

Increasing Equity Through Tobacco-Free Parks



How tobacco-free parks help achieve equity

Poverty & Race

The burden of tobacco use and exposure disproportionately falls on the health of our most marginalized groups —children, people of color, the LGBTQ community, and low-income communities.

Tobacco-free parks are proven to reduce tobacco use and exposure, thereby reducing chronic health problems associated with tobacco use and exposure.

Youth

Each year in Minnesota, more than 14,000 young people under the age of 18 become new daily smokers. More astonishingly, 123,000 youth under the age of 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.

Tobacco-free policies help prevent youth tobacco use by establishing tobacco-free community norms

Population Density

Exposure to second hand smoke, even outdoors, remains a problem. Most people go to parks to access nature, fresh air and outdoor recreation —not use or be exposed to tobacco.

Tobacco-free policies for park areas ensure that all citizens have a healthy recreational environment.

Safety

Well-maintained parks create safer places for people to gather and provide a sense of community. Tobacco use and litter diminishes the vibrancy of parks and diverts valuable park maintenance resources to clean-up.

Tobacco-free policies help achieve well-maintained parks that are safer or perceived as safer.

To best prioritize parks in:

Racially concentrated areas of poverty

Neighborhoods with a high percentage of youth

Higher density neighborhoods

Neighborhoods where safety is a concern

Minneapolis parks should be 100% tobacco-free!

Tobacco-free parks are more equitable parks. Support a 100% tobacco-free policy for Minneapolis Parks!

www.tobaccofreeparks.org/minneapolis

**TOBACCO
FREE**
MINNEAPOLIS PARKS

Tobacco in this document refers to the use of manufactured commercial tobacco products, and not the sacred medicinal and traditional use of tobacco by American Indians and other groups.



Minneapolis Healthier Parks Poll Results



The Minneapolis Healthier Parks Initiative conducted a poll of Minneapolis residents

Respondents were asked about their current park usage, their exposure to second hand smoke and tobacco litter in parks, and the likelihood that they would support a policy that would make Minneapolis parks 100% tobacco-free at all times.

Here is a summary of the results:



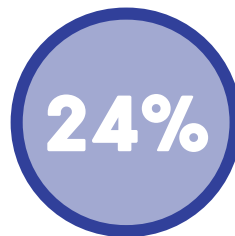
Secondhand Smoke

67% of respondents have been exposed to second hand smoke in Minneapolis parks.



Tobacco Litter

69% of respondents have seen tobacco litter in Minneapolis parks.



Current Policy

Only 24% of respondents were "very familiar" with the current tobacco-use policy in Minneapolis parks.



Support for a Stronger Policy

Overall, 60% of respondents "support" or "strongly support" Minneapolis parks being 100% tobacco-free at all times. Certain categories saw even higher support:

Support for a Stronger Policy:



69% of households with kids support a comprehensive policy.



73% of non-smokers support a comprehensive policy.



73% of "frequent" park users support a comprehensive policy.