOWER Austin	WILKIN Breckenridge Kent Wolverton
FREEBORN *Albert Lea	NOBLES Adrian Ellsworth Round Lake	WRIGHT Buffalo Hanover Monticello Otsego
GRANT Ashby Elbow Lake Herman Hoffman Wendell	OTTER TAIL Battle Lake Fergus Falls Henning New York Mills Parkers Prairie Pelican Rapids *Perham	YELLOW MEDICINE Canby
ITASCA Cohasset Grand Rapids La Prairie	PENNINGTON *Goodridge *St. Hilaire	
JACKSON *Jackson *Lakefield	PINE Hinckley *Pine City	
KANABEC *Mora	POLK Crookston	
KANDIYOHI Prinsburg Spicer Willmar	PIPESTONE Pipestone	
	RED LAKE *Red Lake Falls	

Tobacco-Free Parks Policy Key

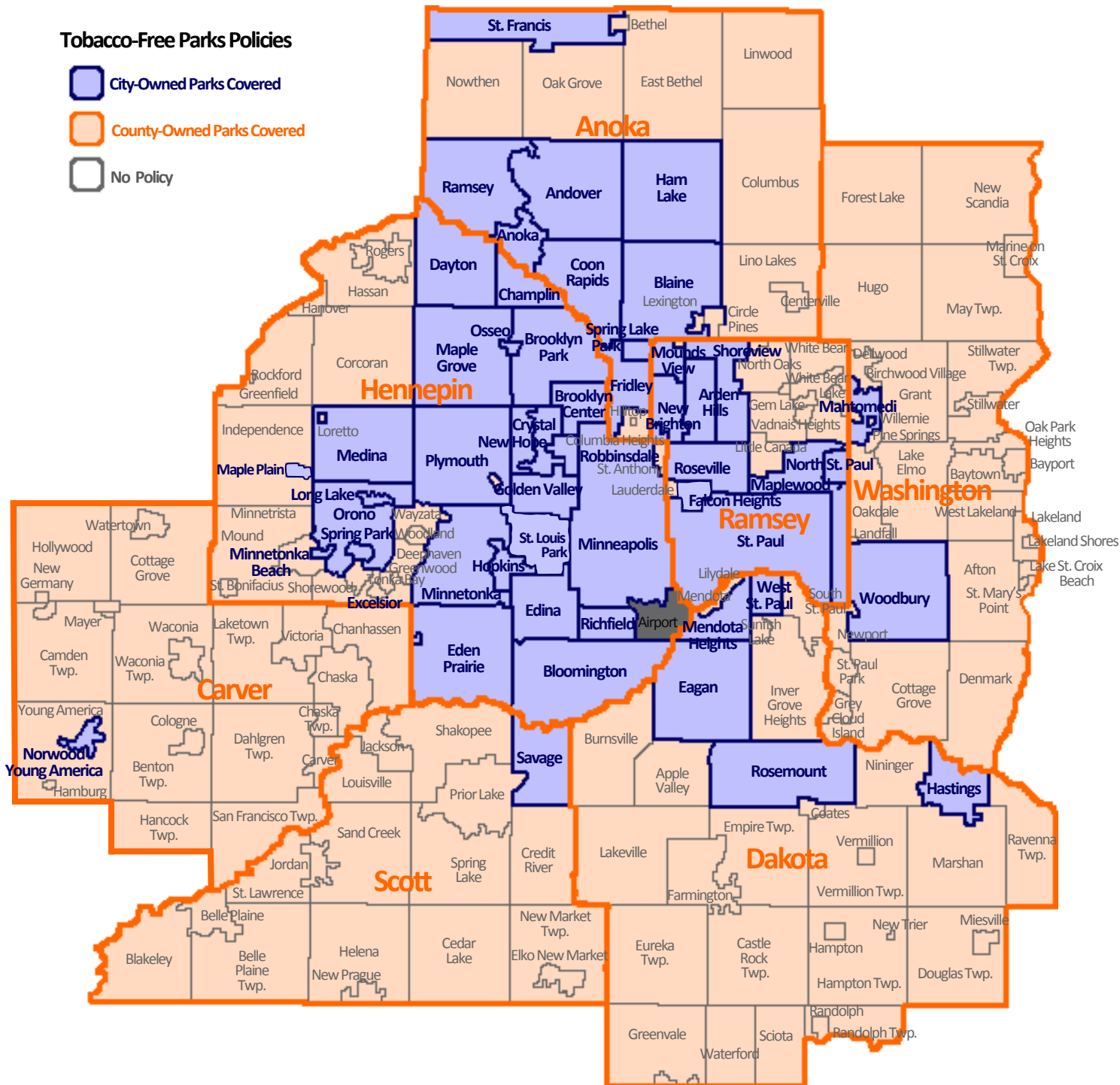
- County-Owned Parks Covered
- Native American Reservation
- All city- and county-owned Parks
- Three Rivers Park District

Note: City-Owned Parks covered are listed by county.
Metro area listed on separate map.

* Denotes policy includes e-cigarettes

(January, 2016)

Tobacco-Free Public Park Systems in Twin Cities Metro Area (54 Total Park Policies & Ordinances)



Minnesota Communities with Tobacco-Free Parks,

* Denotes policy includes electronic cigarettes

#	Community	County	Adoption Date
1	Maple Grove	Hennepin	1/1/93
2	Rochester	Olmsted	11/1/00
3	Bloomington	Hennepin	6/18/01
4	Richfield	Hennepin	9/1/01
5	Roseville	Ramsey	12/1/01
6	Owatonna	Steele	12/11/01
7	Cohasset	Itasca	1/22/02
8	Baxter	Crow Wing	3/1/02
9	St. Cloud	Stearns	5/13/02
10	Virginia	St. Louis	5/31/02
11	Brainerd	Crow Wing	6/6/02
12	Eden Prairie	Hennepin	9/17/02
13	Sartell	Stearns	10/28/02
14	Duluth*	St. Louis	2/12/03
15	Golden Valley	Hennepin	3/4/03
16	Zimmerman	Sherburne	3/17/03
17	Eagan	Dakota	3/25/03
18	Hibbing	St. Louis	3/31/03
19	Aurora	St. Louis	4/1/03
20	Spicer	Kandiyohi	4/2/03
21	Hoyt Lakes	St. Louis	4/8/03
22	Biwabik	St. Louis	5/12/03
23	Fayal Township	St. Louis	5/20/03
24	New Brighton	Ramsey	5/27/03
25	Aitkin	Aitkin	6/2/03
26	Buhl	St. Louis	6/3/03
27	Eveleth	St. Louis	6/3/03
28	Breckenridge	Wilkin	6/16/03
29	Willmar	Kandiyohi	6/16/03
30	St. Paul	Ramsey	7/1/03
31	Austin	Mower	7/2/03
32	Grand Rapids	Itasca	7/14/03
33	Savage	Scott	7/15/03
34	Mountain Iron	St. Louis	8/18/03
35	Prinsburg	Kandiyohi	9/9/03
36	Nwd Young America	Carver	9/22/03
37	Plymouth	Hennepin	10/28/03

#	Community	County	Adoption Date
38	Mahtomedi	Washington	12/3/03
39	Kent	Wilkin	1/1/04
40	Coon Rapids	Anoka	2/17/04
41	Faribault	Rice	2/25/04
42	Morris	Stevens	3/9/04
43	Eagle Lake	Blue Earth	4/5/04
44	Luverne	Rock	4/13/04
45	Shoreview	Ramsey	5/3/04
46	Champlin	Hennepin	5/10/04
47	Marshall	Lyon	5/17/04
48	Crookston	Polk	5/25/04
49	Ramsey	Anoka	5/25/04
50	International Falls	Koochiching	5/28/04
51	Monticello	Wright	6/14/04
52	Pelican Rapids	Otter Tail	6/29/04
53	Anoka	Anoka	7/6/04
54	Cloquet	Carlton	7/20/04
55	Fergus Falls	Otter Tail	8/9/04
56	Edina	Hennepin	8/17/04
57	Andover	Anoka	9/21/04
58	Wolverton	Wilkin	10/12/04
59	Elk River	Sherburne	10/18/04
60	Robbinsdale	Hennepin	12/7/04
61	Maplewood	Ramsey	1/24/05
62	Henning	Otter Tail	5/3/05
63	Callaway	Becker	5/10/05
64	Alexandria*	Douglas	5/23/05
65	La Prairie	Itasca	6/6/05
66	Battle Lake	Otter Tail	6/14/05
67	Dayton	Hennepin	6/14/05
68	Parkers Prairie	Otter Tail	7/18/05
69	New York Mills	Otter Tail	8/8/05
70	Arden Hills	Ramsey	9/12/05
71	Wheaton	Traverse	1/26/06
72	Hermantown	St. Louis	2/10/06
73	Adrian	Nobles	2/27/06
74	Mendota Heights	Dakota	3/6/06

Minnesota Communities with Tobacco-Free Parks,

* Denotes policy includes electronic cigarettes

#	Community	County	Adoption Date
75	Ellsworth	Nobles	3/13/06
76	Dassel	Meeker	4/3/06
77	Donnelly	Stevens	4/3/06
78	Elbow Lake	Grant	4/3/06
79	Williams	Lake of the Woods	4/10/06
80	Baudette	Lake of the Woods	5/8/06
81	North St. Paul	Ramsey	5/16/06
82	Hoffman	Grant	6/5/06
83	Hancock	Stevens	6/12/06
84	Mounds View	Ramsey	6/27/06
85	Ashby	Grant	7/5/06
86	Spring Lake Park	Anoka	7/17/06
87	Crystal	Hennepin	9/19/06
88	Herman	Grant	10/16/06
89	Canby	Yellow Medicine	11/8/06
90	Albert Lea*	Freeborn	11/13/06
91	Wendell	Grant	12/4/06
92	St. Francis	Anoka	1/2/07
93	Ham Lake	Anoka	1/2/07
94	Hardwick	Rock	2/13/07
95	Buffalo	Wright	4/16/07
96	Hastings	Dakota	5/7/07
97	Round Lake	Nobles	5/8/07
98	Silver Bay	Lake	5/9/07
99	Windom	Cottonwood	7/17/07
100	White Earth	Becker	8/16/07
101	West St. Paul	Dakota	4/14/08
102	Gaylord	Sibley	5/29/08
103	Rosemount	Dakota	12/16/08
104	Woodbury	Washington	3/25/09
105	Winthrop	Sibley	10/5/09
106	Lester Prairie	McLeod	10/13/09
107	Minneapolis	Hennepin	5/5/10
108	Chatfield	Fillmore	7/12/10
109	Orono	Hennepin	8/24/10
110	Hinckley	Pine	8/3/10
111	Pine City*	Pine	9/2/10
112	Plato	McLeod	10/12/10
113	Arlington	Sibley	10/18/10

#	Community	County	Adoption Date
114	Hopkins	Hennepin	10/19/10
115	Blaine	Anoka	11/4/10
116	Silver Lake	McLeod	11/15/10
117	Glencoe	McLeod	11/15/10
118	Mora*	Kanabec	11/16/10
119	Columbia Heights	Anoka	11/17/10
120	Bemidji	Beltrami	12/14/10
121	Pipestone	Pipestone	2/7/11
122	Minnetonka	Hennepin	2/14/11
123	New Richland	Waseca	4/11/11
124	Spring Park	Hennepin	5/2/11
125	Waseca	Waseca	5/3/11
126	Brooklyn Park	Hennepin	5/16/11
127	Fridley	Anoka	5/23/11
128	Osseo	Hennepin	06/13/11
129	Brooklyn Center*	Hennepin	6/27/11
130	Long Lake	Hennepin	8/1/11
131	Minnetonka Beach	Hennepin	9/12/11
132	Medina	Hennepin	11/1/11
133	Moorhead	Clay	11/15/11
134	Ely	St. Louis	12/6/11
135	Hanover	Wright	12/6/11
136	New Hope	Hennepin	1/23/12
137	Excelsior	Hennepin	6/18/12
138	Falcon Heights	Ramsey	6/27/12
139	Maple Plain	Hennepin	8/27/12
140	Fairfax	Renville	9/11/12
141	St. Louis Park	Hennepin	1/22/13
142	Otsego	Wright	11/25/13
143	Blooming Prairie	Steele	4/8/13
144	Medford	Steele	8/26/13
145	Dilworth*	Clay	4/28/14
146	Jackson*	Jackson	1/1/15
147	Badger*	Roseau	1/6/15
148	Greenbush*	Roseau	1/30/15
149	St. Hilaire*	Pennington	2/9/15
150	Warren*	Marshall	3/1/15
151	Newfolden*	Marshall	4/20/15
152	Goodridge*	Pennington	5/20/15

Minnesota Communities with Tobacco-Free Parks,

* Denotes policy includes electronic cigarettes

#	Community	County	Adoption Date
153	Jeffers*	Cottonwood	6/1/15
154	Kennedy*	Kittson	7/13/15
155	Red Lake Falls*	Red Lake	7/13/15
156	Storden*	Cottonwood	7/20/15
157	Mountain Lake*	Cottonwood	8/1/15
158	Bingham Lakes*	Cottonwood	9/1/15
159	Lakefield*	Jackson	9/21/15
160	Alvarado*	Marshall	10/13/15
161	Perham*	Otter Tail	11/9/15

Counties/Districts		
A	Rock County	5/18/04
B	Three Rivers Park District	1/6/05
C	Anoka County	7/12/05
D	Washington County	5/23/06
E	Olmsted County	1/23/07
F	Dakota County	5/22/07
G	Lower Sioux Indian Community	
H	Ramsey County	05/13/08
I	Scott County*	05/26/09
J	Lac qui Parle County	03/01/11
K	Goodhue County	11/11/11
L	Douglas County	01/01/12
M	Chisago County	
N	Otter Tail County	01/01/12
O	Carver County	01/17/12

Playing Tobacco Free:

Tobacco-Free Policies For Park & Recreation Areas

Tobacco-Free Park and Recreation Areas Promote Health

- **Parks are established to promote healthy activities.** The purpose of park areas is to promote community wellness, and tobacco-free policies fit with this idea.
- **Tobacco-free environments promote positive community role modeling** and protect the health, safety, and welfare of community members.
- **Cigarette litter is dangerous.** Discarded cigarettes pollute the land and water and may be ingested by toddlers, pets, birds, or fish.
- **Tobacco-free policies help change community norms.** Tobacco-free policies establish the community norm that tobacco use is not an acceptable behavior for young people or adults within the entire community.
- **Secondhand smoke harms everyone.** The 2006 Surgeon General's report concludes that secondhand smoke is a human carcinogen for which there is no safe level of exposure. Exposure to secondhand smoke has immediate health consequences on the cardiovascular and respiratory systems.¹
- **Secondhand smoke is harmful in outdoor settings.** According to a 2007 study, secondhand smoke levels in outdoor public places can reach levels as high as those found in indoor facilities where smoking is permitted.²
- **Policies provide consistency among community athletic facilities and groups.** The majority of community sporting events are held at either city or school athletic facilities, and nearly all school districts prohibit tobacco use on their entire grounds. Also, many local athletic associations have tobacco-free policies but use city facilities and would benefit from a city-wide policy.

The Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation Initiative

Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation (TFYR) is a recreation-based tobacco prevention program that assists recreational groups in promoting healthy tobacco-free lifestyles. TFYR offers free assistance in tobacco-free policy development and implementation. Contact TFYR for policy assistance or more information!



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tfyr@ansrmn.org

Tobacco-Free Park and Recreation Policies Work

Over 100 Minnesota communities have adopted tobacco-free policies for their park and recreation areas. In 2004, the University of Minnesota surveyed Minnesota residents to learn about the level of support for tobacco-free park and recreation policies.³ Minnesota park directors were also interviewed to ask how they felt about tobacco-free policies. Here are the study's key findings:

What Minnesota residents say:

- **Most Minnesotans support tobacco-free park and recreation policies.** 70% of Minnesota residents support tobacco-free park and recreation areas. In addition, 66% of golfers and 73% of families with children support these policies.
- **Policies should prohibit all forms of tobacco.** 79% of residents supported tobacco-free policies that prohibit all forms of tobacco use, including spit tobacco.
- **Parks should be tobacco free at all times.** Just over half (53%) of respondents supported the prohibition of tobacco use in parks at all times.
- **Community members support policy enforcement.** 79% of Minnesotans felt that policies should be enforced by asking violators to leave park areas. 64% felt that violators should be fined.

What Minnesota park directors say:

- **Park directors overwhelmingly recommend adopting tobacco-free policies.** 90% of park directors in cities with policies reported that they would recommend tobacco-free policies to other communities.
- **Nearly all park directors personally supported tobacco-free policies.** Out of 257 park directors,
 - 96% wanted to provide positive role models for youth.
 - 92% wanted to reduce youth opportunity to smoke.
 - 92% wanted to avoid litter from cigarette butts.
 - 89% wanted to promote community well-being.
- **Policies reduce litter and maintenance costs.** 58% of Minnesota park directors in cities with policies reported cleaner park areas.
- **Policy enforcement and violations are not issues.** In Minnesota communities with a policy, few park directors (26%) reported compliance issues and 74% reported no problems with park users violating the policy.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2006). The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the U.S. Surgeon General.

² Klepeis NE, Ott WR, Switzer P. (May 2007). "Real-Time Measurements of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles." *Journal of Air & Waste Management Association* 57.

³ Klein EG, Forster JL, Outley CW, McFadden, B. (2007). "Minnesota Tobacco-Free Park Policies: Attitudes of the General Public and Park Officials." *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* 9, S1, pp.49-55.



Frequently Asked Questions

about Tobacco-Free Policies for Park Areas in Minnesota

What is current Minnesota state law on smoking outdoors?

There is currently no state law that regulates tobacco use in outdoor areas.

Are local governments able to enact policies restricting tobacco use?

Neither federal nor state law prohibits local governments from regulating tobacco use outdoors.¹

What is the difference between a park policy and an ordinance?

In general, *park policies* are rules regarding city or county-owned park property that are established by local park boards and are often approved by city councils or county boards. Generally, those who ignore park policies do not receive a fine, but are asked to refrain from using tobacco or leave the premises.

Ordinances are local government enactments that regulate people or property and carry a penalty such as a fine for violations. Ordinances often originate from a recommendation passed by the park board.²

For both park policies and ordinances, tobacco use is prohibited on park property.

Should a policy cover all property and activities or just youth events?

In Minnesota, both types of policies exist, but the recent trend is toward comprehensive “all property” policies because they protect everyone from secondhand smoke, rather than just particular groups at “youth events.”

How do other Minnesota communities enforce their policies?

Minnesota communities with tobacco-free park policies post signs in their park areas that announce the policy. These signs provide communities with the ability to rely on community and self-enforcement. Many tobacco users look for “no tobacco” signs. These signs empower everyone using the parks to provide friendly reminders about the policy to violators. Signs also help to eliminate the need for any law enforcement presence. The majority of Minnesota communities with policies have utilized Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation’s free signs.

In addition to signs, communities notify their residents in a variety of ways: local media, newsletters, policy

reminder cards, recreation brochures, policy statements sent to sports associations, and coaches’ trainings.

Are existing policies working?

Yes! According to a 2004 University of Minnesota survey of Minnesota park directors in cities with such policies, 88% of park directors reported no change in park usage (no loss of park users), 71% reported less smoking in parks, and 58% reported cleaner park areas.

What effect do tobacco-free park policies have on youth?

Research has not been completed on this particular topic, but in general, tobacco-free policies help prevent youth tobacco use, particularly by establishing tobacco-free community norms and by providing adults the opportunity to be tobacco-free role models throughout the community.³

What other benefits result from tobacco-free policies?

Cigarette filters are toxic to the environment because they do not biodegrade. They contain many harmful chemicals that can leach into the environment. A policy reduces park and beach litter and protects toddlers and animals from ingesting filters that are discarded. In Minnesota, smoking-related debris accounted for 62% of total debris during a 2005 coastal cleanup.⁴

Will policies keep some people from using public park and recreation areas?

Tobacco-free policies for park areas ensure that all citizens have a healthy recreational environment. People go to parks to exercise or relax, not to use tobacco. People who smoke work, eat, shop, travel, and reside in smoke-free environments every day. No court has determined that smoking is a constitutionally protected right.⁵

Aren’t tobacco-free policies for parks a needless regulation?

These policies are similar to those prohibiting alcohol and litter or requiring that pets be leashed. It is the duty of policy makers to enact policies that protect the health of their citizens.

¹ Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch. (5/4/00). Legal opinion letter to Peter Vogel.

² League of Minnesota Cities. (2003). *Handbook for Minnesota Cities*. [Online]. Available: <http://www.lmnc.org/handbook/chapter07.pdf>.

³ Perry, C. (1999). *Creating Health Behavior Change: How to Develop Community-Wide Programs for Youth*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

⁴ The Ocean Conservancy. (2006). *International Coastal Cleanup 2005 Minnesota Summary Report*. [Online]. Available: <http://www.coastalcleanup.org>.

⁵ Tobacco Control Legal Consortium. (2009). “Legal Authority to Regulate Smoking and Common Legal Threats and Challenges 2009.”



Outdoor Exposure to Secondhand Smoke: What's the Danger?

The dangers of secondhand smoke have been well established for decades and numerous studies document that secondhand smoke contains the same deadly chemicals as the smoke coming directly from a cigarette.

The research completed on outdoor air and secondhand smoke does not have nearly the volume that indoor air research does, but the research findings are unsurprisingly similar.

Studies on outdoor exposure to secondhand smoke have found:

- Secondhand smoke concentrations in a variety of outdoor locations can reach levels comparable to indoor concentrations where smoking is permitted.
- Outdoor locations with the greatest number of smokers resulted in average exposure levels that are considered unhealthy for sensitive groups and peak exposure levels that are considered very hazardous for everyone.
- Secondhand smoke odor is detectable at 23 feet from the source and irritation levels began 13 feet from the source. Furthermore, anyone positioned downwind from an outdoor source of secondhand smoke will be exposed, even at significant distances from the source.

These studies dispel the common misperception that outdoor secondhand smoke immediately dissipates into the air and does not pose a health risk. The dangerous composition of chemicals in smoke is the same – indoors or outdoors.



Action Steps

Communities across Minnesota have enacted policies to protect people from secondhand smoke exposure in outdoor settings. Restrictions have been placed on tobacco use in such places as:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Parks | • Building Entrances | • Amusement Parks |
| • Trails | • Worksite Grounds | • Fair Grounds |
| • Playgrounds | • Ball Fields | • Water Parks |
| • Beaches | • Skate Parks | • Stadiums |
| • Zoos | • Bus Stops | • Rodeo Arenas |
| • Patios | • Festivals | • Picnic Shelters |

By eliminating smoking at these types of outdoor settings, people are receiving protection from the health consequences of secondhand smoke exposure, just as they have come to expect to receive this type of protection indoors.

Visit us at www.tobaccofreeparks.org to find out how to make your community's outdoor areas tobacco free!



Outdoor Exposure to Secondhand Smoke: The Research

The volume of scientific evidence showing that secondhand smoke causes serious illness and death in adults and children has grown to a level where in 2006, the U.S. Surgeon General called it *massive, conclusive, and indisputable*. As a result, health professionals in the United States and across the globe are taking action to eliminate people's exposure to secondhand smoke. Most of these actions have been through the elimination of indoor smoking in homes, cars, worksites, and to a lesser degree outdoor areas.

The California Air Resources Board(1) measured secondhand smoke concentrations in a variety of outdoor locations at *airports, colleges, government centers, office complexes and amusement parks*. They found that when smoking occurs in these settings, people could be exposed to levels of secondhand smoke that is comparable to indoor concentrations where smoking is permitted. In another study(2), where measurements were conducted when active smoking was taking place at outdoor *patios, sidewalks and parks*, similar results were observed.

Measuring Secondhand Smoke

A common measure of air quality in detecting secondhand smoke pollution is *particulate matter* (PM). **PM 2.5** is air particles that have a diameter of smaller than 2.5 microns and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set air quality index levels and corresponding health advisory descriptors based upon these size measurements.

A Canadian study (3) measured secondhand smoke levels on outdoor *hospitality patios (restaurants/bars)*. Measurements were taken at three different locations, with some variation in dimensions and structure. The most significant difference was the number of smoking customers. The location with the greatest number of smokers resulted in average PM 2.5 levels of 102 (unhealthy for sensitive groups) and peak levels of 660 (very hazardous+).

A study conducted at one of the University of Maryland campuses (4) measured the distance from the source of secondhand smoke in which PM 2.5 can be detected. Previous studies found that odor *detection* can occur at 1 micron/cubic meter and *irritation* begins at 4 microns/cubic meter. In this study, odor was detectable at 23 feet from the source and irritation levels began at 13 feet. The study also found that anyone positioned downwind from an outdoor source of secondhand smoke is going to be exposed, even at significant distances from the source.

PM 2.5 AQI Break Points (microns/cubic meter)	Air Quality Index (AQI)	Health Advisory Descriptor
0.0 – 15.4	0-50	Good
15.5 – 40.4	51-100	Moderate
40.5 – 65.4	101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
65.5 – 150.4	151-200	Unhealthy for Everyone
150.5 – 250.4	201-300	Very Unhealthy
250.5 – 350.4	301-400	Hazardous
350.5 – 500.4	401-500	Very Hazardous

References

- (1) CARB. (2003). "Technical Support Document for the Proposed Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant: Part A," Technical Report. California Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Chapter 5, pp. V6-V19.
- (2) Klepeis NE, Ott WR, Switzer P. (May 2007). "Real-Time Measurements of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles." *Journal of Air & Waste Management Association*. Vol. 57.
- (3) Kennedy RD, Sendzik T., Elton-Marshall T., Hammond D., Fong G. (2006). "Tobacco Smoke Pollution in Outdoor Hospitality Settings." University of Waterloo, Canada. Presented at the 13th World Conference on Tobacco OR Health 2006.
- (4) Repace, J. (2005). "Measurements of Outdoor Air Pollution from Secondhand Smoke on the UMBC Campus." www.repace.com



TOBACCO-FREE PARKS AND RECREATION STUDY

Summary of Findings

Park areas in Minnesota are used regularly by state residents. Tobacco use restrictions in outdoor environments such as parks and recreation areas are being established in Minnesota and other states across the U.S. The purpose of this study is to describe the support for tobacco-free park policies in Minnesota. To learn more about the public's perceptions of these policies, we conducted a survey of Minnesota residents. We also interviewed park and recreation professionals to ask specific questions about tobacco-free policies in Minnesota.

Is secondhand smoke a problem?

Yes. Secondhand smoke is a recognized cause of acute and chronic diseases in nonsmokers, and is a major source of indoor air pollution. Secondhand smoke is also responsible for an estimated 3,000 lung cancer deaths and 38,000 heart disease deaths in nonsmoking individuals each year in the United States. The most effective approach to reducing secondhand smoke exposure is to establish smoke-free environments. Research has suggested that the adoption of smoke-free policies creates a change in social norms around smoking, helps smokers reduce consumption or quit, and helps keep youth from starting.

Public support for tobacco-free parks

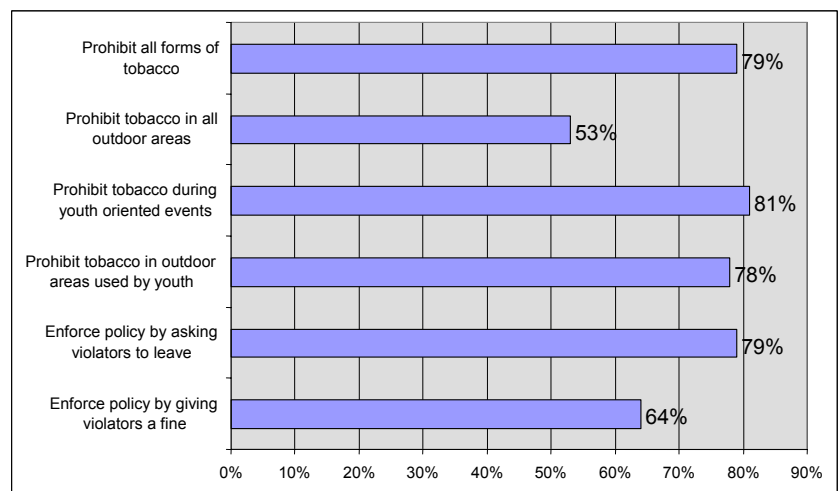
A survey was sent to Minnesota residents by mail in summer 2004. Of the 1,500 respondents, 75% had used any park area in the past month. Overall, 70% of those surveyed supported tobacco-free policies for outdoor park and recreation areas. The attitude of Twin Cities metro area residents was not different from residents living in other parts of the state. Respondents expressed support for tobacco-free policies to:

- Reduce litter in park grounds.
- Avoid the health effects of secondhand smoke.
- Discourage youth smoking.
- Establish positive role models for youth.
- Promote community well-being.

Policy components

We also asked residents about the components of tobacco-free park policies (shown, right). Most people supported strong policies that prohibit tobacco use in youth areas, and asking policy violators to leave park areas. Just over half (53%) of respondents supported the prohibition of tobacco use in all parks at all times. Smokers were the only group generally less supportive of these policies.

Preferences for tobacco-free park policies among Minnesota residents, 2004



Golfers

Thirty-five percent of our sample were golfers. Most golfers (81%) were non-smokers, and 74% of non-smoking golfers supported tobacco-free park policies. We found that being a golfer did not make a difference in support for tobacco-free policies, but being a smoker did.

How do park staff in communities with an existing park policy feel about the policy?

In the summer of 2004, we interviewed 257 park directors from cities and counties in Minnesota's 200 largest cities. Overall, 70 communities reported a tobacco-free policy, which represents 36% of communities surveyed. Park directors with policies had positive experiences, as most reported that park policies were "not difficult" to pass, and 90% would recommend such a policy to other communities.

Changes after implementation

When park directors were asked about changes after tobacco-free policy adoptions:

- 58% reported less litter in park areas.
- 74% reported no problems with policy violators.
- 88% reported no changes in park usage.
- For those reporting a change in park use following the policy, 71% reported an increase in usage.
- Publicity about the policy was reported to be adequate (86%), and few (7%) reported any negative publicity.

Enforcement

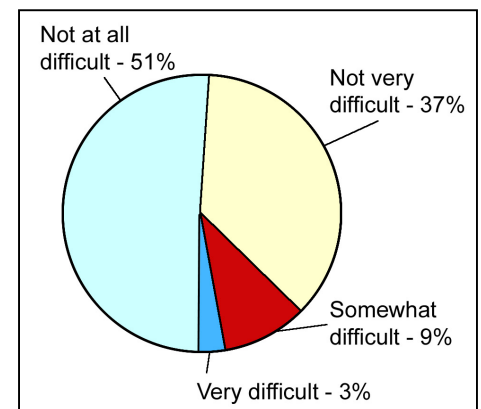
Enforcement was an area of worry for nearly all park directors without a policy. However, in communities with a policy, few park directors (26%) reported compliance problems. Staffing was an issue, as 74% reported too few staff to enforce the policy and/or monitor all park areas.

Park director support

Out of the 257 park directors interviewed, nearly all personally supported tobacco-free policies. Reasons for their support included:

- 96% wanted to establish positive role models for youth.
- 89% wanted to promote community well-being.
- 92% wanted to reduce youth opportunity to smoke.
- 92% wanted to avoid litter from cigarette butts.

Difficulty in passing a tobacco-free park policy, Minnesota 2004



Major Conclusions:

- ❑ The majority of Minnesotans support tobacco-free park and recreation policies.
- ❑ Park staff have experienced few problems and many benefits with the policies, and overwhelmingly recommend tobacco-free policies to other communities.

This study was conducted by the University of Minnesota, Schools of Public Health and Kinesiology, in partnership with Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation and the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, and supported by the Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco. For more information, contact study coordinator Liz Klein at klein_L@epi.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1799.





City-Owned Outdoor Recreational Facilities

Model Tobacco-Free Policy

Section 1: Rationale

WHEREAS, the City believes that tobacco use in the proximity of children and adults engaging in or watching outdoor recreational activities at City-owned or operated facilities is detrimental to their health and can be offensive to those using such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City has a unique opportunity to create and sustain an environment that supports a non-tobacco norm through a tobacco-free policy, rule enforcement, and adult-peer role modeling on City-owned outdoor recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City believes parents, leaders, and officials involved in recreation are role models for youth and can have a positive effect on the lifestyle choices they make; and

WHEREAS, the tobacco industry advertises at and sponsors recreational events to foster a connection between tobacco use and recreation; and

WHEREAS, cigarettes, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground requiring additional maintenance expenses, diminish the beauty of the City's recreational facilities, and pose a risk to toddlers due to ingestion; and

WHEREAS, the City Park & Recreation Board determines that the prohibition of tobacco use at the City's recreational facilities serves to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of our City.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that tobacco use is prohibited in outdoor recreational facilities. No person shall use any form of tobacco at or on any City-owned or operated outdoor recreational facilities, including the restrooms, spectator and concession areas. These facilities include [insert specific facilities here, e.g. playgrounds, athletic fields, beaches, aquatic areas, parks, and walking/hiking trails].

Section 2: Enforcement

1. Appropriate signs shall be posted in the above specified areas.
2. The community, especially facility users and staff, will be notified about this policy.
3. Staff will make periodic observations of recreational facilities to monitor for compliance.
4. Any person found violating this policy may be subject to immediate ejection from the recreation facility for the remainder of the event.

Section 3: Effective Date

This policy statement is effective immediately upon the date of adoption, which is _____, 20__.

Appropriate City Official

Date

City of International Falls, Minnesota

ORDINANCE NO. 13, 4TH SERIES

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA, AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 10 ENTITLED "PUBLIC PROTECTION, CRIMES AND OFFENSES" BY ADDING CITY CODE SECTION 10-32 (c) TO PROHIBIT TOBACCO ON CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY; BY ADOPTING BY REFERENCE, CITY CODE CHAPTER 1, AND SECTION 10-99 WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONTAIN PENALTY PROVISIONS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. City Code Section 10-32(c) to read as follows:

Tobacco prohibited on City property. No person shall use tobacco products on City-owned property including but not limited to parks, buildings and equipment except for Streets and Avenues.

Section 2. City Code Chapter 1 entitled "General Provisions and Definitions Applicable to the Entire City Code Including Penalty for Violation", and City Code Section 10-99 is hereby adopted in its entirety, by reference, as though repeated verbatim herein.

Section 3. After adoption, signing, and attestation, this Ordinance shall be published once in the official newspaper of the City and shall be in effect 30 days after the date following such publication.

Harry G. Swendsen
Mayor

Attest:

Betty Bergstrom
Acting Interim City Administrator

Passed its first reading this 10th day of May, 2004.

Passed its second reading this 24th day of May, 2004.

Published May 28th, 2004

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS
WITHIN CITY-OWNED PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION AREAS**

The City Council of the City of Bloomington hereby ordains:

Section 1. That Chapter 5 of the City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 5

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

ARTICLE III. PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

SEC. 5.21. REGULATIONS.

The following regulations shall apply to all City parks:

(20) Park and Recreation Programs -

- (A) No person involved in any event of the Park and Recreation Department, including, but not limited to sponsors of teams thereof, shall commit an unfair discriminatory practice or deny another person access to, admission to, or utilization of, or benefit from any such event because of race, color, creed, religion, or national origin.
- (B) Exception. The provisions of Paragraph A above shall not apply to a religious organization with respect to qualifications based on religion, when religion shall be a bona fide qualification for membership.

(21) No person shall use tobacco products on City-owned athletic play fields, including their spectator areas, while the fields are being used for organized youth athletic events or organized adult recreational events. These areas shall be posted by appropriate signs and markers as directed by the Park Director.

(22) No person shall use tobacco products on City-owned property during City sponsored cultural programs such as Arts in the Park, Summer Fete and River Rendevous. The Park Director may permit the use of tobacco products for special events such as historical programs and theatrical productions if such use is an integral part of the event. These areas shall be posted by appropriate signs and markers as directed by the Park Director.

(23) City-Owned Parks, Open Spaces and Recreation Areas -

- (A) No person shall use tobacco products on City-owned golf courses and on the exterior premises of the Bloomington Ice Garden. These areas shall be posted by appropriate signs and markers as directed by the Park Director.
- (B) No person shall use tobacco products on City-owned parks, conservation areas and open spaces, including trails used for walking and biking. These areas shall be posted by appropriate signs and markers as directed by the Park Director.

(C) No person shall use tobacco products at City-owned picnic shelters during private rentals of these facilities. These areas shall be posted by appropriate signs and markers as directed by the Park Director.

(D) This Section does not apply to the use of tobacco products in motor vehicles parked on the premises of City-owned parks, conservation areas, open spaces and recreational facilities.

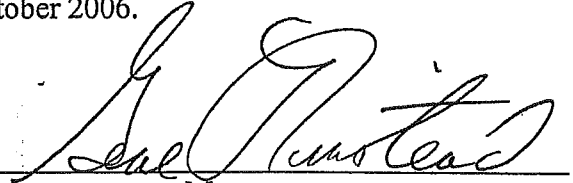
SEC. 5.22. PENALTY.

Any person violating subsections (9) OR (14) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, all other violations of this Article shall be punishable as a petty misdemeanor.

SEC. 5.22.01. SEVERABILITY.

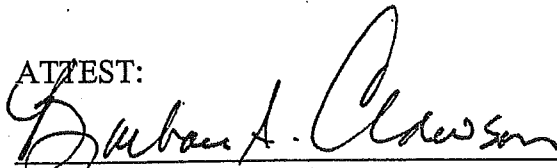
If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Article is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of the Article. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Article and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

Passed and adopted this 9th day of October 2006.




Mayor

ATTEST:



Secretary to the Council

APPROVED:



City Attorney



PLYMOUTH, MN PARKS AND RECREATION

SUBJECT

Plymouths Parks and Recreation Tobacco-Free Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department is committed to the quality of life for all residents, therefore, we believe that:

1. Tobacco product use in the proximity of children, youth and adults engaging in or watching recreational activities is unhealthy and detrimental to the health of others.
2. Tobacco products once consumed in public spaces are often discarded on the ground, thus posing a risk of ingestion to toddlers and causing a litter problem.
3. As parents, leaders, coaches, and officials we are thought of as role models, and the use of tobacco products around youth has a negative effect on their lifestyle choices.

TOBACCO-FREE FACILITIES

No person shall use tobacco products on city-owned parkland, park facilities, open space or joint city/school district properties, except within the confines of a vehicle in a designated parking area.

COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

The emphasis on enforcing the Tobacco-Free park policy is through voluntary compliance:

1. Appropriate city-owned parkland, park facilities, open space or joint city/school district properties will be signed.
2. Plymouth Park and Recreation staff will meet with activity organizations and/or leaders or coaches to discuss the policy and to distribute flyers with the "Tobacco Free" regulations.
3. Plymouth Park and Recreation staff will make periodic observations of activity sites to monitor compliance.
4. Plymouth Park and Recreation will take an active role to encourage the surrounding communities to adopt the "Tobacco Free" policy, so that we may act as a united front to ensure the health and wellbeing of our community.

Date of Adoption: 10/28/03



Park & Recreation Tobacco-Free Park System Policy

1. Guideline Statement

City of Champlin Parks and Recreation Tobacco-Free Policy is designed to protect the health, welfare, and safety of our park patrons.

2. Policy Statement

The City of Champlin is committed to the quality of life for all residents, therefore, we believe that:

- Tobacco product use in the proximity of children, youth and adults engaging in or watching recreational activities is unhealthy and detrimental to the health of others.
- Tobacco products consumed in public spaces are often discarded on the ground, thus posing a risk of ingestion to toddlers and causing a litter problem.
- As parents, leaders, coaches, and officials, we are thought of as role models and the use of tobacco products around youth has a negative effect on their lifestyle choices.

3. Tobacco-Free Facilities

The City of Champlin does not allow the use of tobacco products on City-owned park land, recreational facilities, City facilities, and open space.

4. Compliance Procedures

The emphasis on enforcing the Tobacco-Free parks and recreation policy is through voluntary compliance:

- Appropriate City-owned park land, recreational facilities, open space will be signed.
- City of Champlin staff will meet with activity organizations and \ or leaders or coaches to discuss the policy and to distribute flyers with the "Tobacco Free" regulations.
- City staff will make periodic observations of activity sites to monitor compliance.

5. Adoption date: May 10, 2004

City of Morris, MN

Resolution Establishing Tobacco-Free Policy

- Whereas** the City of Morris believes that tobacco use in the proximity of children and adults engaging in or watching outdoor recreational activities at City-owned or operated facilities is detrimental to their health and can be offensive to those using such facilities; and
- Whereas** the City of Morris has a unique opportunity to create and sustain an environment that supports a non-tobacco norm through a tobacco-free policy, rule enforcement, and adult-peer role modeling on City-owned outdoor recreational facilities; and
- Whereas** the City of Morris believes parents, leaders, and officials involved in recreation are role models for youth and can have a positive effect on the lifestyle choices they make; and
- Whereas** the tobacco industry advertises at and sponsors recreational events to foster a connection between tobacco use and recreation; and
- Whereas** cigarettes, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground requiring additional maintenance expenses, diminish the beauty of the City's recreational facilities, and pose a risk to toddlers due to ingestion; and
- Whereas** the City Park Board determines that the prohibition of tobacco use at the City's recreational facilities serves to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of our City.

Therefore, be it resolved

By the City Council of the City of Morris that the following tobacco-free policy is adopted:

Section 1: Tobacco use prohibited in outdoor recreational facilities

No person shall use any form of tobacco at or on any City-owned or operated outdoor recreational facilities, including the restrooms, spectator and concession areas. These facilities also include all City-owned parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, walking/biking trails, and beaches. The only exception being the City's campgrounds.

Section 2: Enforcement

1. Appropriate signs shall be posted in the above specified areas.
2. The community, especially facility users and staff, will be notified about this policy.
3. Staff will make periodic observations of recreational facilities to monitor for compliance. City officials, parents, and coaches are asked to help in enforcing the compliance to the policy.
4. Any person found in violation of this policy may be subject to immediate ejection from the recreation facility for the remainder of the event.

Section 3: Effective Date

This policy statement is effective immediately upon the date of adoption.

Adopted: March 9, 2004.

Free Signs!

Minnesota cities that adopt comprehensive tobacco-free policies for their recreational facilities and park property can order FREE metal 12" x 18" or 12" x 12" tobacco-free park signs from TFYR to help with policy implementation.

To qualify for the signs, the tobacco-free policy must be a formal written policy that:

1. States that all forms of tobacco use are prohibited at all park and recreational facilities or lists the facilities covered.
2. Includes an enforcement plan that details: a) resident and park user publicity; b) staff notification and instruction; and c) signage.



12"x 18" Tobacco-Free Park Signs



12"x 12" Tobacco-Free Park Signs

Minnesota cities only please. Contact TFYR for details.

ORDER FORM

Please fill out and return with a copy of your city policy to:

Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation
2395 University Ave. West, #310
St. Paul, MN 55114

Phone: (651) 646-3005; Fax: (651) 646-0142; tfyr@ansrmn.org

On _____, the City of _____, MN, adopted the attached tobacco-free policy prohibiting tobacco use in its parks and outdoor recreational areas and facilities.

- Please send _____ 12"x18" "No Tobacco Use on This Park Property" signs
(Qty)
- Please send _____ 12"x12" "Welcome to Our Tobacco-Free Parks" signs
(Qty)

Contact Name & Organization: _____

Mail signs to: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____



Outdoor Tobacco-Free Metal Signs Including Electronic Cigarettes

Association for Non Smokers-MN (ANSR) has 12" x 18" permanent outdoor metal signs available for grantees that need assistance in promoting their tobacco-free policy.

These signs are **FREE**, but all orders **require a copy of tobacco-free policy that includes electronic cigarettes on the policy and was adopted in 2014 or later.**

To receive the FREE signs, the tobacco-free policy must be a formal written policy that states that all forms of tobacco use are prohibited on the whole property or lists the facilities covered under the policy.



*ANSR reserves the right to limit orders based on materials available.****

To receive your free materials, please provide the following information:

1) Shipping Information:

Name/Title: _____

Shipping Address: _____

Shipping City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Quantity Requested: _____

2) Property Information (Please include the following information for each property):

Property Name: _____

Contact Name & Title: _____

Contact Name & Title: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____

Type of Building(s) (check all that apply)

- ☐ College Campus
- ☐ K-12 School
- ☐ County Grounds
- ☐ Municipal Grounds
- ☐ Other _____

Please return form to:

Live Smoke Free
2395 University Avenue W, Suite 310
St. Paul, MN 55114-1512
Email: esha@ansrmn.org
Phone: (651) 646-3005
FAX: (651) 646-0142