

Maine Tobacco-Free Community Recreation: Municipal Resolution

[MUNICIPALITY NAME] - a resolution to promote the health and safety of **[MUNICIPALITY NAME]** residents by establishing all **[MUNICIPALITY NAME]** recreational area properties as tobacco-free areas.

Whereas the town of **[MUNICIPALITY NAME]**, Maine, has set a goal to be a safe and healthy place to live and work; and

Whereas tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States, as well as in the State of Maine; and

Whereas secondhand smoke contains thousands of harmful chemicals and many cancer-causing agents, and is a serious health risk to humans, especially infants, children, and pregnant women; and increases a nonsmoker's risk of asthma, heart disease, and lung cancer; and

Whereas smoking includes inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted/heated cigar, cigarette, pipe or joint, or any other tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, including hookahs and marijuana, whether natural or synthetic in any form. Smoking also includes the use of any electronic smoking device which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form.

Whereas chewing tobacco contains many harmful chemicals and cancer-causing agents, and its use is associated with cancers of the mouth, gums, tongue, and throat; and

Whereas tobacco use in and around the **[MUNICIPALITY NAME]** recreational area properties sends contradictory messages to young people who are participating in activities beneficial to their health, while at the same time exposed to the use of tobacco products; and

Whereas the purpose of the **[MUNICIPALITY NAME]** recreational area properties is to provide opportunities for quality recreation and leisure experiences that enhance the quality of life for citizens of **[MUNICIPALITY NAME]**, including providing a safe environment for these experiences; and

Whereas tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke are contrary to enhancing the quality of life and providing safe environments; and

Whereas staff and coaches are important role models for the youth that participate in community recreation activities, and whereas what coaches promote is respected and imitated by youth; and

Whereas a policy needs to have procedures to follow when a violation of the policy occurs; and

Whereas the intent of this resolution is to create a tobacco-free environment for youth and not alienate adults who use tobacco products;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the town of **[MUNICIPALITY NAME]** does hereby declare that its recreational area properties as tobacco-free 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and restricts the use of any tobacco product, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, electronic smoking devices, and chewing tobacco, on, in, or at any athletic facility, playground, or assembly area operated by **[MUNICIPALITY NAME]**.

Be it further resolved that:

- Tobacco-free signage will be posted in appropriate areas, and notices will be published in local newspapers to inform the public of this tobacco-free resolution,
- Procedures that reinforce the norm that this property is a tobacco-free facility will be developed, and violations will be addressed in a positive manner

Tobacco treatment information is available for those interested in quitting, including about the Maine QuitLink (1-800-QUIT-NOW or MaineQuitLink.com). The Maine QuitLink offers a variety of phone- and web-based quit service options that are free, friendly, and confidential.