



City of Kearney Tobacco-Free Policy for City Parks and Recreation Properties

Whereas, The United States Health and Human Services reports adverse health effects from cigarette smoking account for an estimated 443,000 deaths, nearly one of five deaths, each year in the United States, and

Whereas, tobacco use, including secondhand smoke, is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States, and

Whereas, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, and

Whereas, each year, primarily due to exposure of secondhand smoke, an estimated 3,000 nonsmoking Americans die of lung cancer and more than 46,000 nonsmoking Americans die of heart disease, and

Whereas, 88 percent of adult daily smokers smoked their first cigarette before the age of 18 years old, and

Whereas, The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services reports if the current tobacco-use trend continues, 36,000 youth and children now under the age of 18 years old will likely die prematurely from smoking, and

Whereas, over 2,300 Nebraskans die each year from smoking-attributable causes, and

Whereas, 96.2 percent of Nebraskans agree that inhaling secondhand smoke is harmful to babies and children, and

Whereas, every year, Nebraska spends \$630 per person, no matter their age, for smoking related medical expenses and lost productivity, and

Whereas, The Buffalo County Community Health Partners reports 43.1 percent of Buffalo County residents utilize local parks or recreation centers for exercise at least once per week, and

Whereas, City park and recreation properties are intended for use by all individuals and families, young and old, residents and visitors, regardless of tobacco use, and

Whereas, City park and recreation properties exist to provide residents and visitors a clean and safe environment to promote healthy and active living, and

Whereas, The discarding of tobacco products, whether cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco, is unsightly and poses a fire hazard in wooded and playground areas, and

Whereas, Tobacco-free city park and recreation properties would demonstrate a commitment to the community to be responsive fiscal stewards by reducing maintenance costs associated with grounds and facilities clean-up and by leading efforts to improve the costs of long-term health care of residents and visitors, and

Whereas, Tobacco use by adults can serve as a poor influence on children, therefore possibly leading to tobacco use among youth and children, and

Whereas, The only effective way to promote positive community role modeling, enhance the safety and well-being of residents and visitors, and eliminate the health dangers and environmental denigration posed by tobacco use, particularly secondhand smoke, is to prohibit the use of all tobacco products on city parks and recreation properties.

Now Therefore be it Resolved, The City of Kearney wishes to provide park and recreational properties free of the influence and harmful effects of all tobacco products, it is the policy of the city that:

1. The use of smoking cigarettes, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, electronic cigarettes, or other smoking tobacco products shall not be allowed on any park or recreational property of the City of Kearney.
2. The use of tobacco chew, snuff, or other smokeless tobacco products shall not be allowed on any park or recreational property of the City of Kearney.

3. No tobacco products shall be discarded or thrown onto the ground on any park or recreational property of the City of Kearney.

4. The Tobacco-Free Policy for the City Park and Recreation Properties will be self-enforced by park users. Although police and/or park staff may request the tobacco user cease using tobacco products and/or leave the park property, the intent is for residents and visitors to willingly respect the policy and not use tobacco products while on any park or recreational property of the City of Kearney.

This policy is effective the [day] of [month], [year].

PROPOSAL