

Steele County Outdoor Recreational Facilities Tobacco-Free Policy

Section 1: Rationale

WHEREAS, the County believes that tobacco and electronic delivery device use in the proximity of children and adults engaging in or watching outdoor recreational activities at County-owned or operated facilities is detrimental to their health and can be offensive to those using such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the County has a unique opportunity to create and sustain an environment that supports a non-tobacco norm through a tobacco-free policy, rule enforcement, and adult-peer role modeling on County-owned outdoor recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the County 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, the tobacco industry advertises at and sponsors recreational events to foster a connection between tobacco use and recreation; and

WHEREAS, tobacco products/cigarettes, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground requiring additional maintenance expenses, diminish the beauty of the County's recreational facilities, and pose a risk to toddlers due to ingestion; and

WHEREAS, the County Park & Recreation Board determines that the prohibition of tobacco use at the County's recreational facilities serves to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Steele County.

POLICY, the sale, sponsorship/promotion, and use of tobacco products and electronic delivery devices are prohibited at all times in and on all county parks except in personal vehicles in parking lots.

Section 2: Enforcement

1. Appropriate signs shall be posted in the above specified areas.
2. The community, especially facility users and staff, will be notified about this policy.
3. Staff will make periodic observations of recreational facilities to monitor for compliance.
4. Any person found violating this policy may be subject to immediate ejection from the recreation facility for the remainder of the event.

Section 3: Effective Date

This policy statement is effective immediately upon the date of adoption, which is _____, 2015.

Steele County Board of Commissioners Chair

Date