

**PRAB Report 10-2
September 20, 2010**

**PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: **Proposed Smoking Restrictions in Parks and Recreation Facilities**

DISCUSSION: PRAB reviewed the proposed smoking restrictions in parks and recreation facilities at its regular monthly meeting of September 15, 2010.

Joe McNeal, acting co-director of Recreation stated that in Anne Arundel County smoking is prohibited within 100 yards of outdoor recreation activities. The City of Rockville has a ban 40 feet from a playground. The State of Maryland bans smoking 25 feet from the entrance of any public building. The accepted research states that you must be 23 feet from a smoker to avoid second-hand smoke. Howard County has tobacco free programs but does not have prohibitions on smoking in outdoor areas of parks.

The Greenbelt policy would expand the prohibition on smoking within City Recreation facilities to include fully enclosed fenced areas such as the outdoor pool, tennis courts, dog park, etc. Prohibit smoking within 25 feet of the entrance of indoor Recreation facilities and prohibit smoking within 25 feet of outdoor park facilities not fully enclosed by a fence such as ball fields, playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, etc. This does not include the path between the tennis courts and the ball fields at Braden Field or the path around Greenbelt Lake.

PRAB requested that the wording be clarified so that it would be clear that smoking would not be allowed within 25 ft. of any sport or activity area, not just the activity itself. It was also noted that cigarette butt receptacles should be adequate and well placed so that the public could comply with the policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

PRAB recommends City Council adopt the smoking restrictions in parks and recreation facilities policy.

Vote 6-0

Respectfully submitted by:
Lola Skolnik, Chairperson
Park and Recreation Advisory Board