



## INTRODUCTION

One of the primary purposes and functions of a public park is to provide safe, welcoming places for all genders, faiths, ethnicities and abilities to enjoy and pursue physical activity, healthy lifestyles and leisure experiences through nature, which have been proven to assist in combating chronic disease, an increased prevalence of sedentary lifestyles, stress reduction and poor nutrition habits. Parks and open spaces contribute to a healthier Auburn community.

Smoking and tobacco use in parks is contrary to this goal. The issue is not about protecting the rights of some people who smoke, rather a smoking/tobacco restriction in parks is about protecting the rights of everyone to have a smoke free environment while visiting their parks.

In conjunction with the Blue Ribbon/Healthy Auburn 2020 Task Force and the City of Auburn Park Board, we are asking the Council to consider implementing a [Tobacco/Smoke Free Parks Ordinance](#).



## SMOKING BY THE NUMBERS

### Within the City of Auburn, Wa:

(King County City Health Profile Auburn, March 2016)

- Top 2 leading causes of death in the City of Auburn are Cancer and Heart Disease.
- Smoking ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 9 indicators (which is significantly higher than the King County average)
- Smoking during pregnancy ranked 1<sup>st</sup> out of 9 indicators (which is significantly higher than the King County average)
- 20% of residents in Auburn identify as a current smoker.

### Within King County:

(King County Public Health, 2017)

- Nearly 1 in 5 Students in King County were using a tobacco product in 2014.
- Almost 1 in 5 deaths in King County are caused by smoking.
- E-cigarette use among students increased from 3% in 2012 to 14% in 2014.



## CURRENT LAWS AND CITY POLICIES

- Washington State Law prohibits the smoking in all indoor public spaces. Must be 25' from nearest entrance. (Previous Clean Indoor Air Act, enacted in 2005).
- Washington State Law prohibits the use of all tobacco products on public school property and grounds.
- Washington State Law prohibits smoking or consuming marijuana in view of the public.
- City of Auburn Resolution 4475 kicked off the Tobacco Free Parks Kids Education Campaign in 2009
- City of Auburn, Personnel Policy 200-08 Tobacco Free Work Environment sets out the City of Auburn's commitment to achieving a tobacco-free work environment.
- If a future City of Auburn ordinance is adopted, implications on contractors, renters, etc. will need to be reviewed and policies modified.



## SUPPORT FOR SMOKING/TOBACCO RESTRICTION

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the US

- Healthier recreational environments that promote physical activity
- Less exposure to tobacco use and second hand smoke
- Increased awareness of the dangers of smoking and tobacco use
- Cleaner parks that contribute to the recreational experience, less cigarette butts
- Fewer carcinogens, toxic metals and poisonous gases in the air
- Fresher air to help support physical activity and respiratory health
- Less risk of fire during dry months via still burning cigarette butts
- Helps shields visitors, especially children, who can be easily influenced
- Decreased maintenance cost and improved aesthetics due to less cigarette butts
- Increased community health within the City of Auburn
- Reduced long term impacts on public health care
- Support and extension of local, statewide and national no-smoking campaigns
- A recent study (using New York City Parks, May 2012) proved these types of bans can influence behavior.



## OPPOSITION OF SMOKING/TOBACCO RESTRICTION

A restriction of smoking/tobacco in public parks does not exclude the individual, it excludes the behavior.

- The freedom to choose is an American value and expectation
- Assuming personal responsibility for negative choices is part of being an adult
- A person should be in charge of their own intrinsic health decisions
- Mixed scientific reviews on the impacts of second hand smoke
- Historically, banning substances does not work in changing behavior (ie prohibition)
- Continued isolation and criticism of smoking populations
- Vape "smoke" is not smoke, what's the harm
- Cultural barriers could influence decisions
- Smokers and tobacco users pay taxes too



## COMMUNICATION / ENFORCEMENT

Personal conduct in parks and adherence to laws are expected to be followed, just like all Auburn City Codes and laws that impact City of Auburn residents. Similar to other park conduct expectations like no alcohol, no littering, leash laws, no fireworks, etc. the primary enforcement tool is signage to communicate/inform.

- Press releases, website, programming guides, rental agreements, temporary signage or banners, marketing collateral, social media etc will all assist in the initial announcement and and continued awareness of Tobacco/Smoke Free Parks
- Park signage will be created and installed, where applicable
- Staff education, talking points and public engagement procedures will be developed – focus is education only, leave behind card for park patrons – no enforcement
- If “enforcement” escalates to law enforcement via Auburn Police Department (APD), it is important to understand, that in order to cite an individual, officers have to witness the violation occurring themselves. It is likely that if a park patron calls the APD, the potential violator will have already finished smoking their cigarette. These types of a calls, similar to all other law enforcement calls, will be prioritized by APD dispatch and handled according to APD policy.



## COMMUNICATION / ENFORCEMENT CONT.

Examples of signage/education campaigns:





## SMOKING/TOBACCO CESSATION RESOURCES

### Resources closest to the City of Auburn:

- SeaMar Community Health Centers – Kent Medical Clinic | *Tobacco Cessation*
- Auburn Valley YMCA, Auburn, WA | *Accelerate Your Quit Workshops*
- Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation, Auburn | *Smoking Cessation/Vaping Group*
- Multicare Auburn Medical Center, Auburn | *QuitSmart Tobacco Cessation Program*

### Within King County:

- Over 25 options, including on-line programs, support groups and hotlines.



## WHAT OTHER COMMUNITIES ARE DOING

National Park Service | No smoking or vape products in any national park.

WA State Parks | Identified smoke-free areas.

- Researched 34 case studies in 14 counties:
  - The majority supported 100% smoke/tobacco free bans in park/parks.
- Adjacent Neighbors:
  - City of Seattle | All parks are smoke and tobacco free.
  - City of Burien | All parks are smoke and tobacco free.
  - City of Seatac | All parks are smoke and tobacco free.
  - City of Covington | All parks are smoke and tobacco free.
  - City of Kent | All parks are smoke and tobacco free.
- Thousands of park and recreation systems across the United States are smoke and tobacco free.





## DETERMINING TYPE OF BAN

Smoking and tobacco free parks restricts the following items: bidis (a tobacco smoking product that's rolled in the leaves of the tendu plant, instead of paper, then tied with string), cigarettes, cigars/cigarillos, clove cigarettes/kreteks, e-cigarettes, nicotine vaporizers, nicotine liquids, hookahs, pipes, chew, snuff, smokeless tobacco and marijuana.

- Type(s) of Bans/Restrictions:

1. Tobacco and Smoke Free Parks\* – System Wide
2. Tobacco and Smoke Free Spaces\* – Designated Areas Only (Playgrounds, Athletic Complexes)
3. No Change in Policy

\*Can split out and have just “smoke free” parks, instead of all tobacco products.

\*Can remove specific products from the above ban, where applicable.

Park Board and Auburn’s Blue Ribbon Committee recommend a system-wide ban.



## SAMPLE CODE LANGUAGE FOR AUBURN

### Smoking, vaping, or tobacco use in parks prohibited.

It is unlawful for any person to smoke, vape, or use tobacco products in or on any park property or park facility, excluding the Auburn Golf Course facility. This prohibition includes both noncombustible products, like e-cigarettes or other vaping devices that produce smoke or vapor, and dipping tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus; and combustible products, like paper cigarettes, cigarillos, or cigars, pipes, and hookahs. If the product emits smoke, or vapor, or contains tobacco, it is prohibited.





## **AUBURN CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED & NEED TO DETERMINE TYPE OF CODE / PENALTY**

At the September 4, 2019 City of Auburn Park Board meeting, the Park Board unanimously supported the implementation of a City of Auburn policy reflecting Smoke and Vape Free Parks and requested staff develop such ordinance through Auburn City Code that could be considered by Auburn City Council.

Recommendation to adopt an Ordinance of Smoke and Vape Free Parks in Auburn to ACC Chapter 2.22 Park Code:

- *If the ordinance were added to Ch. 2.22 ACC and the code was violated; ACC 2.22.250 would kick in, which provides that any violation of a section of Ch. 2.22 ACC is a class 1 civil infraction. This infraction carries a base penalty of up to \$250, not including statutory assessments.*