

**Model Tobacco-Free Parks and Recreation Policy For
City, County and Private Parks and Recreation Agencies in Georgia**

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

WHEREAS, the (City, County, Agency) 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 (City, County, Agency) owned outdoor recreational facilities and county/city agency owned vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the (City, County, Agency) 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 advertising of tobacco use and the tobacco industry sponsorship of parks and recreation activities is inappropriate to the health and wellbeing of youth and adults; and

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

WHEREAS, exposure to the dangers of secondhand smoke pose a health hazard to all; and

WHEREAS, the (City, County, Agency) recognizes that it has a legal authority and obligation pursuant to the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005 (O.C.G.A. 31-2a-1 et seq.), the federal Pro-Children's Act (Title X of Public Law 103-227), the Georgia Youth Access Law (GA. Code ANN. § 16-12-171 2004) and the No Child Left Behind Act.

WHEREAS, the (City, County, Agency) determines that the prohibition of tobacco use at the (City, County, Agency's) recreational facilities serves to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of our City.

Section 1: Tobacco use prohibited in indoor and outdoor parks and recreational facilities

No person shall use any form of tobacco including E-Cigarettes and smokeless tobacco at or on any (City, County, Agency) owned or operated indoor and or outdoor recreational facilities, including but not limited to the restrooms, athletic fields, beaches, aquatic areas, parks, walking/hiking trails, agency owned vehicles, and spectator and concession areas.

Section 2: Enforcement

1. Appropriate signs shall be posted in the above specified areas.
2. The parks and recreation facility will develop an education campaign to inform customers of the new policy.
3. The community, especially facility users and staff, will be notified about this policy.
4. Staff will make periodic observations of recreational facilities to monitor for compliance.
5. Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policies and may include verbal warning, written reprimand, or termination. Visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on parks/recreation property or leave the premises. If they refuse, law enforcement officers will be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing in case the person refuses to leave the property. In the case of a violation within the building of a school, the person is in violation of the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005 (O.C.G.A. 31-2a-1 et seq.) and the federal Pro-Children's Act (Title X of Public Law 103-227) and subject to a fine.

Section 3: Opportunities for Cessation

The administration will identify and offer cessation programs and services for employees who use tobacco products to support them in complying with the policy that prohibits tobacco use on parks and recreation grounds and assisting those staff who are ready to quit smoking or other tobacco use.

Section 4: Effective Date

This policy is effective immediately upon the date of adoption.

Name of City/County Park and or Recreation Agency	Tobacco Products	Policy Code:
Legal Reference:	Adopted on: <i>(Date)</i>	Page 1 of 1
	Revised on:	
Signed by:		