

CITY OF BURIEN PARKS AND RECREATION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

TITLE: Tobacco-Free Parks		POLICY MANUAL SECTION & NO. Policy 3000.300.10	
APPROVED BY DIRECTOR <i>Michael LaFramiere</i> 10/11/2011	REVISES OR SUPERSEDES NA	EFFECTIVE DATE: November 17, 2011	

A. Purpose:

City parks and beaches are intended for the healthy enjoyment of all citizens, including children and youth.

Tobacco use in the proximity of children and adults engaging in or watching outdoor recreational activities at City-owned or operated parks and facilities is detrimental to their health and can be offensive to those using such facilities.

Findings:

- Parks and beaches are essential, health-promoting environments that can provide low to no cost opportunities for play, physical activity, greater family and community connection, stress reduction, and access to improved nutrition.
- Tobacco use in parks and beaches sends a dangerous message to youth that using tobacco is consistent with a healthy environment. Studies have shown that children and youth exposed to smoking and tobacco use are more likely to use tobacco products when they get older. Parents, leaders, coaches, and officials involved in recreation are role models for youth and can have a positive effect on the lifestyle choices they make.
- The Surgeon General has concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. The negative health consequences associated with exposure to secondhand smoke include increased risk of blood clots, heart attack, asthma attacks, respiratory problems, and eye and nasal irritation. Indeed, the Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a Group A humans carcinogen, a category which includes only the most potent cancer causing agents, like benzene, vinyl chloride, asbestos, and arsenic.
- Cigarettes and other tobacco products, once consumed in public places, are often discarded on the ground requiring additional maintenance expenses, diminishing the beauty of recreational facilities, and posing a risk to toddlers and/or animals due to ingestion. Cigarette butts also take up to 15 years to decompose.
- Discarded tobacco products also pose a risk of fire. Matches and cigarettes account for 12 percent and 9 percent of outdoor fires, respectively.
- King County residents want tobacco and smoke free parks and beaches. Polling has shown that the majority of residents (72%) support prohibiting smoking in outdoor public areas. More than 25 cities in 12 counties throughout Washington have adopted policies promoting tobacco-free public outdoor areas.
- In the Spring of 2010, representatives from the King County Parks Directors Network agreed to a region-wide collaboration with Public Health through the federally funded Communities Putting Prevention to Work Initiative that would establish tobacco-free parks in at least 22 cities throughout King County.
- In 2006 and again in 2011, representatives of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department Citizen Advisory Board reviewed and endorsed the goal of discouraging tobacco use in the city’s parks and an administrative policy outlining a voluntary compliance approach for Tobacco-Free Parks.

B. **References:**

- *Ordinance 475, Adopted February 2007.*
- *Burien Municipal Code, Chapter 7.20.100: "Adoption of rules and regulations by director".*

C. **Definitions:**

For purposes of this policy, the terms set forth below shall have the following meanings:

1. "*Tobacco product*" means any product containing tobacco in any form.
2. "*Unapproved nicotine delivery product*" means any product containing or delivering nicotine intended or expected for human consumption that has not been approved or otherwise certified for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration as a tobacco use cessation product.
3. "*Parks and beaches*" means any property under the jurisdiction of the PaRCS Department.

D. **Policy:**

1. To help protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of our city, the use of tobacco or other unapproved nicotine delivery products is discouraged in all city parks and outdoor recreational facilities at all times.
2. Person should refrain from the use of any form of tobacco at or on any City-owned or operated outdoor park or facility, which includes, but is not limited to, any park, playground, athletic fields, skate park, aquatic areas, shelters, restrooms, trails and parking lot areas.
3. Enforcement of this policy shall be through voluntary compliance.
4. The compliance with this tobacco-free parks policy will be encouraged through signage, awareness and education.
5. The Department shall prominently post and maintain signage in all parks, trails and beaches indicating that city parks are "tobacco-free" and that tobacco use is discouraged.
6. The Department shall publicize the tobacco-free policy on its website and other promotional materials.
7. The Department shall amend its permits and rental agreements (governing the private use of park facilities such as playing fields and shelters) to reflect that compliance with the tobacco-free park policy is a condition of the permit or lease.
8. Youth athletic associations that utilize city-owned park and recreation facilities will be asked to commit to enforcing this policy during all scheduled events.

E. **Effective Date:**

This policy is effective as of November 17, 2011.