



**PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION**

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



# **Expand Smoke and Tobacco-Free Parks Policy**

February 11, 2015


**Mike Abbaté, PP&R Director**

# Current Smoke-Free Parks Policy

## Code Section 20.12.110

- No person shall light or smoke any tobacco products within twenty-five (25) feet of any play structure, picnic table or designated children's play area, or in an area under permit where prohibited by the permit holder, or in any other place in any Park where smoking is prohibited by the Director.
- Smoking is prohibited in Director Park, Pioneer Courthouse Square, and the portion of the South Park Blocks located on Portland State University's campus.

# Proposed Changes to Smoke-Free Parks Policy

- Extend the smoke-free policy to all City parks, natural areas, recreation areas and any other areas where PP&R park rules apply.
  - Events held on PP&R properties would also be smoke and tobacco-free with a provision for golf tournaments to allow smoking and tobacco use in certain conditions.
  - Expand list of prohibited smoke and tobacco products.
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# Proposed changes to Smoke-Free Parks Policy

- PP&R's Director, in consultation with the Commissioner in Charge, in a manner consistent with the City's Human Resource Administrative Rules, may establish designated smoking areas for Parks employees for whom there is no reasonably available non-parks property where smoking is allowed.



*Heron Lakes Golf Course*

# Proposed Changes to Smoke-Free Parks Policy

- Provide an exception for smoking of noncommercial tobacco products for ceremonial purposes in spaces designated for traditional ceremonies in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996, as well as for similar religious ceremonial uses for other cultural groups is permitted.

“Noncommercial tobacco products” means unprocessed tobacco plants or tobacco by-products used for ceremonial or spiritual purposes by Native Americans.

# Enforcement Strategy

- Primary method of enforcement will be education.
- The purpose of this ordinance is not to ostracize people who smoke or use tobacco.
- PP&R will work with Multnomah County and other agencies to raise awareness about the new policy and smoking and tobacco cessation resources.



# Reasons for Expansion of Smoke-Free Policy

- “Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland”
- Create healthy and safe environments
- Support individuals who are trying to quit
- Reduce youth exposure



# Reasons for Expansion of Smoke-Free Parks

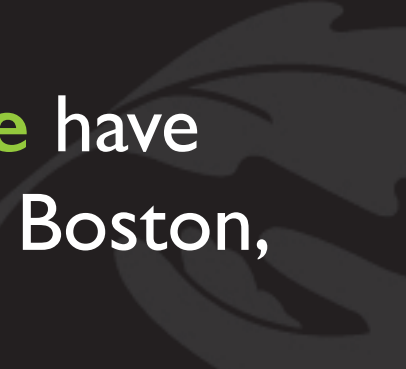
- Protect parks and natural areas from potential risk of fires.
- Protect parks and natural areas from environmental degradation caused by littering of cigarette butts and other tobacco-related waste.




*A discarded cigarette butt started a fire along the Springwater Corridor in September 2014*



## WHY NOW?

- Tobacco-related disease is still the leading cause of preventable death in Oregon and costs Multnomah County \$223.5 million each year in medical care and \$195.7 million in lost productivity.
  - The City of Portland would join **64** other cities, counties, and other jurisdictions across Oregon that have established smoke-free parks policies.
  - Over **1000 municipalities nationwide** have enacted smoke-free parks laws, including Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles.
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## Public Involvement to Date

- The Portland Parks Board researched smoke and tobacco-free parks and put forward recommendations.
  - On January 21, 2015 an email was sent to the 44,476 subscribers to PP&R's email list. The email included links to the draft ordinance, FAQ's and asked for feedback by 5 pm on January 28, 2015. A reminder email was sent on January 27.
    - 341 comments received
    - The majority of comments were favorable about the ordinance
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**Thank you!**

