



Components of a Successful Policy

1. Include the rationale for developing and implementing the policy

Include the reasons for having a policy: health effects of tobacco (first-hand and secondhand smoke), concerns about increased youth use of electronic cigarettes, concerns about a safe and healthy environment to play in, reinforcement of tobacco educational efforts and support for appropriate role-modeling for young people.

2. Consider who the policy will cover

Identify participants, staff, officials, visitors, and all parties the policy will affect.

3. Locations and/or facilities where the policy applies

Identify all grounds and facilities and include organization-sponsored events, even if held off-site.

4. Definition of terms

Describe clearly which tobacco products and electronic delivery devices (electronic cigarettes/e-cigarettes) are being banned and what determines use and/or possession.

5. Enforcement of policy

Describe how the policy will be enforced: for example, utilizing signage, having staff and/or volunteers ask people to refrain from tobacco use during recreational activities, or publicizing it at each event.

6. Consequences of violation

Consider what the consequences will be for violating the policy. This could include verbal warnings, or, if the problem persists, an escort off the grounds.

7. Activities that support the policy

Identify opportunities that complement the tobacco-free policy, such as communicating the policy, promoting the tobacco-free message at events, providing educational materials, trainings, and utilizing adult and peer role models as spokespeople.

8. Dissemination of policy

Develop plans to notify participants, parents, and spectators of the policy. This can include updates to the policy manual, team & participant pledges, trainings, newsletter articles and signage.

Adapted from Creating Tobacco-Free Schools, Connie Alcott, author.



Creating a Policy

Reasons why we want this policy:

(in full sentences)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Locations to be included:

(see idea sheet & list of local locations)

We will enforce this by:

(In order to most effectively educate the community about this policy & ensure compliance)

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Possible Locations to Include in a Tobacco-Free Park Policy

- baseball fields
- basketball courts
- batting cages
- beaches
- BMX course
- boat launch
- camp grounds
- community center
- dog parks
- fairgrounds
- fishing pier
- football fields
- gardens
- golf courses
- marina
- nature center
- open spaces
- park building entrances
- picnic grounds
- playgrounds
- skate board parks
- skating rinks
- ski slopes & trails
- swimming pools
- tennis courts
- trails





[City/County]-Owned Outdoor Recreational Areas Model Tobacco-Free Policy



Section 1: Purpose

- 1.1. The [City/County] is committed to providing safe and healthy environments.
- 1.2. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the U.S.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. Electronic delivery devices, more commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes typically contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and their use (1) closely resembles and purposefully mimics the act of smoking, (2) produces an aerosol or vapor of undetermined and potentially harmful substances, (3) is increasing among both adults and youth, (4) is especially concerning among youth because of the negative impacts of nicotine on the developing adolescent brain, (5) threatens to re-normalize smoking, potentially jeopardizing tobacco control efforts of the past and present, and (6) creates confusion and leads to difficulties enforcing smoking prohibitions.
- 1.5. Cigarettes consumed in outdoor public places are often discarded on the ground as an environmental blight, diminishing the beauty of recreational areas, requiring additional maintenance expenses to clean up, and posing a fire risk as well as risk to human and animal health through potential ingestion and contamination of water sources.
- 1.6. The tobacco industry advertises at and sponsors recreational events to foster a connection between tobacco use and recreation.
- 1.7. The [City/County] believes parents, coaches, leaders, and officials involved in recreation are role models for youth and can have a positive effect on the lifestyle choices they make.
- 1.8. 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 delivery devices in all [City/County] recreational areas serves to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Section 2: Definitions

- 2.1. **All times** means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- 2.2. **Electronic delivery device** means any product containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia, or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be 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.
- 2.3. **Recreational areas** means all facilities, parks, trails, open space, and other property owned, leased, rented, contracted, used, or controlled by [City/County] for parks and recreational purposes. The term includes, but is not limited to, restrooms, spectator and concession areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, beaches, and aquatic areas.

2.4. Smoke or smoking means inhaling or exhaling smoke from any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other tobacco or plant product, or inhaling or exhaling aerosol or vapor from any electronic delivery device. Smoking includes being in possession of a lighted or heated cigar cigarette, pipe, or any other tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, or an electronic delivery device that is turned on or otherwise activated.

2.5. 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; electronic delivery devices; 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.

2.6. Tobacco use means the act of smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco, or the use of any other tobacco product in any form.

Section 3: Policy

3.1. Tobacco use is prohibited at all times in or on all recreational areas.

3.2. It is not a violation of this policy to use tobacco in or on recreational areas as part of a Native American spiritual or cultural ceremony. Approval from [City/County] administration must be requested and received prior to the ceremony.

Section 4: Enforcement

4.1. Signage will be posted at strategic locations to inform the community and recreational area users about the policy.

4.2 [City/County] staff and volunteers will be notified about this policy through the employee manual.

4.3 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 recreational area users. [City/County] staff will communicate the policy to event organizers. [City/County] staff will also make periodic observations of recreational areas to monitor for compliance.

4.4 Any individual found violating this policy will be reminded and asked to comply before being subject to ejection from the recreational area. [City/County] staff found violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Section 5: Effective Date

This policy is effective on [effective date].

Appropriate [City/County] Official

Date