

City Park Tobacco-Free Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish City Park as a smoke-free environment for the following reasons:

1. Secondhand smoke is a Class A carcinogen (causing cancer in animals and humans) and is a particular health threat to children.
2. Smokers are being asked to not smoke in this park so that we can protect the health of the majority of visitors: 79% of all West Virginians are nonsmokers (when you add together nonsmoking adults and all children under 18 years old).
3. We want to establish nonsmoking as the normative behavior for our youth to model and for everyone to make the presumption that all environments are smoke-free. This helps to influence the youth to adopt the tobacco-free choice.
4. We want to reduce direct costs of trash disposal, maintenance & repair and insurance to run this park.
5. We want to prevent injury and fires caused by carelessly handled lit cigarettes and other lighted tobacco products.

Policy

The entire property of the City Park is declared as a smoke-free environment, except for Designated Smoking Areas. No visitor, staff, contractor or vendor shall smoke or carry lighted tobacco or lighted non-tobacco products on this property, except in Designated Smoking Areas.

Designated Smoking areas are located at XXX, XXX and XXX and are indicated by signs. Ash disposal units will be placed at these locations by park personnel and regularly maintained.

This policy does not prohibit the use of matches, lighters, lighter fluid, charcoal or wood in lighting recreational fires or fires in cooking grills under the supervision of adults as provided in the park rules.

Signage

Permanent signs (plastic, metal or wood) with wording such as "This is a Smoke-free Park" or "No Smoking in this Park" shall be posted at all entrances, shelters, picnic tables, public restrooms, food service facilities, ballfields, etc.

Permanent signs with wording such as "Designated Smoking Area" or "Smoking allowed in this area" shall be posted in the Designated Smoking Areas.

Enforcement

The City Police Department has the authority to enforce this rule. Violators who are made aware of the policy and choose to not comply with the policy, may be subject to a fine of \$XX as outlined in the City code.

Regulations prohibiting smoking are primarily self-regulating through public pressure. We rely on members of the public to read the policy and voluntarily comply.

Anyone who desires to register a complaint under this policy may do so by contacting City Hall.

Communication of Policy

This written policy shall be provided in advance to all organizations renting facilities at the Park. The person who signs the rental form will be responsible for ensuring that his/her organization and guests comply with this policy. Noncompliance with this policy may jeopardize the organization's ability to use park facilities in the future.

A plastic laminated sheet of this policy shall be displayed at each entrance, shelter, food service facility, etc. to remind the public about the policy.