

## **TOBACCO FREE POLICY**

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, smoke –free outdoor public spaces help protect youth and adults from exposure to secondhand smoke, provide a healthy model of adult behavior, and may limit youth access to cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, litter resulting from cigarette smoking in open spaces is unsightly and detracts from the visual landscape for both residents and visitors, presents a potential hazard to young children, pets and wildlife, and is costly to clean up; and

WHEREAS, Electronic delivery devices, more commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes typically contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and their use (1) closely resembles and purposefully mimics the act of smoking, (2) produces an aerosol or vapor of undetermined and potentially harmful substances, (3) is increasing among both adults and youth, (4) is especially concerning among youth because of the negative impacts of nicotine on the developing adolescent brain, and (5) threatens to re-normalize smoking, potentially jeopardizing tobacco control efforts of the past and present; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Village of Avoca in enacting this policy, to provide for the public health, safety, and welfare, by creating and sustaining an environment that supports a smoke-free norm; by protecting children from exposure to smoking and tobacco; by reducing the potential for children to associate smoking and tobacco with a healthy lifestyle; by protecting the public from smoking and tobacco-related litter and pollution; and by affirming and promoting the family-friendly atmosphere of the Village of Avoca's public places.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to (a) Provide a tobacco-free public landscape to protect the greater community health, and (b) Provide a social environment that promotes smoke-free and tobacco-free living, supports smokers who want to quit, and encourages youth to remain tobacco-free:

1. That with respect to Village of Avoca-owned or leased property, the following outdoor areas are designated tobacco-free zones, to define these as smoke-free and tobacco-free areas where smoking is not permitted at any time;
  - a. Specific areas utilized by the public to conduct Village of Avoca business, such as walkways surrounding and within 10 feet of entrances to Village of Avoca offices;
  - b. Parks and playgrounds open to the public for recreational use, including use by individuals, children, families, and small groups, and use for planned public events such as concerts, festivals, or fairs;
  - c. Property leased or permitted for use by independent organizations for public events, festivals, fairs, or commerce;
2. That appropriate signs will be posted designating tobacco-free zones;
3. That special tobacco promotions be prohibited from taking place on property owned, leased or managed by the Village of Avoca;

4. That the success of this policy depends on the consideration and cooperation of all. Enforcement of the policy is a shared responsibility of Village of Avoca staff and recreational area users. Village of Avoca staff will communicate the policy to event organizers. Village of Avoca staff will also make periodic observations of recreational areas to monitor for compliance.
  - a. Any individual found violating this policy will be reminded and asked to comply before being subject to ejection from the recreational area. Village of Avoca staff found violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

Definition:

“Smoke” and Tobacco use – the use or presence of any tobacco product (i.e.) a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, hookah, smokeless tobacco (snuff, snus, dissolvables ), etc. This includes the use of electronic aerosol delivery systems (an electronic device that, when activated, produces an aerosol that may be inhaled).