



TOBACCO AND CANNABIS USE ON PARK PROPERTY POLICY

I. General Purpose and Objective.

The City of Anoka is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of life for all residents and employees by allowing them to live and work in a safe, clean environment. Smoking or vaping tobacco, nicotine infused products, or cannabis, and the exposure to second-hand smoke, are associated with an increased risk of health hazards.

Cannabis, either inhaled or ingested in other ways, can be particularly hazardous to the health and safety of certain segments of the population, such as children, young people, pregnant women, nursing mothers, people with heart and lung conditions, and the elderly.

1. Tobacco product use in the proximity of children, youth, and adults engaging in or watching recreational activities is unhealthy and detrimental to the health of others.
2. Tobacco products, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground; thus, posing a risk of ingestion by toddlers and causing a litter problem.
3. The safety and health impacts of electronic delivery devices or vaping have not been fully studied, but the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has found that many such products include known carcinogens and other toxic chemicals.

As parents, leaders, and officials, we are thought of as role models; and the use of tobacco products around youth has a negative effect on their lifestyle choices.

II. Tobacco and Cannabis Free Parks and Facilities.

The City of Anoka prohibits the use of tobacco, tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and Cannabis (smoking or vaping) on or near City-owned parkland, in recreation or park facilities, playgrounds, and athletic fields, whether indoor or outdoor, and within a 15-yard radius (45-feet) of any park facility or park building entrance or city-owned property.

Cannabis use of any kind, including but not limited to, smoking, vaping, ingesting, is strictly prohibited while inside the Anoka Aquatic Center, the Anoka Senior center, or within any enclosed park structure.

Green Haven Golf Course is exempt from this policy.

III. Compliance and Enforcement Procedures.

1. Enforcement of this Policy is initially through voluntary compliance.
2. Adult and Youth Athletic Associations that utilize City-owned facilities, are expected to comply with all aspects of this Policy and inform its participants and parents of this Policy.

3. City staff will make periodic observations of park and recreational facilities to monitor for compliance.
4. City staff will communicate this Policy to those not in compliance. Members of the general public who violate this Policy will be informed of its prohibitions and requested to comply. Any violator who fails or refuses to voluntarily comply with this Policy will be asked to leave the facility.
5. Violators of this Policy who refuse to leave may be subject to trespass action by the Anoka Police Department.

IV. Definitions.

Tobacco: “Tobacco” is a plant grown for its leaves, which are dried and fermented before being put into tobacco products. Tobacco contains nicotine, an ingredient that can lead to addiction.

Tobacco Products: “Tobacco products” includes: electronic cigarettes, cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco (including chewing tobacco, snuff, dip, snus, and dissolvable tobacco), pipe tobacco, bidis, hookah, heated tobacco products, and nicotine pouches.

Electronic Cigarettes: “Electronic Cigarettes” produce an aerosol or vapor by heating a liquid that usually contains nicotine flavorings, and other chemicals that help make the aerosol. Users inhale this aerosol into their lungs. Bystanders can also breathe in this aerosol when the user exhales into the air. Also referred to as: E-Cigs, vapes, e-hookahs, vape pens, tanks, or electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS). E-cigarettes can also be used to deliver cannabis products or other drugs.

Cannabis: "Cannabis" means any product containing any cannabinoid or hemp-based mood altering chemical, plant, or other substance intended for human consumption, including any “cannabinoid,” “artificially derived cannabinoid,” “cannabis flower,” cannabis product,” “lower-potency hemp edible,” or “hemp-derived consumer products,” or any other substance regulated by Chapter 342 and as defined in Minn. Stat. § 342.01, as it may be amended.

Cannabis Use: “Cannabis Use” means the introduction of Cannabis as defined above into the human body by any means whether the cannabis is chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or otherwise ingested. “Cannabis Use” also includes inhaling or exhaling smoke from any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted cannabis product as well as carrying a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted cannabis product intended for inhalation. “Cannabis Use” also includes the inhaling, exhaling, or production of vapor, smoke, or aerosol containing cannabis through the use of any electronic delivery device or product.

Policy History

Initially Adopted: 07.06.2004 as Tobacco Free Parks Policy
Converted to Tobacco and Cannabis on Park Property Policy