

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Outdoor Tobacco-Free Parks Policy Statement

Adopted for approval by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission February 18, 2005

Vision

A park and recreation system that promotes healthy individuals, builds a strong community, contributes to a sustainable economy, and stewards a sound environment.

Mission

To maintain the quality of life by providing parks and recreation activities and facilities for the maximum benefit of the community.

Policy Background

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation is committed to promoting healthy individuals and maintaining quality of life for the maximum benefit of the community; therefore, it is within our role to proactively address these facts:

1. Secondhand smoke contains hundreds of harmful chemicals and carcinogens. It is a serious health risk to humans, especially infants, children and pregnant women. It is a risk factor for new cases of asthma in children. There is ample evidence that these risks exist even when exposure occurs in open areas.
2. Tobacco products, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground, thus posing a risk of ingestion to toddlers and pets, and causing a litter problem.
3. As parents, leaders, coaches, officials and adults we are thought of as role models, and the use of tobacco products around youth has a negative effect on their lifestyle choices.

Policy

On properties in the City of Vancouver and Clark County that are run by Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, the following park amenities, situations and/or events will be designated as "Tobacco Free", and will be identified by appropriate signage:

1. **The immediate area of playgrounds and play areas.**
2. **The immediate area around public restrooms.**
3. **The immediate area around any public event at a park or ball field, such as concerts, and during adult and youth league games and practices.**
4. **On public beaches.**

Expectations, Outreach and Monitoring Compliance

- The Outdoor Tobacco Free Park Policy will be promoted and observed as a voluntary compliance policy. It is hoped that tobacco users will exercise self discipline.
- Appropriate places within city- and county-owned parks and ball fields will be posted with signage designating the areas that are Tobacco Free.
- An outreach/education strategy will be developed, with the assistance of the Clark County Health Department and possibly other partners. We will specifically request coverage from The Columbian.
- Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation staff will set up educational meetings with sports organizations and/or leaders or coaches, to discuss the policy and to distribute flyers with the "Tobacco Free" regulations. The local American Cancer Society has offered to provide this training.

- For the purpose of measuring the success of the program, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation staff will periodically (and passively) observe Tobacco Free sites for rates of compliance, and gathering input from the park and ball field users.
- Occasional walk-throughs by staff in Department shirts could serve as a gentle reminder to tobacco users who neglect to observe the policy. Informational cards could be handed out to smokers, reminding them of the policy. These cards could be made available to the public, to aid in peer enforcement.

Signs

- Utilize children’s art depicting kids having fun in the parks. (example available)
- Recommended verbiage: either “please keep our park tobacco free” or “tobacco free zone”.
- Recommended footer on sign: “a voluntary program endorsed by the Clark County Health Department and the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department.

The number of locations to be signed

City

- 70 parks with play equipment
- 9 softball fields
- 14 little league fields
- 10 soccer sites

County

- 4 existing in MPD
- 35 new MPD
- 4 regional parks
- 28 little league fields
- 30 soccer sites

9/12/05

RESOLUTION NO. M-3510

A RESOLUTION relating to the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department's Outdoor Facilities Voluntary Tobacco-Free Policy.

WHEREAS, the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department and the Clark County Health Department cite findings that show tobacco use in the proximity of children and adults engaging in or watching outdoor recreational activities at Parks and Recreation-operated facilities and playgrounds is detrimental to their health and can be offensive to those using such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department has a unique opportunity to create and sustain an environment that supports a non-tobacco norm through a tobacco-free policy, education and adult-peer role modeling on department-owned and operated playgrounds and outdoor recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department believes parents, leaders and officials involved in recreation are role models for youth and can have a positive effect on the lifestyle choices they make; and

WHEREAS, cigarettes and chewing tobacco, once consumed in public spaces, are often disposed of on the ground, requiring additional maintenance expenses, diminishing the beauty of Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation parks and facilities, and pose a risk to toddlers and pets due to ingestion; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, at its February 18, 2005 meeting, voted unanimously in favor of the Outdoor Facilities Voluntary Tobacco-Free Policy and to direct the policy statement to Vancouver City Council for adoption; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Vancouver determines that the voluntary abstinence from tobacco use at the City's playgrounds and recreational facilities serves to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Vancouver.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

Section 1. The City of Vancouver does hereby adopt the Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department's Outdoor Facilities Voluntary Tobacco-Free Policy for such City of Vancouver park properties and public events as set forth herein.

Section 2. The Parks and Recreation Director is authorized to designate the parks and facilities within the City of Vancouver to be posted with signage requesting voluntary abstinence from tobacco use in the following areas:

- a. The immediate area of playgrounds and play areas.
- b. The immediate area around public restrooms.
- c. The immediate area around any public event at a park or ball field, such as concerts, and during adult and youth league games and practices.
- d. On public beaches.

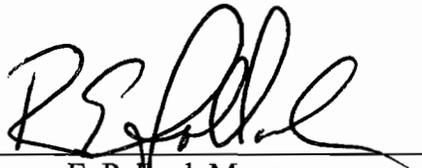
Section 3. The request for voluntary abstinence from tobacco use in City of Vancouver parks and facilities will be implemented as follows:

- a. Appropriate signs shall be posted in the above specified areas.
- b. The community will be notified of this policy through media, neighborhood newsletters, the City of Vancouver's Web site, letters to gatekeeper and shareholder users, and with the support of an education program built with the cooperation of the partners involved.

c. Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation staff and associated maintenance crews will be notified of this policy.

Section 4. This policy statement is effective immediately upon the date of adoption.

ADOPTED at regular session of the Council of the City of Vancouver this 12th of September, 2005.



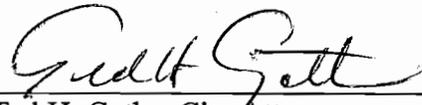
Royce E. Pollard, Mayor

Attest:



Lloyd Tyler, City Clerk
By: Carrie Lewellen, Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Ted H. Gathe, City Attorney