

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Smoke-free Park Facilities

(Redding Municipal Code Sections 2.56.080 & 10.20.080)

#### **Where is smoking prohibited?**

Smoking of any substance is not allowed in all City of Redding park facilities. This law also reinforces that disposing of cigarette butts on the grounds of park facilities is considered litter. Park facilities are any park, trail, open space, skate park, building, or structure owned and managed by the City of Redding Community Services Department. Some examples are the Sundial Bridge, parks, Sacramento River Trail, and the grounds of the Redding Civic Auditorium.

#### **When did the policy go into effect?**

November 16, 2012.

#### **Why is the City of Redding banning smoking from park facilities?**

The City conducted a survey of park users and found that the majority were concerned about exposure to secondhand smoke and tobacco litter at City parks. Here are some of the results:

- 74.2% of park users support smoke-free parks & trails.
- 86.3% of park users do not smoke.
- 73.1% of park users are bothered by smoking at parks & trails.
- 94.1% of park users would visit more or the same if there were smoke-free parks & trails.

A purpose of park facilities is to promote community wellness, and smoke-free policies fit with this idea. A safe and healthy environment is especially important at parks because of the number of youth-oriented activities.

Smoke-free park policies are good for recreation areas. They keep parks and trails free from tobacco litter. Also, this policy models a healthy lifestyle to youth. The truth is that children copy the behaviors they see in adults. Smoke-free environments promote positive, consistent community role modeling and protect the health, safety, and welfare of community members.

#### **What is the concern about secondhand smoke?**

The Environmental Protection Agency classified secondhand smoke as a Class A carcinogen, putting it in the same category as asbestos and radon. Class A carcinogens are known to cause cancer in humans.

Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including nicotine, arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde, and carbon monoxide. More than 69 of these chemicals are known to cause cancer. (Surgeon General Report, 2010)

Short-term secondhand smoke exposure can trigger asthma attacks, migraines, heart attacks and allergic reactions. (Surgeon General Report, 2010)

In California, 56% of adults, 64% of adolescents, and 38% of children are currently being exposed to secondhand smoke.

(California Air Resources Board, 2005)

It is estimated that 53,000 deaths are due to secondhand smoke each year in the United States, approximately 6,000 of which occur in California. (Surgeon General Report, 2006)

#### **Isn't it safe to smoke outside?**

Secondhand smoke exposure is harmful in outdoor settings. Continued research on secondhand smoke has revealed that being outdoors does not mean that secondhand smoke is safer. In fact, levels of exposure to secondhand smoke outdoors are comparable to the levels of exposure indoors. A person near an outdoor smoker might inhale a breath that contains 50 times more toxic materials than if they were breathing near a non-smoker. Nonsmokers, a current smoker who is trying to quit, or parents with children often cannot avoid smoke-filled air at recreation facilities.

**How will park users be notified?**

The policy has been announced through the media. Additional education activities have been planned by the Department. These may include signs to be posted at the locations where smoking is prohibited, letters to recreation leagues and event organizers, and resources on the City's website.

**What is my responsibility as a recreation association or event organizer regarding the smoke-free policy?**

The individual/ organization/ association are encouraged to provide information to park users, league participants, and employees regarding the park policy, such as:

- Hand out information on the policy.
- Include policy announcement in newsletters and schedules.
- Remind teams, coaches, and spectators of the policy during events.
- Comply with the policy yourself.

The individual/ organization/ association are encouraged to assist the City in the enforcement of this policy. Enforcement concerns should be referred to the Tobacco Violations & Information Hotline (225-5052).

**How do I acquire "Smoke-free Event" signs to be posted at my event?**

"Smoke-free Event" signage will be available from the Shasta County Tobacco Education Program (530) 225-5052. It is the responsibility of the event organizer to acquire signs. Events may request assistance with sign placement by contacting the Violations & Information Hotline (225-5052).

**What about park users or representatives/volunteers who violate the policy?**

*Park users.* Be polite and calm. Avoid confrontation. Politely say, "This park facility is smoke-free." Point out any smoke-free signs. Notify the Tobacco Violations & Information Hotline (225-5052) if necessary.

*Representatives/Volunteers.* Politely say, "This is now a smoke-free park facility." Be supportive and respectful, but inform the individual that continuing to smoke in this area is likely to encourage park users to smoke there as well. Notify organization or event organizers

if necessary. Anyone may call the Tobacco Violations & Information Hotline (225-5052).

**How do we enforce the smoke-free park facilities policy?**

Individuals/ organizations/ associations are the most effective means of enforcement of this policy. In the vast majority of cases, smoke-free parks policies are self-enforcing. The key components of enforcement and compliance are signage and public awareness. When people see the no-smoking signs they generally don't smoke there.

In cases when a park user will not comply with the policy, individuals may notify the Tobacco Violations & Information Hotline (225-5052).

**Are smoke-free laws fair to smokers?**

Both federal and state courts have determined there is no legal right to smoke. These policies do not keep smokers from smoking, they just restrict where smoking can occur. We live in a society where millions of people have to coexist together, so we must set policies that protect the rights of all people. The public has a right not to be subjected to a known deadly substance.

**Are there any other benefits?**

Another benefit of smoke-free policies is they help to reduce tobacco use, the number one preventable cause of death and disease in this country. Smoke-free policies encourage smokers to quit and make it easier for those trying to quit to succeed. They also help to reduce tobacco use by de-glamorizing smoking and making it less attractive to young people.

**How do I acquire more information and sample materials for notifying recreation and event participants of the new policy?**

Please contact the Shasta County Tobacco Education Program at [nread@co.shasta.ca.us](mailto:nread@co.shasta.ca.us) or (530) 225-5134. You may also visit the smoke-free parks policy page at [www.ci.redding.ca.us](http://www.ci.redding.ca.us).