

# City of North Ridgeville, Ohio

## Department of Parks and Recreation

### Tobacco – Free Park and Recreational Facilities

#### **PURPOSE:**

The tobacco – free recreation policy clearly states that the City of North Ridgeville views tobacco use during its recreation activities and at our recreational facilities to be contrary to the mission and purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department and detrimental to the health and welfare of the participants and their families, and as such is deemed an unacceptable behavior. The tobacco-free recreation policy prohibits tobacco during any event sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department including practices, games, special events, meetings, performances, competitions, or outings. The policy generally applies to leaders, participants, spectators, and park users.

- The North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department has a responsibility to protect the health and safety of our community's children, youth and adults while they use the city's recreational facilities and adopting a tobacco-free policy is part of this responsibility. Improving the health of the community youth also directly reflects one of the department's main goals.
- By having a tobacco-free policy, a positive example is established for community youth by discouraging adult role models from using tobacco in recreational settings.
- By adopting a tobacco-free policy, the amount of tobacco related litter in the parks will be reduced. When people don't use tobacco in the parks, they will not be able to litter with tobacco waste.
- Secondhand smoke is harmful in both indoor and outdoor settings. Secondhand smoke is a health risk which can be prevented. Children and adults using city recreational facilities should not be exposed to the effects of secondhand smoke and cigarette butts that are often present in these areas.

#### **TOBACCO-FREE FACILITIES:**

- All North Ridgeville park property, including: playgrounds, athletic fields, courts, rinks, parks (softball, baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball, football, etc.)
- South Central Park, Shady Drive Complex, Root Road Soccer Complex, and Frontier Park
- City-owned walking – hiking – biking trails

#### **POLICY ENFORCEMENT PLAN:**

In order to most effectively educate the community about this policy and to ensure compliance, this is the enforcement plan:

- Appropriate signs as directed by the North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Director shall be posted in the above specific areas.
- The community, especially facility users and staff, will be notified about this policy (park and recreation brochure, handouts, social media, email correspondence, registration forms, and league rules).
- Statement of the policy included in information to families regarding organized youth activities.
- Promotion of the policy by park and recreation staff, coaches, and other city employees whose jobs require them to be present in parks.
- Concerned citizens can ask violators to stop using tobacco in the recreational settings.

#### **VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES:**

- Any person found violating this policy and refusing to comply upon request may be requested to vacate the recreational facility for the remainder of the event.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

Tobacco –Any and all tobacco products, including but not limited to, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, snuff, and chewing tobacco.

Outdoor Recreation Facility – any and all recreational facilities owned by the City of North Ridgeville.