



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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New Smoking and Pollution Control Ordinance is in Effect

BURLINGTON, NC— The City of Burlington is committed to the health and well-being of its residents. In light of this commitment, a new ordinance went into effect on April 1 prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, in the facilities and on the grounds of the Burlington Parks System. The ordinance amends the City's existing policy prohibiting smoking only in youth-involved activity areas, expanding it to include all the City's parks, athletic fields, trails, golf course, municipal lakes, parking lots, and sidewalks bordering park grounds.

In response to the City's Health in All Policies directive adopted by Burlington City Council on February 20, 2018, Impact Alamance and the Wellness Collaborative proposed the amended ordinance to the Recreation and Parks Commission on November 8, 2018. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend the ordinance to the City Council for consideration. Council voted on January 15, 2019 to adopt the ordinance, which went into effect on April 1, 2019.

Signage outlining the prohibitions in the ordinance has begun to be installed throughout the parks system. Recreation & Parks staff is prepared to help educate park goers about the Tobacco-free policy. While the goal is voluntary compliance, the ordinance does allow for a fine of up to \$50 for a violation.

As staff and community members adapt to these changes, joint educational and training efforts will be conducted to ensure public awareness and create a collaborative movement in improving our City. The City of Burlington and Recreation & Parks Staff appreciate the help of the citizens in keeping Burlington facilities and grounds healthy public spaces.

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Our Mission:

"The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees."

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