



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Frankfort Parks Become Smoke & Vape Free

For additional questions, please contact:
Joel Tatum, Frankfort Parks Superintendent
765.659.3422
Jptatum@frankfort-in.gov

Frankfort, IN - The Frankfort Parks Department will kick off the 2024 summer season with two new ordinances in place to protect citizens and visitors from injury and from the dangers of secondhand smoke. The new ordinance prohibits the use of golf carts in Prairie Creek Park. This will help prevent injuries to visitors to the park. The ordinance also prohibits smoking or use of tobacco or nicotine producing products, on property comprising the Frankfort Aquatic Center, Prairie Creek Park, TPA Park and all other park properties and recreational areas owned, managed, or operated by the City of Frankfort.

Exposure to secondhand smoke is unhealthy, even in outdoor spaces. Studies have found that levels of secondhand smoke in outdoor areas can be equal to amounts found inside where smoking is allowed. The U.S. Surgeon General reports there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. Exposure to concentrated amounts of secondhand smoke outdoors can cause respiratory irritation and may trigger asthma attacks.

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the United States with more than 175 million pounds littered every year. Cigarette butts can remain in the environment for years and contain toxic ingredients that cause problems when ingested by children, pets, or marine life.

The Frankfort Parks Department strives to provide safe indoor and outdoor spaces for people of all ages so they can socialize, experience nature, relax, and live a healthier lifestyle. Having smoke-free parks will help to ensure this purpose is met. These spaces include 8 parks, the Neighborhood Center, Encompass Event Center, Prairie Creek Park, and Sapphire Bay Aquatic Center.

The Frankfort Parks Department will work with Healthy Communities of Clinton County to ensure that there is adequate signage in these areas to communicate the new ordinance to citizens and visitors so that families can enjoy a safe, fun summer. Healthy Communities Executive Director, Lorra Archibald stated, "We are thankful to the leadership of our City to make the health and safety of our citizens a priority."

There is a calendar of fun planned for the parks this summer! Join us for a movie in the park, the summer concert series, enjoy playing on the playgrounds, cool off at the splash pad, or enjoy the animals at the petting zoo! Visit the Frankfort Parks Department on Facebook or frankfort-in.gov for more information on upcoming events.

###