

City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department

Policy Regarding Tobacco Use in Parks and Recreation Department Facilities

Adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on June 14, 2012, amended April 10, 2014



Purpose and Intent

- The City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department policy restricting tobacco use in certain facilities is intended to protect and promote the health, safety and welfare of community residents, particularly children and youth.
- There is documented evidence that use of tobacco products and secondhand exposure to tobacco smoke are related to adverse health risks.
- Parents, coaches and officials serve as role models for youth and should model positive lifestyle choices, including not using tobacco products.
- Use of tobacco products in public places can result in litter and debris that is unsightly and may pose a risk of ingestion by toddlers.
- Smoking is prohibited in City-owned buildings and vehicles.

Definitions

"Electronic cigarette" means any electronic device such as one composed of a heating element, battery, and/or electronic circuit, which can be used to deliver nicotine or any other substance(s) to the person using the device, and the use of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, e-cigarillo, or any other product name or description.

"Tobacco product" is defined as any product manufactured wholly or in part from tobacco that is intended to be ingested by smoking, inhalation, chewing, sniffing, or sucking.

"Tobacco use" is defined as consumption of tobacco products by burning, inhalation, chewing, or other forms of ingestion. The definition of tobacco use also includes the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and other related devices.

Policy

Pursuant to Section 12.08.330 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, it is the policy of the City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation that the following facilities shall be designated as "tobacco-free" and tobacco use shall be prohibited.

Tobacco-free facilities are as follows:

1. Playgrounds located in areas defined as parkland
2. Skateparks located in areas defined as parkland
3. Picnic shelters located in areas defined as parkland
4. Outdoor swimming pools and aquatics facilities including bathhouses and parking areas
5. Jim Ager Golf Course
6. Ballfields and multi-use sports fields including concession buildings and surrounding areas
7. The fenced area of Pinewood Bowl, with the exception of a designated smoking area away from the amphitheater seating area for use during concerts and performances where the primary anticipated audience is adults.
8. Outdoor performance venues during community performances and events including the Shildneck Bandshell and surrounding area in Antelope Park and the Dickinson Dinsmore Graf Amphitheater in Union Plaza.
9. Pioneers Park Nature Center, including buildings and grounds.
10. Recreation Centers, including buildings and associated grounds.

Awareness and Enforcement

This policy is intended to be enforced through public information and awareness. Signage designating facilities as tobacco-free will be posted in prominent locations. The Parks and Recreation Department will identify tobacco-free facilities on its website, in printed brochures, in user guides and in rental forms. Parks and Recreation Department employees, parents, coaches, and park facility visitors are encouraged to assist in achieving compliance by bringing this policy to the attention of persons violating the policy. A person found to be engaging in tobacco use may be asked to cease such use or to leave the facility premises.