



City of Minneapolis  
**Public Health Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, Jan 26, ~~2009~~<sup>2010</sup>, 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Minneapolis City Hall  
350 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 132

**AGENDA**

Welcome & Introductions Approve Oct 27, 2009 Minutes	Noya Woodrich	Vote	6:00 – 6:10
Post-Urban Health Forum Minneapolis Tobacco-Free Parks	Brittany McFadden	Presentation	6:10-6:15
Comprehensive Assessment of Services Intended to Prevent Youth Gang Crime in North Minneapolis	David Carson & Jared Erdmann	Presentation	6:15-6:50
Crisis Connection	David Therkelsen	Presentation	6:50-7:05
Youth Violence & Chemical Use Subcommittee	Noya Woodrich	Report/Discussion	7:05-7:25
Social Host Ordinance Hearing Feb 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Emily Wang	Report	7:25-7:30
Co-Chair Elections	Noya Woodrich	Vote	7:30-7:40
Subcommittees • PHAC 2.0 • CDBG	Emily Wang		7:40-7:45
Department Updates • New City Council • Department 5 Year Goal Setting	Gretchen Musicant	Report	7:45-7:55
Information Sharing	All	Report	7:55 – 8:00

**Next Meeting:** Feb 23, Minneapolis City Hall, Room 132

If there are any problems/changes the night of the meeting, please call 612-919-3855.

**Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support (MDHFS)  
Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)  
January 26, 2010**

**Members Present:** Gavin Watt, Noya Woodrich, David Therkelsen, Debra Jacoway, John Schrom, Jim Hart, Mitchell David Jr.

**Members Excused:** Samira Dini

**Members Unexcused:** Clarence Jones, Renee Gust, Doug Lemon

**Staff Present:** Gretchen Musicant, Emily Wang, Hattie Wiysel

**Speakers:** Brittney McFadden

**Guests:** None

**Noya Woodrich opened the meeting at 6:10 pm at City Hall, members introduced themselves.**

Item	Discussion	Outcome
Approve October 27, 2009 Minutes	David Therkelsen moved to accept the minutes with the addition, Gavin Watt seconded the motion, all approved.	Motion to approve October 27, 2009 minutes was carried.
Post-Urban Health Forum Minneapolis Tobacco-Free Parks	<p>Brittany McFadden presented information from Minneapolis Tobacco-Free Park to gain the support of the PHAC. She distributed the following related documents: Tobacco-free Parks &amp; Recreation (brochure); Support Tobacco Free! Community Advocacy Drive to make Minneapolis Parks Tobacco Free (w/ map of tobacco-free metro parks &amp; information on March 3<sup>rd</sup> formal hearing); Talking Points for Letters of Support on Tobacco-Free Policies for Park Property; &amp; University of Minnesota's Tobacco-Free Parks &amp; Recreation Study Summary of Findings.</p> <p>Gavin moved to support the TFP attempts to get Minneapolis Parks tobacco free. Mitchell Davis Jr seconded the motion. After discussion Gavin withdrew the motion.</p>	Gavin Watt will contact members of the Park Board to discuss how this will impact Minneapolis Parks and report back at the February meeting.
Crisis Connection	David Therkelsen gave a presentation on the current activities of the Crisis Connection. Their call center provides confidential crisis counseling, information, and referral 24 hours a day (see brochure). Volunteer counselors with at least 55 hours of specialized training received over 46,000 calls in 2009; ~1,000 calls/week.	
Youth Violence & Chemical Use Subcommittee	<p>Subcommittee met with Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator, Bass Zanjani. Subcommittee discussed that the focus will be the intersection between alcohol use and violence in youth aged 10-24. The subcommittee identified the following work to be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect more race specific data</li> <li>• How many truancy cases are related to alcohol</li> <li>• Research current best practices</li> <li>• Plan a conference call with Prevention Institute in Oakland, CA</li> <li>• Review the environmental vs. behavioral changes theory with Toben Nelson from U of M.</li> <li>• What effect will increased enforcement of current ordinances have?</li> <li>• Identify objective measures</li> <li>• Focus on alcohol vs. illegal drugs because it's legal and can be affected by ordinances and related data is more available.</li> </ul>	Emily will coordinate conference call with Prevention Institute at PHAC meeting and invite Toben Nelson/other local experts to attend.
Social Host Ordinance	Emily distributed the Social Host Ordinance that is being introduced on February 3 <sup>rd</sup> by Council Member Cam Gordon. Members reviewed the ordinance and discussed. Gavin Watt moved that the Public Health Advisory Committee endorse the intent and language of the Social Host Ordinance. David Therkelsen seconded the motion. All approved.	Public Health Advisory Committee endorses the intent and language of the Social Host Ordinance. Noya Woodrich will speak on behalf of PHAC at the February 3 <sup>rd</sup> City Council hearing.

Co-chair Elections	Gavin Watt nominates John Schrom for Co-chair, Debra Jacoway 2 <sup>nd</sup> motion. John abstains from vote, all approved.	John Schrom is newly elected Co-chair.
Subcommittees	Emily asked for members to form a subcommittee to discuss the current PHAC bylaws. Council Members are finding it difficult to find Minneapolis residents in their ward to appoint to the committee. The committee may want to consider opening up the criteria to include those who work, study, worship, or own property in Minneapolis. The CDBG Subcommittee will be forming in March.	Mitchell Davis Jr, John Schrom, and David Therksen agreed to work with Emily on the bylaws. Emily will draft some proposed changes and forward to subcommittee for discussion.
Department Updates – Gretchen Musicant	New City Council Member include Kevin Reich (Ward 1), Meg Tuthill (Ward 10), and John Quincy (Ward 11). Gretchen and the Directors met with each of the new Council Members for a first introduction to the department. They all appear supportive of department efforts. The standing committees were also reorganized and we will now report to the Public Safety and Health Committee that is chaired by Council Member Samuals. The City is currently working on realigning goals and the department will also be working on collecting data and reviewing department goals. Gretchen met with Senator Al Franken's aid who has expressed interest in the health care reform principles PHAC developed in 2007.	Co-chairs and Ward Rep, Mitchell Davis, Jr. will schedule an introductory meeting with CM Samuals and invite him to attend a future PHAC meeting.  Gretchen will report back to the committee in March with data collected to begin the process of defining department goals.
Information Sharing	Members discussed the newly released data on HIV-AIDS that indicates Minnesota's rate has increased. It appears that while the state rates have increased, Minneapolis rates have not.	Gretchen will send out more Minneapolis-specific information via email to members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

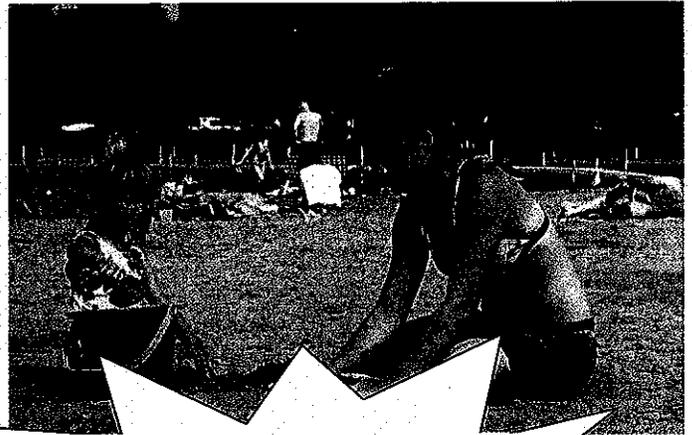
Minutes submitted by Hattie Wiysel

# Support Tobacco Free!

**A Community Advocacy Drive To Make Minneapolis Parks Tobacco Free**



**Help gather support  
for tobacco-free  
parks in Minneapolis!!**



**Partners include:** Boys & Girls Club,  
Catalyst, Tobacco-Free Lavender  
Communities, STEEP, and the Division of  
Indian Work.

Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation, community members, and local organizations will be presenting a request for tobacco-free parks to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) at a formal hearing. This hearing will be taking place at MPRB Headquarters on 2117 West River Road in Minneapolis on March 3rd @ 5:30-8:30.

If you are interested in supporting this policy, please consider writing a letter of support for us to submit to them at the hearing. Attached to this flier are some talking points and some samples to get you started! Most importantly though, we want you to add a personal touch; the reason why these policies are so important to you!

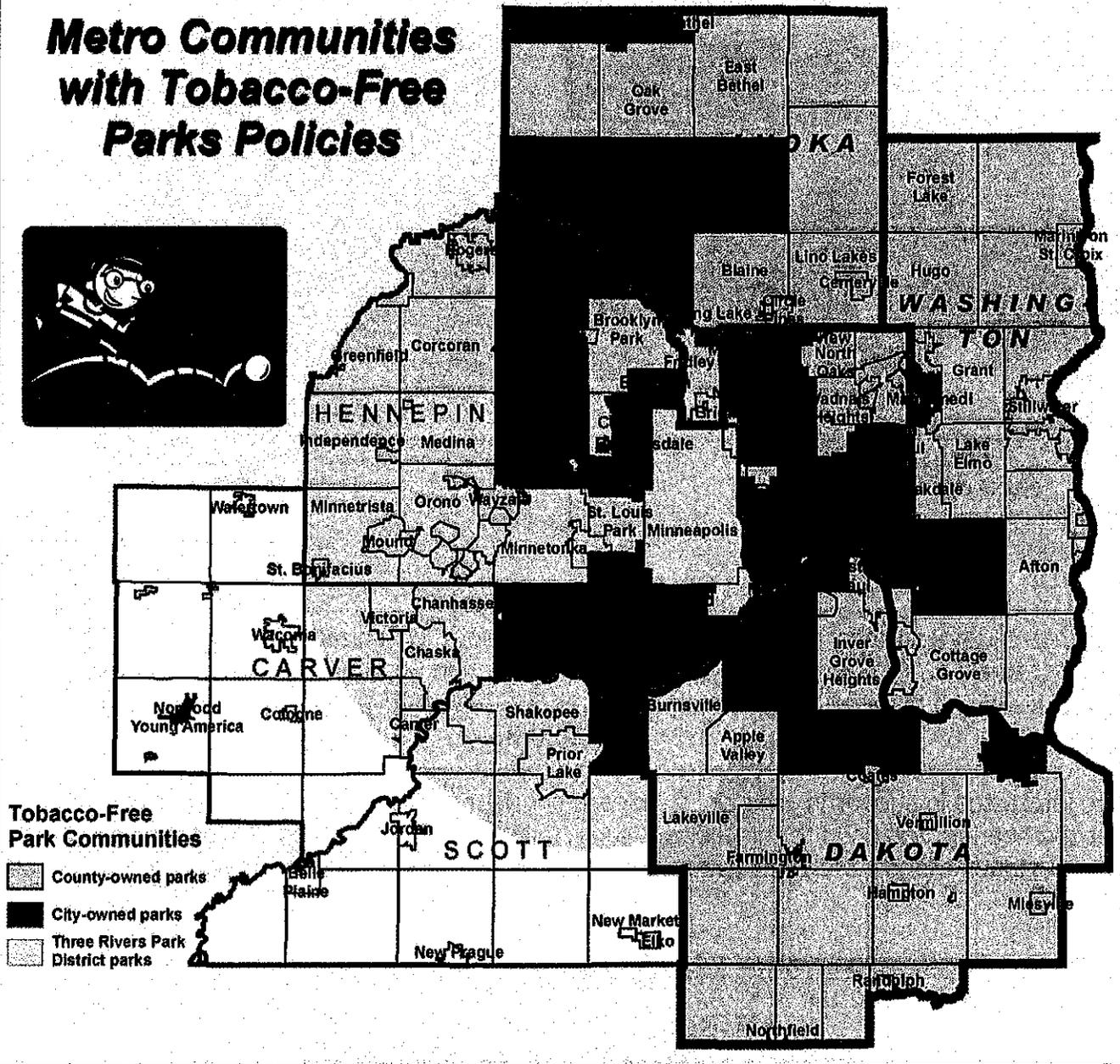
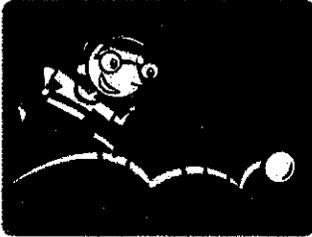
**ATTENTION COMMUNITY MEMBERS:  
Support tobacco-free parks in Minneapolis by writing a letter to the MPRB!**

***It's as easy as 1-2-3!***

- 1. Write your letter.** We've started you off with some samples and talking points; now just add your own personal flair!
- 2. Submit your personalized letter of support.** Once you have finalized your draft, you can submit it to Derek Larsen, who is collecting all of our letters, to ensure that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board receives your letter.
- 3. Attend the hearing on March 3rd.** We need to show support at the meeting too. Showing up at the MPRB hearing could really be the extra push needed to pass a comprehensive tobacco-free park policy in Minneapolis!

**Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation**  
Association for Nonsmokers—Minnesota  
2395 University Ave. West, Suite 310,  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1512  
(651) 646-3005; dkl@ansrnmn.org  
Derek K. Larsen, Program Coordinator

# Metro Communities with Tobacco-Free Parks Policies



January 2010





## Talking Points for Letters of Support on Tobacco-Free Policies for Park Property

Comprehensive tobacco-free policies for community park systems cover the entire park system, including parks, all athletic facilities, trails, etc. as these policies promote the health of residents by protecting them from secondhand smoke and tobacco litter. Comprehensive policies also make no exception for certain events; instead they apply at all times the park system is being used.

**Should you prefer that your community adopt a comprehensive tobacco-free policy that covers the entire park system, the following talking points address comprehensive policies:**

- As a citizen of [community name], you support a policy that creates tobacco-free recreational environments for **all** community members using park land, recreational facilities, trails and open space owned by the city.
- Youth and families who attend adult softball games, use trails, beaches, and picnic shelters, or attend community events in parks deserve to have their health protected by a tobacco-free policy as well as those at playgrounds and youth athletic events.
- A policy that prohibits tobacco use on **all** park land, facilities, and open space owned by the community is easier for everyone to understand.
- A tobacco-free policy for city-owned recreational facilities provides consistency for recreation facilities in the community, since school district facilities are already tobacco free.
- By having policies, we can ensure that coaches, parents and other role models do not smoke or use other forms of tobacco during recreational events.
- By having policies that create tobacco-free spaces, the community is sending youth the message that tobacco use is an unacceptable behavior during all recreation and sports activities.
- The 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's report on secondhand smoke exposure concluded that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. A tobacco-free policy for [community name] park land would protect **all** residents from secondhand smoke.
- A tobacco-free park policy also protects toddlers and pets from discarded cigarette butts tossed near playground or beach areas.

# Sample Letters of Support

## From a community member:

[Insert date]

Dear [Park Board or City Council Members]:

I am writing to express support for tobacco-free parks for our community. By supporting a tobacco-free policy, the [Park Board or City Council] can send a clear message that we care about the health of the kids in our community and want them to make positive lifestyle decisions. A tobacco-free policy will also ensure that coaches and parents can be positive role models by not using tobacco in recreational areas.

Tobacco use not only exposes participants and spectators to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, but it is also a nuisance and safety concern. The litter caused by tobacco use diminishes the beauty of the city's park areas and can be accidentally ingested by young children. In addition, our city parks should be places where we can go to improve our health and fitness or just relax. Of course, allowing tobacco use in our parks is nothing but detrimental to our health.

[Insert personal experiences].

I encourage you to make all city-owned parks and recreation facilities tobacco free.

Thank you,

Jane Brown  
Concerned Community Member

## From a principal or school:

[Insert date]

Dear [Park Board or City Council Members]:

I am writing in support of tobacco-free park and recreational areas in the city of Yourtown. A tobacco-free policy sends a clear message that we care about the health of the community, especially our youth.

[Yourtown elementary school] is in close proximity to [XYZ Park]. Many of our students and families use this park area. Since our school district already prohibits tobacco use at our buildings and grounds, including the playground and athletic fields, a city-wide policy will create a consistent tobacco-free policy for all park and recreational facilities in our community.

Tobacco use not only exposes participants and spectators to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, but it is also a nuisance and safety concern. We strive to teach our students the value of a clean, healthy community by not littering, and the tobacco-free policy will help reduce litter and support the healthy message that we teach. Tobacco use in a park setting also sends a negative message to our youth that tobacco use is an acceptable behavior within our community.

I support [name of youth group asking for a policy] students and encourage you to prohibit tobacco use at all city-owned parks and recreation facilities.

Thank you for considering a tobacco-free policy.

Thank you,

John Doe  
[Principal of XYZ school]

## What will the Social Hosting ordinance do?

Make it illegal to:

- a. Host or allow an event or gathering;
- b. At any residence, premises, or on any other private or public property;
- c. Where alcohol or alcoholic beverages are present;
- d. When the person knows or reasonably should know that an underage person will or does:
  1. Consume any alcohol or alcoholic beverage; or
  2. Possess any alcohol or alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume it

## Why pass a Social Hosting ordinance?

**1) Safety.** There are risks and evidence of the danger associated with underage drinking. Much of the underage drinking that happens in Minneapolis occurs in homes and apartments and at social gatherings.

**2) Closing Loopholes.** MN Statute 340A.801, subdivision 6, allows only civil actions against a social host over the age of 21 who knowingly provides alcohol to an underage person. The courts have ruled that allowing a party at a home does **not** fall within the meaning of "providing or furnishing alcohol to minors." This loophole makes the current law inadequate to deal with the issue of underage drinking.

When police show up to parties, they can't charge people who clearly provided the alcohol to underage persons, because they can't prove that the person actually put the alcohol into those persons' hand.

**3) Legislative Mandate.** A recent state law allows municipalities and counties to pass social hosting ordinances.

## What process have we followed?

1) We have reviewed the social hosting ordinances that have recently passed in nine Minnesota cities: St. Paul, South St. Paul, Minnetonka, Apple Valley, Chaska, Elk River, Mankato, Prior Lake and Waseca.

2) We have shared language with interested groups. We have ensured that property owners, parents/guardians and responsible institutions with no knowledge of the social event will not be cited.

3) We have sought the opinion of the City's Public Health Advisory Committee and other interested stakeholders.

4) There is a public hearing on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30 pm, City Hall room 317, 350 S 5<sup>th</sup> St.

## CHAPTER 370. REGULATIONS INVOLVING MINORS

### 370.45 Social Host

(a) *Purpose and Findings.* The City Council seeks to reduce underage possession and consumption of alcohol by imposing criminal penalties on those person(s) who host events or gatherings where persons under 21 years of age possess or consume alcohol.

The City Council finds that:

- 1) Alcohol is an addictive drug, which, if used irresponsibly, could have drastic effects on those who use it as well as those who are affected by the actions of the irresponsible user.
- 2) Events and gatherings held on private or public property where alcohol is possessed or consumed by persons under the age of 21 are harmful to those persons and constitute a potential threat to public health, safety and welfare requiring prevention or abatement.
- 3) Holding persons criminally responsible for hosting or allowing an event or gathering where underage possession or consumption of alcohol occurs will help deter underage consumption.

(b) *Definitions.*

- 1) *Alcohol* means ethyl alcohol, hydrated oxide of ethyl or spirits of wine, liqueur, cordials, whiskey, rum, brandy, gin, or any other distilled spirits including dilutions and mixtures thereof from whatever source or by whatever process produced.
- 2) *Alcoholic beverage* means alcohol, spirits, liquor, wine, beer, and every liquid or solid containing alcohol, spirits, wine or beer and which contains one-half of one percent or more of alcohol by volume and which is fit for beverage purposes either alone or when diluted, mixed or combined with other substances.
- 3) *Adult* means any person eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- 4) *Underage Person* means any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years.
- 5) *Parent* means any person having legal custody of a juvenile as a natural parent, adoptive parent, step parent, legal guardian, or a person to whom legal custody has been given by order of the court.
- 6) *Person* means any individual, partnership, co-partnership, corporation, or any association of one or more individuals.
- 7) *Host* means to allow, aid, conduct, entertain, organize, supervise, or control an event or gathering.
- 8) *Event or gathering* means any group of three or more persons who have assembled or gathered together for a social occasion or other activity.
- 9) *Residence or Premises* means any home, yard, field, land, apartment, condominium, hotel or motel room, or other dwelling unit, or a hall or meeting room, park or any other place of assembly, public or private, whether occupied on a temporary or permanent basis, whether occupied as a dwelling

or specifically for a party or other social function, and whether owned, leased, rented, or used with or without permission or compensation.

(c) *Prohibited Acts.*

- 1) It is unlawful for any person(s) to:
  - i. Host or allow an event or gathering;
  - ii. At any residence, premises, or on any other private or public property;
  - iii. Where alcohol or alcoholic beverages are present;
  - iv. When the person knows or reasonably should know that an underage person will or does:
    - a. Consume any alcohol or alcoholic beverage; or
    - b. Possess any alcohol or alcoholic beverage with the intent to consume it.
- 2) It is a violation of Section (c) if the person intentionally aids, advises, hires, counsels, or conspires with another or otherwise procures another to commit the prohibited act.
- 3) A person who hosts or allows an event or gathering does not have to be present at the event or gathering to be criminally responsible for a violation of Section (c).
- 4) A person who has no direct or indirect knowledge of any evidence or facts that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a violation of Section (c) might be occurring or about to occur does not violate this section.

(d) *Penalty.*

A violation of this Ordinance is a misdemeanor.

(e) *Exceptions.*

It shall be an affirmative defense to a charge pursuant to Section (A) of *Prohibited Acts* if defendant proves by a preponderance of the evidence that he/she falls under one of the below exceptions:

- 1) The conduct of the underage person was specifically authorized by his or her parent while present in the parent's household.
- 2) The conduct was part of a legally protected religious observance.
- 3) The conduct occurred on the licensed property of a retail intoxicating liquor or 3.2 percent malt liquor licensee, municipal liquor store, or bottle club permit holder who is regulated by Minn. Stat. §340A.503.

(f) *Severability.*

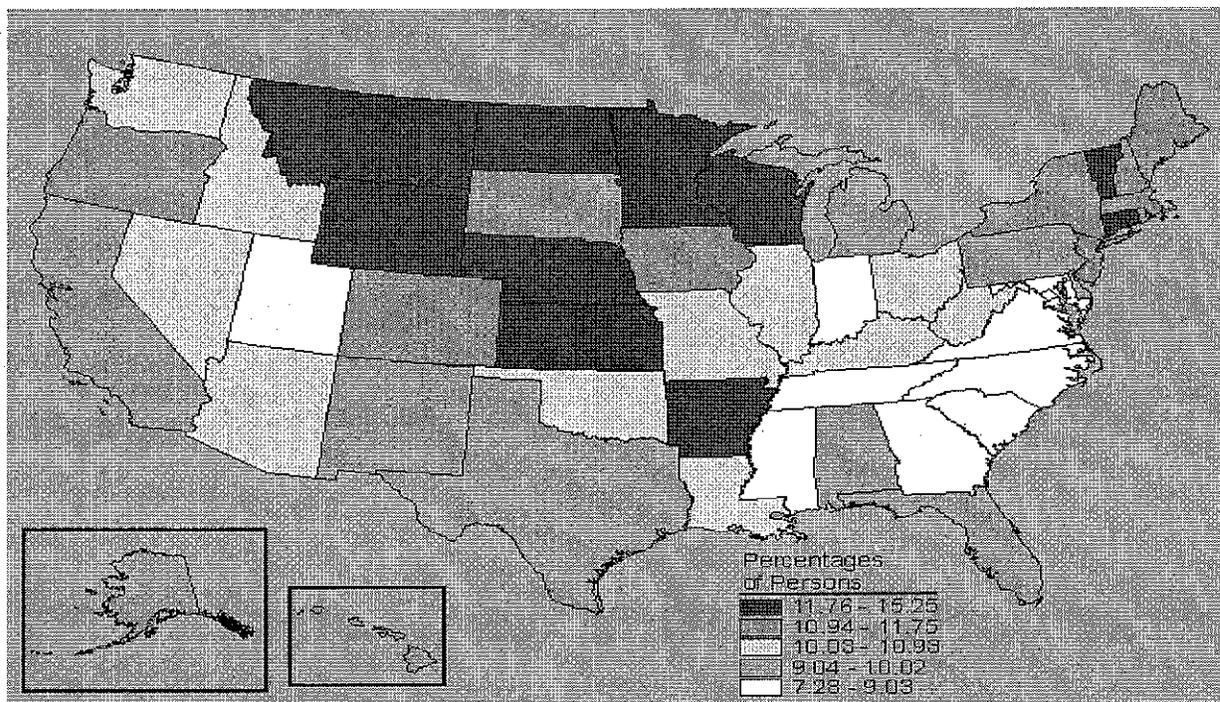
(a) If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, part, provision, phrase, word, or other portion of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, in whole or in part by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable, and such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter, which remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect.

- **Underage alcohol use poses important public health and public safety risks.**
- This should be of concern to professionals, policymakers, parents, and others who are attempting to reduce the negative consequences of underage alcohol use.
- Knowing the locations where this behavior is most likely to occur can help alert parents to times when they need to exercise greater monitoring and supervision, and support the adoption of effective policies to protect children.
- The National Survey on Drug Use and Health is an annual survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The data in this report are based on information obtained from 62,495 persons aged 12 to 20.
- **A majority (53.4 percent) of current alcohol users aged 12 to 20 drank at someone else's home the last time they used alcohol, and another 30.3 percent drank in their own home.**

Location of the most recent alcohol use in the past month among past month alcohol users aged 13 to 20, by age:								
Location	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Own Home	36.1%	37.4%	30.9%	24.9%	23.8%	25.2%	32.0%	36.5%
Someone Else's Home	45.3%	47.6%	57.0%	63.6%	61.0%	56.3%	49.9%	46.2%
Car or Vehicle	6.9%	5.1%	6.6%	10.1%	6.3%	5.7%	4.6%	3.2%
Park, Beach, or Parking Lot	10.0%	7.9%	8.0%	8.1%	7.1%	3.4%	3.4%	1.9%
Restaurant, Bar, or Club	6.1%	3.7%	2.8%	4.2%	3.7%	9.3%	14.1%	15.0%

**Binge Alcohol Use in Past Month Among Youths Aged 12 to 17 by State:**

Based on 2005 and 2006 National Surveys conducted by SAMHSA, an agency in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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## Underage Drinking Facts

### Where and with whom do young people drink?

Among 9th and 12th graders:

- The most common place to drink is in someone else's home.
- Those who drink usually drink with friends and in groups of 3 or more.
- 9th graders are more likely than 12th graders to drink with their parents.
- Those who drink in large groups are more likely to have 5 or more drinks at one time.

Source: <http://www.epi.umn.edu/alcohol/policy/hostliab.shtm>

## Underage Drinking Myths

**Myth: "Alcohol is a relatively harmless drug compared to illegal drugs."**

**Fact:** Compared to youth who wait until they are 21, youth who drink before age fifteen are 12-times more likely to be unintentionally injured while under the influence of alcohol, 7-times more likely to be in a motor vehicle crash after drinking, and 10-times more likely to get in a physical fight after drinking.

**There is a strong correlation between youth alcohol use and violence, risky sexual behavior, poor school performance, and suicide.**

**Evidence shows that adolescent drinking can inflict permanent damage on the developing brain. Early onset drinking is associated with greater levels of alcohol problems in adulthood.**

**Myth: "Alcohol use is rite of passage to adulthood."**

**Fact:** Not all adolescents drink, and many who do drink in high school or college choose to drink less as they enter young adulthood, suggesting that both developmental and contextual factors contribute to alcohol consumption during adolescence.

**Myth: "Underage drinking is inevitable, and it is safer if it occurs in a controlled, residential setting."**

**Fact:** Underage drinking parties represent an unusually high-risk setting for youth alcohol problems, including alcohol-related traffic crashes, other forms of injury, sexual assaults, and other forms of violence.

**Providing alcohol to adolescents explicitly indicates approval of underage alcohol use, while disregarding underage drinking may lead to future substance use or abuse.**

**When parents provide alcohol to teenagers at parties, there is a significantly greater likelihood of regular and binge drinking by youth. These behaviors are also strong predictors of alcohol use and misuse in later life.**

*Sources: 1) Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility, Schulenberg, J., O'Malley, P., Bachman, J., Wadsworth, K., and Johnston, L. (1996).*

*2) Getting Drunk & Growing Up: Trajectories of frequent binge drinking during the transition to young adulthood. Journal of Studies on Alcohol.*

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**According to a 2003 report by the National Research Council's Institute of Medicine, underage drinking costs the nation at least \$53 billion a year, mostly because of traffic deaths and violent crime, The report, which urged communities to hold adults accountable for teen drinking parties, was a catalyst for many recent ordinances.**

Source: USA Today: January, 2007

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## Someone calls Crisis Connection

The chances are good that right now, as you read this, two or three people in our community are talking to a Crisis Connection counselor, getting help.

Help with what? It could be almost literally anything. Typically, calls involve family and relationship matters, depression, coping with abuse of many kinds, seeking out community resources. Sometimes, several times each week in fact, a caller is considered to be at serious risk of suicide, or harm to self or others.

While the needs of our callers are many and varied, our response usually involves two vital steps:

- First, we help the caller reach a place of emotional and physical safety. We have been described as the "paramedics of mental health."
- Then we connect the caller to resources that offer longer-term support.

## Important Phone Numbers

Community Call Center 24/7 crisis line .....	612/379-6363
Sowing Seeds of Hope/ Minnesota crisis line .....	866/379-6363
Men's Line .....	612/379-6367
WorkLine .....	612/852-2225
Teen Education Program .....	612/852-2203
Community Education Program .....	612/852-6388
LinkVet .....	1/800/546-5838
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline .....	1/800/273-TALK
United Way Information and Referral Line .....	2-1-1

## How you can be involved

There are several ways people can be involved in the important, life-saving work of Crisis Connection:

Put our crisis line number — **612/379-6363** — on your refrigerator. Make sure you, your family and friends know how to reach us in time of crisis.

### **Volunteer as a counselor**

Several times a year we run classes to equip people for one of the most vital volunteer roles in our community. *Contact: Volunteer Resources, 612/852-2203*

### **Volunteer in other ways**

We have numerous other volunteer positions that enable people to assist our efforts in fundraising, public policy, technology development, and more. *Contact: Volunteer Resources, 612/852-2203*

### **Contribute money**

Individuals, corporations and foundations, religious and civic organizations, all help us generate the funds needed to fulfill our mission. *Contact: Financial Development, 612/852-2224*

### **Hire Crisis Plus**

If you or your business can benefit from our 24/7/365 capability to provide coverage and specialized services, we can provide the highest levels of professional competence. *Contact: Business Development, 612/852-2213*



**CrisisConnection**

*Every hour of every day, someone is here to listen.  
If you or someone you know needs us please call  
(612) 379-6363, or (866) 379-6363.*

[crisis.org](http://crisis.org)

Every 7 minutes...  
Every hour of every day...  
Someone is in crisis.



**CrisisConnection**

*Confidential crisis counseling, information  
and referral 24 hours a day*

## *Two call centers, two ways to serve people in need*

### **Community Call Center**

Our Community Call Center, which has operated continuously since 1969, is a confidential, anonymous service, available without charge, to anyone at any time. Nearly all of the 45,000 calls we receive annually are handled by a volunteer staff of about 75 counselors, all of whom have at least 55 hours of specialized training.

### **Crisis Plus**

In more recent years, we've operated a second call center: Crisis Plus (formerly known as the After Hours Call Center). This is a fee-for-service enterprise that supports the work of private psychology practices, employee assistance programs, counties, and other entities, with after-hours telephone coverage and other custom services. The 20,000 calls we receive in this call center each year are handled by staff members with a master's degree or higher in a counseling-related field. The fees we receive from Crisis Plus help fund our Community Call Center.

### **Our newest service...**

We provide overnight and weekend coverage for Greater Twin Cities United Way's popular 2-1-1 information and referral program.

## *Our services can be highly specialized*

Crisis Connection counselors are adept at serving populations with special needs or which require particular understanding of culture and circumstances:

- Our "Sowing the Seeds of Hope" crisis line is available to farmers and farm families throughout Minnesota.
- In a joint venture with Minnesota's Department of Veterans Affairs, we collaboratively operate the LinkVet line, available to all veterans and their families, but with special focus on Iraq war veterans.
- Our Men's Line is a resource to help men and others who want to talk to someone about issues of abuse and violence in their lives.
- We are Minnesota's arm of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. We are one of just two Minnesota entities certified by the American Association of Suicidology.

## *Other programs*

Our crisis-oriented counseling expertise, developed over 40 years, led us into these other programs:

### **Workline**

Through a partnership with Hennepin County, we work with about 500 "welfare-to-work" clients each year, helping them overcome the barriers to getting and keeping full-time jobs, such as child care or transportation complications.

### **Teen Education Program**

Through partnerships with area high schools, we provide adolescents with access to mental health information and crisis counseling. While suicide rates in the United States are on a slight downward trend, an exception is teenage populations – and the TEP program provides suicide awareness and prevention skills for students, teachers, counselors and parents.

### **Community Education Program**

We offer training in crisis intervention counseling and suicide prevention, with workshops tailored to the needs of individual organizations.

## *Why we matter*

We matter for this reason: people have emergency mental health needs 24 hours a day. We are the only agency Minnesotans can count on to be there at any time, with a qualified counselor able to respond to a crisis with empathy, and with expert knowledge of resources.

We provide a more accessible, and far less costly, intervention resource, at times when few options for mental health support are available except hospital emergency rooms.

# Tobacco-free Parks and Recreation Areas Promote Healthy Communities

Each year in Minnesota, more than 6,300 young people under the age of 18 become new daily smokers. More astonishingly, 118,000 youth under the age of 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking. Tobacco use is unhealthy and an unacceptable behavior, so supporting tobacco-free parks and recreation areas sends a positive message to youth and community members.

## Parks promote healthy activities

The purpose of community park systems is to promote community wellness, and tobacco-free policies fit with this idea.

## Youth model adult behaviors

Youth who see adults using tobacco in a family-friendly place like a park or recreation area may think smoking is acceptable and are

more likely to mimic the behavior. Tobacco-free policies encourage young people to make healthy choices. The more tobacco-free environments a community provides, the fewer opportunities for youth to start using tobacco.

## Secondhand smoke is dangerous

There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, according to the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General's Report on secondhand smoke.

## Cigarette litter is harmful

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world, including in park and recreation areas. Discarded cigarettes are toxic and pollute the land and water and may be ingested by toddlers, pets, and wild animals.



## Here's what you can Do in Your Community

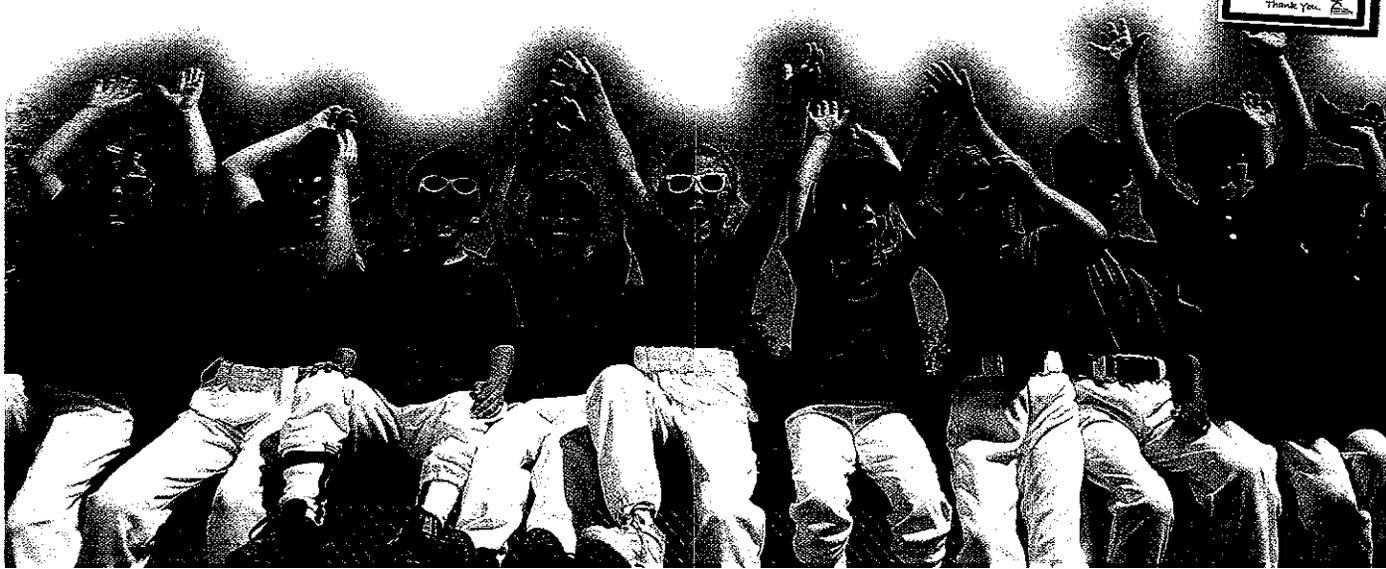
Join your local tobacco-free coalition or call your public health agency to find out how you can help create tobacco-free outdoor park and recreation areas.

You can also help educate your community about why tobacco-free recreation areas promote healthy communities:

- Tell friends and neighbors why you support tobacco-free recreation areas and ask them to join you.
- Gather support from organizations who regularly use community recreation areas.
- Distribute educational materials at community events.
- Write a letter to your local elected city officials and community leaders.
- Volunteer to speak to elected officials about this issue.

For more information or to join a group working on tobacco-free parks and recreation initiatives in your community, contact:

Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation  
2395 University Avenue W, #310  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
651-646-3005  
tfyr@ansrmn.org  
www.tobaccofreeparks.org



# Why are Minnesota Communities Adopting Tobacco-Free Park Policies?

Most Minnesota adults support tobacco-free parks and recreation policies.

A 2004 University of Minnesota survey found that 70% of Minnesota residents support tobacco-free park and recreation areas.

Minnesota park directors are increasingly focused on finding park systems to promote community health.

In 2004, the University of Minnesota surveyed over 250 Minnesota park directors. Directors with policies had positive experiences, and 90% recommended a tobacco-free park policy to other communities.

Policies provide a framework for creating a smoke-free park and recreation area.

Many community athletic associations have policies for their organizations, but use city recreation facilities and would benefit from a city-wide policy.

Smoke-free parks and multi-purpose areas.

In a 2004 survey, 58% of Minnesota park directors in cities with policies reported cleaner park areas since the policy was enacted.

Parks and other tobacco-free areas are the number one setting for secondhand smoke exposure in Minnesota. Following the implementation of tobacco-free policies in parks and recreation areas:

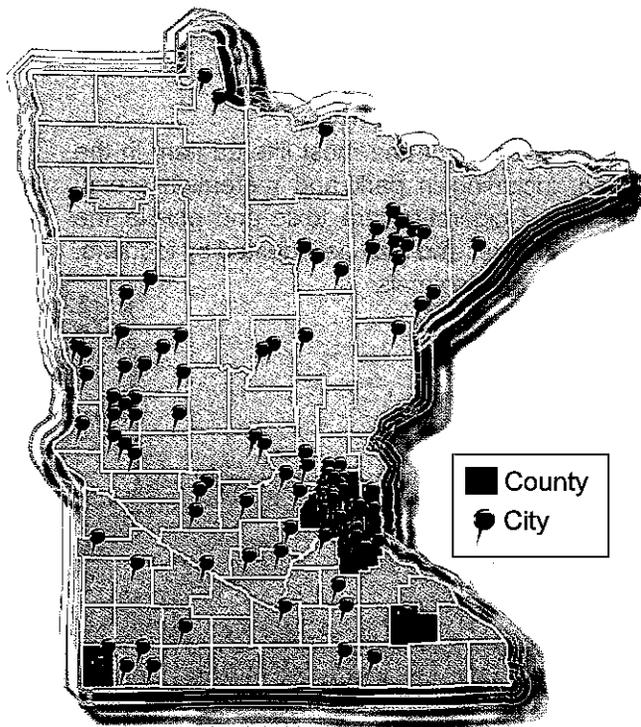
Community sports event	0.9%
Another person's car	2.9%
Outdoor shopping mall or strip mall	3.3%
Gambling venue	6.1%
Some other place	6.9%
Another person's home	7.8%
Restaurant that does not serve alcohol	7.8%
Building entrance	10.8%
Park or somewhere outdoors	14.8%
Restaurant that serves alcohol	18.1%
Bar or tavern	20.7%

*Smoke-free venue as of October 2007*

Source: Minnesota Adult Tobacco Survey, 2007

# Communities with Tobacco-Free Parks

Communities throughout Minnesota have adopted tobacco-free policies for outdoor park and recreation areas with positive results. These policies are largely self-enforcing with a combination of signage and community education about the policy. Policies are the most effective and the easiest to understand when they cover an entire park system.



Visit [www.tobaccofreeparks.org](http://www.tobaccofreeparks.org) for the latest list and map of communities with tobacco-free park policies.

TFYR is a program of the Association for Nonsmokers—Minnesota. This brochure is funded by a Tobacco-Free Communities Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Tobacco Prevention and Control.

Updated December 2009

# Tobacco-Free Parks Rec



# Play Tobacco Free!

**City of Minneapolis  
Public Health Advisory Committee Members  
2010**

7 Q

Ward	Council Member	Committee Member	RSVP	Attend
1	Ostrow	Gavin Watt		✓
2	Gordon	Vacant	—	
3	Hofstede	Vacant	—	
4	Johnson	Vacant	—	
5	Samuels	Mitchell Davis Jr		✓
6	Lilligren	Vacant	—	
7	Goodman	Vacant	—	
8	Glidden	Debra Jacoway		✓
9	Schiff	John Schrom	✓	✓
10	Remington	Vacant	—	
11	Benson	Vacant	—	
12	Roy Colvin	David J. Therkelsen	✓	✓
13	Hodges	Vacant	—	
	Mayor's Representative	Clarence Jones	✓	U
	Minneapolis Public Schools	Vacant	—	
	Hennepin County Human Services	Renee Gust	✓	U
	U of M School of Public Health	Dr. James Hart	✓	✓
	Member at Large	Samira Dini <i>class</i>	no E	E
	Member at Large	Noya Woodrich	✓	✓
	Member at Large	Douglas Lemon		U
	Professional Advisory Committee			
	Professional Advisory Committee			
	Exofficio Environmental Health	Lori Olson		

*Emily  
Gutchen  
Hatten*

*11 members*