



Portland Parks & Recreation Expanded Smoke & Tobacco-Free Parks Policy FAQ

Why did Portland Parks & Recreation expand its smoke and tobacco-free parks policy to all City parks, natural areas, recreation areas, and any other areas where PP&R park rules apply?

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) previously prohibited smoking at Director Park, Pioneer Courthouse Square, and the portion of the South Park Blocks that is located on Portland State University's campus. Smoking was also prohibited within 25 feet of any play structure, picnic table or designated children's play area. Expanding the smoke-free policy to all City parks, natural areas, recreation areas and any other areas where PP&R park rules apply sends a consistent message that aligns with PP&R's focus: "Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland."

What are the benefits of a smoke and tobacco-free parks policy?

- Creates healthy and safe environments for Portland residents and visitors, especially children and youth.
- Protects parks and natural areas from potential risk of fires.
- Protects parks and natural areas from environmental degradation caused by littering of cigarette butts and other tobacco-related waste.
- Supports individuals who are trying to quit smoking or tobacco use or have already quit.
- Reduces exposure of children and youth to smoking and tobacco use, protecting their health and discouraging them from starting a habit that is difficult to quit.
- Contributes to cost savings: tobacco-related disease is still the leading cause of preventable death in Oregonⁱ and costs Multnomah County \$223.5 million each year in medical care and \$195.7 million in lost productivity.ⁱⁱ

When did this policy take effect?

City Council approved the expanded smoke and tobacco-free parks policy on February 18th, 2015. The policy went into effect on July 1st, 2015.

What products are covered under the smoke and tobacco-free parks policy?

No person shall smoke or use tobacco in any form in any place in any Park. For purposes of this policy, smoking and tobacco are defined to include, but are not limited to: bidis, cigarettes, cigarillos, cigars, clove cigarettes, e-cigarettes, nicotine vaporizers, nicotine liquids, hookahs, kreteks, pipes, chew, snuff, smokeless tobacco, and marijuana.

Why are e-cigarettes prohibited?

While the jury is still out on the effects of e-cigarettes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns that they may be an emerging public health issue. More research is needed to understand the health impacts of e-cigarettes, but studies have found carcinogens and toxins contained in e-cigarettes.ⁱⁱⁱ The CDC reports a sharp rise in the number of calls to the U.S. Poison Control Center concerning children exposed to liquid nicotine.^{iv} Without state or federal age restrictions and flavors like gummi bear and cherry, e-cigarettes are also growing in popularity among youth.^v

Are there designated smoking areas?

PP&R's Director, in consultation with the Commissioner in Charge, in a manner consistent with the City's Human Resource Administrative Rules, may establish designated smoking areas for Parks employees for whom there is no reasonably available non-parks property where smoking is allowed.

Does the policy apply to events that take place at PP&R properties?

Yes, the policy applies to events held at PP&R properties with a provision for golf tournaments to allow smoking under certain conditions.

What has been done to address cultural issues for groups such as Native Americans?

Smoking of noncommercial tobacco products for ceremonial purposes in spaces designated for traditional ceremonies in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996, as well as for similar religious ceremonial uses for other cultural groups is permitted.

"Noncommercial tobacco products" means unprocessed tobacco plants or tobacco by-products used for ceremonial or spiritual purposes by Native Americans.

Is the smoke and tobacco-free parks policy a violation of civil and/or Constitutional rights?

No. This policy does not take away individuals' rights to choose to smoke or use tobacco, it just asks them to refrain from smoking or using tobacco while visiting City parks, natural areas, recreation areas, and any other areas where PP&R park rules apply.

How is the smoke and tobacco-free parks policy being enforced?

Any person who violates the policy will not be subject to an exclusion or criminal enforcement. Rather, a person in violation of the policy shall be required to leave the Park in which the offense occurred, for the remainder of the day. Enforcement will only be administered by PP&R staff who have the authority to enforce park rules, except that any person providing security services at Pioneer Courthouse Square, Director Park, or that portion of the South Park Blocks adjacent to Portland State University may enforce the prohibitions on tobacco and smoking in that Park, but only in the manner mentioned above.

What resources are available to help people quit smoking?

Quitting smoking and using tobacco can be hard, but there are resources available to help. Some of these resources can be found through Multnomah County and on the Oregon Health Authority's [Get Help Quitting](#)^{vi}.

Other resources not listed on the OHA webpage:

Asian Smokers Quit Line

Available Monday-Friday, 8 am to 9 pm (Pacific Time)
Voicemail and recorded messages are available 24 hours, 7 days a week

Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin): 1-800-838-8917
Korean: 1-800-556-5564
Vietnamese: 1-800-778-8440

Ucanquit2

For military members, families, and veterans
www.ucanquit2.org

City Employees

FY 2015-16 [Tobacco cessation programs](#)^{vii} covered by the CityCore and Kaiser plan.

FY 2015-16 [Tobacco cessation programs](#)^{viii} covered by City Basic Plan.

ⁱ Oregon Health Authority. "What is Killing Oregonians? The Public Health Perspective."
<https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/CDSummaryNewsletter/Documents/2012/ohd6115.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Oregon Health Authority. "Multnomah County Tobacco Fact Sheet 2013."
<https://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/TobaccoPrevention/Documents/countyfacts/multfac.pdf>
Data derived from Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Morbidity, and Economic Costs (SAMMEC) calculator
<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/sammec/index.asp>

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Food and Drug Admin., *Summary of Results: Laboratory Analysis of Electronic Cigarettes Conducted by FDA*, Public Health Focus, FDA.GOV (July 22, 2009),
<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm173146.htm>

^{iv} Kevin Chatham-Stephens, MD, Royal Law, MPH, Ethel Taylor, DVM, Paul Melstrom, PhD, Rebecca Bunnell, ScD, Baoguang Wang, MD, Benjamin Apelberg, PhD, Joshua G. Schier, MD. "Notes from the Field: Calls to Poison Centers for Exposures to Electronic Cigarettes – United States, September 2010-February 2014." *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. Weekly April 4, 2014 / 63(13); 292-293.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6313a4.htm>

^v CDC. National Youth Tobacco Survey. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2013. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nyts.

^{vi} Oregon Health Authority's Get Help Quitting Webpage:
<https://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/TobaccoPrevention/GetHelpQuitting/Pages/oregonquitline.aspx>

^{vii} FY 2015-16 Tobacco Cessation Programs for City of Portland employees covered by the CityCore and Kaiser plan:
https://portlandoregongov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/cynthia_castro_portlandoregon_gov/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7Ba46037ea-172c-45dc-9ee2-edde6591e78f%7D&action=view

^{viii} FY 2015-16 Tobacco Cessation Programs for City of Portland employees covered by City Basic Plan:
https://portlandoregongov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/cynthia_castro_portlandoregon_gov/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?guestaccesstoken=vOae73ZcdctRT4FU0W%2fbE5AvPSfWWmj3A%2bKeJls0eps%3d&docid=01ed791f01af842279171af9d7c4174cd&action=view