

Tobacco & Nicotine Free Parks & Trails



Iowa's Smoke Free Air Act requires enclosed facilities within parks to be smoke free, however this does not apply to playground areas, athletic fields, trails, green spaces, or parking lots. It also does not prohibit the use of smokeless tobacco. To ensure children and adult park visitors are protected from exposure to tobacco and nicotine, communities can implement a tobacco and nicotine free parks and trails policy.

Reasons to Implement a Tobacco and Nicotine Free Parks and Trails Policy

Protect Health

- ▶ Adults, families, and children visit parks to enjoy fresh air, play, relax, and exercise. Exposure to secondhand smoke and tobacco product litter reduces the enjoyment of parks and greenspaces.
- ▶ Secondhand smoke harms everyone and there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, even in outdoor environments.

Role Model

- ▶ Communities can emphasize youth role modeling by not allowing tobacco or nicotine use at parks.
- ▶ The use of e-cigarettes and other Electronic Smoking Devices (ESDs) has the potential to re-normalize smoking behavior.

Protect the Environment

- ▶ Waste from tobacco products, such as packaging, is often littered and unsightly.
- ▶ The potential for ingestion of toxic tobacco product litter by toddlers, pets and wildlife is very dangerous.

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