



**CITY OF GREAT FALLS
COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT**

Item: Resolution 10023 Encouraging Citizens to Recognize Tobacco Free Zones in City Parks

Initiated By: Park & Recreation Department/City County Health Department

Presented By: Marty Basta, Park and Recreation Director

Action Requested: Adopt Resolution 10023

Suggested Motion:

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission (adopt/deny) Resolution 10023”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, public comment, and calls the vote.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Commission adopt Resolution 10023, a resolution encouraging citizens to recognize tobacco-free zones in city parks.

Background: The City/County Health Department staff conducted a presentation on “Young Lungs at Play” to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board on January 14, 2013. Tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, accidents, fires and AIDS combined. Resolution 10023 would not impose any penalties or fines for tobacco use in the proposed tobacco-free zones, nor does it prohibit smoking in city parks. However, it is intended to “encourage” citizens to recognize, respect and refrain from tobacco use in these tobacco-free zones. Zones would include playground areas, youth sports facilities and aquatic parks. Resolution 10023 is intended to help role model tobacco-free behavior to children and youth and to provide children, youth and their families with a safe, tobacco-free environment.

Concurrences: The Park and Recreation Board voted unanimously in support of developing a resolution to create tobacco-free areas around play structures in city parks. The City/County Health Department supports this effort as well.

Fiscal Impact: The City/County Health Department has agreed to bear the cost of producing the necessary signs and the Park and Recreation department will do the installation of the signs.

Alternatives: To not create smoke-free zones in city parks.

Attachments/Exhibits: Resolution 10023 Encouraging citizens to recognize tobacco free zones in city parks.

RESOLUTION 10023

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING CITIZENS TO RECOGNIZE TOBACCO-FREE ZONES IN CITY PARKS WHERE CHILDREN ARE AT PLAY SUCH AS PLAYGROUNDS AND YOUTH SPORTS FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, smoking and chewing tobacco is responsible for the premature deaths of over 1,200 Americans each day from lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and other diseases; every 8 seconds someone in the world dies from a smoking-related disease; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is responsible for 50,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year and affects your pets health as well; and

WHEREAS, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, accidents, fires, and AIDS combined; and

WHEREAS, almost 90% of smokers started smoking before the age of 18, and the average initiation age is 14 years old; and

WHEREAS, smoking and chewing tobacco contains at least 28 known carcinogens and over 4,000 chemicals that are linked to cause mouth, gums, pharynx and salivary gland cancers; lung, breast and stomach cancer; and

WHEREAS, Montana's spit tobacco rate is the second highest in the nation; 23% of high school males are using spit tobacco and 5.3% in females; both more than double the national average. Great Falls has more high school males using spit tobacco than smoking (30% vs. 12.8%); and

WHEREAS, 1,500 youth in Montana become regular smokers each day and one-third of these children will die prematurely from tobacco related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, to help role model tobacco-free behavior to children and youth; to provide children, youth and their families with a safe, tobacco-free environment; and

WHEREAS, cigarette filters are not biodegradable thus reducing park litter and protecting children from ingesting filters that are discarded on the ground; and

WHEREAS, the City of Great Falls Park and Recreation Board on January 14, 2013, voted unanimously to encourage the City of Great Falls Commission to further designate all youth play areas as tobacco free;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Great Falls Commission, County of Cascade, State of Montana designates tobacco-free park areas where children are present including, playgrounds, youth sports facilities, and aquatic parks and further requests that citizens refrain from tobacco use in these zones.

Adopted by the Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, on this 17th day of September, 2013.

Michael J. Winters, Mayor

ATTEST

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

Sara R. Sexe, City Attorney