

Jackson Parks

Differences between Policy and Ordinance

- **Policy:** signage, media promotion, staff communication, and community enforcing.
- **Ordinance:** signage, media promotion, staff communication, police enforcing, and fines.
- 150 (and counting) Parks in Minnesota have Policies (87% of all Parks)
- 19 (and counting) Parks in Minnesota have Ordinances (13% of all Parks)
- Minnesota park directors in cities with TF 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.

Why a TF Park

- It is a priority to protect youth where they play and socialize.
- Family-friendly locations.
- Serves as an environment where tobacco use should not be viewed by youth as the norm.
- Parks are about clean air, natural beauty, and engaging in healthy activities.

Public Health Impact

Exposure to second-hand smoke is linked to a wide range of serious and life threatening health problems including:

- Heart disease, cancer, asthma and other respiratory problems.
- Children exposed to second-hand smoke face increased risk of asthma, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections and ear problems.

While most scientific evidence relates to indoor exposure, several recent studies have found that secondhand smoke exposure levels can be significant outdoors, particularly when smokers are in close proximity to others.

- In addition to preventing secondhand smoke exposure, outdoor tobacco-free laws help smokers who are trying to quit, by eliminating the sight and smell of tobacco smoke.
- Sends a message to children and youth that tobacco use is not an acceptable behavior or a norm in the community.

Environmental Impact

Discarded cigarette butts are a non-biodegradable form of litter that can take decades to break down. Several trillion discarded cigarette butts litter sidewalks, beaches and other outdoor areas each year and are the single most collected item in international beach cleanups.

- Cigarette and other tobacco product litter is unattractive, expensive to clean up, and an environmental blight, harmful to waterways and wildlife.
- Tobacco waste can also affect the health of humans when, for example, children pick up and consume used cigarette butts and when the chemicals produced from wet cigarette butts enter storm drains, groundwater, recreational bodies of water, and other environments.
- 62% of all littered items in Minnesota come from tobacco-related products.
- Outdoor Fires: account hundreds of millions of dollars (average costs \$1 billion annually in America) in annual costs in environmental damage, personal property losses, firefighting expenses and restorative efforts.