

CITY OF WILLMAR

TOBACCO-FREE PARK SYSTEM POLICY

PURPOSE

The Willmar Park System Tobacco-Free Policy aims to protect the health, welfare and safety of all park patrons from the negative health effects of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke. Smoking, other commercial tobacco use, and exposure to second-hand smoke have been found to cause heart disease, cancer, asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory problems. Electronic delivery devices, commonly referred to as e-cigarettes, closely resemble and purposefully mimic the act of smoking combustible tobacco products and are also harmful to health. E-cigarettes produce an aerosol of harmful substances and typically contain nicotine derived from tobacco, which is a highly addictive substance.

The City of Willmar and the Willmar Park and Recreation Department is committed to an active living and healthy lifestyle. This commitment applies to the quality of life for all residents, guests and visitors. Therefore, we believe:

1. All forms of commercial tobacco, including electronic delivery devices, used in proximity of youth and young adults engaging in or watching recreation activities is unhealthy and detrimental to the health of others.
2. All forms of commercial tobacco products, including electronic delivery devices, consumed in public spaces are often discarded on the ground, thus posing a risk of ingestion to toddlers, cause of litter problems, and other environmental issues.
3. As community members, parents, leaders, coaches and officials, we are considered role models, and the use of commercial tobacco products, including electronic delivery devices, around youth, negatively impacts their lifestyle choices.

DEFINITIONS

All Times: 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Electronic Delivery Device: Any product containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia, or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the

product. The term includes, but is not limited to, devices manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens, Juul, Suorin, or e-hookah.

Park Property: Property owned by the City of Willmar including, but not limited to, facilities, parks, trails, open space, and other property owned, leased, rented, contracted, used, or controlled by the City of Willmar for parks and recreational purposes. The term includes, but is not limited to, restrooms, spectator and concession areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, beaches, and aquatic areas.

Smoking: Inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted, heated, or ignited cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted, heated, or activated tobacco, nicotine, cannabis or plant product intended for inhalation, including hookah and marijuana, whether natural or synthetic. Smoking also includes carrying or using an activated electronic delivery device.

Staff: Any person employed by the City of Willmar in a full or part-time capacity; any position contracted for by the city of Willmar; any person working on a volunteer basis; or any person working or volunteering for the Willmar Park and Recreation Department. The term also includes, but is not limited to, elected and appointed officials, personnel, contractors, consultants, and vendors.

Tobacco Product: Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or other plant material that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, and other smoking tobacco; snuff and other chewing tobaccos; and any other kinds and forms of tobacco or plant material. Tobacco Products also include Electronic Delivery Devices.

Tobacco Product Use: The act of chewing, absorbing, dissolving or ingesting any tobacco product or any other plant product in any form.

Tobacco Product Waste: Any material that is left over and regularly intended to be discarded after the use or consumption of a tobacco product. Tobacco product waste includes, but is not limited to, discarded cigarette butt filters, cigar or cigarillo tips, cigarette packs, cigar or cigarillo wrappers, electronic smoking devices of all types, electronic smoking device cartridges or refill containers, plastic packaging, foil, or other disposable tobacco or plant product remnants or tobacco product packaging in any form.

Visitor: Any person who is not a City of Willmar Staff.

POLICY

1. Smoking and Tobacco Product Use (which includes Electronic Delivery Devices) is prohibited at All Times on all Park Property.

2. Smoking and Tobacco Product Use is prohibited on sidewalks, streets, parking garages, and any other City-owned or -controlled property that are within 25 feet of the property line bordering Park Property.
3. No person shall dispose of Tobacco Product Waste in any area in which Smoking and Tobacco Product Use is prohibited.
4. It is not a violation of this policy to use Tobacco Products in or on Park Property as part of a Native American spiritual or cultural ceremony.

APPLICABILITY

1. This policy applies to all Visitors and Staff on Park Property.
2. Organizers and attendees at public or private events on City Park Property are required to abide by this policy. Event organizers are also responsible for communicating and enforcing this policy.

ENFORCEMENT

1. The success of this Tobacco-Free Park System Policy depends on the consideration and cooperation of all. Enforcement of this policy is a shared responsibility of City Staff and park Visitors.
2. City Staff will communicate the policy to event organizers. City Staff will also make periodic observations of Park Property to monitor for compliance.
3. Any individual found violating this policy will be reminded and asked to comply. If the individual does not comply after being asked, the individual is subject to ejection from the Park Property. City Staff found violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

4. While the emphasis of this policy is on voluntary compliance rather than formal enforcement, nothing in this policy shall prohibit the City from establishing penalties for violation of this policy in the future.

IMPLEMENTATION

As recommended by the Willmar City Council, this Commercial Tobacco-Free Park Policy will become effective upon the approval of the City Council and will be implemented through the following practices:

1. Appropriate signage shall be established on City-owned park land, including recreational facilities and open space to inform the community and park property users about the policy.
2. The City of Willmar staff and the Willmar Park and Recreation staff will work with activity organizations and/or teachers, coaches and community members to educate and inform them regarding this policy.

Updated and Adopted by the Willmar City Council _____

Updated and Adopted by the Willmar City Council _____