

**Comprehensive Tobacco-Free Policy – Order  
Town of Bristol Park & Recreation Facilities**

An order to promote the health and safety of Bristol residents and visitors by establishing all Bristol Park & Recreation Facility property as a Tobacco-Free Area.

**Whereas** the town of Bristol, Maine, has set a goal that Bristol 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 many harmful chemicals and 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** 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 Bristol Park & Recreation Facilities 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 Bristol Park & Recreation Facilities is to provide quality recreation and leisure experiences that enhance the quality of life for citizens and visitors of Bristol Park & Recreation Facilities, 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** treatment and/or medication significantly increases a person's success in quitting; and

**Whereas** good communication informs the public and aids compliance with policies; and

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

**Whereas** the intent of this policy 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 Bristol does hereby declare that its Park & Recreation Facility property is 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 this recreation program. Be it further resolved that:

- Tobacco use prevention training will be provided annually to all staff and coaches,
- Information about local and State resources to help people to quit using tobacco products will be made available,
- Neither tobacco company sponsorship nor their resources will be accepted, and participants and staff will be discouraged from wearing clothing or using gear that advertises tobacco products,

- 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 policy,
- 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