



TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN PARKS AND RECREATION TOBACCO FREE POLICY FOR THE SKOWHEGAN COMMUNITY AND ALL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

AN ORDER TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL SKOWHEGAN RESIDENTS BY ESTABLISHING TOBACCO FREE ZONES OF THE SKOWHEAN COMMUNITY CENTER AND ALL THEIR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN.

WHEREAS, the Town of Skowhegan, Maine strives to promote the good health and quality of life for its citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in the United States, as well in the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, second hand smoke contains harmful chemicals and cancer-causing agents and is a serious health risk to human beings especially infants, children, and pregnant women; and increases the risk of asthma, heart disease and liver cancer in non-smokers; and

WHEREAS, chewing tobacco contains harmful chemicals and cancer causing agents and their use is associated with cancer in the mouth, gums, tongue, and throat; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Skowhegan facilitates many recreational programs on fields and facilities owned and/or leased to the Town of Skowhegan and they all are an established tobacco free zone which restricts the use of tobacco and/or drugs; trails, playing fields, outdoor courts, skatepark, playgrounds, canoe portages, tennis courts, parks, etc.; and

WHEREAS, drugs and tobacco use as well as being exposed of such activity in and around all town facilities sends the wrong message to youth participants who are being encouraged and coached by adults to do things beneficial to their health; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Town of Skowhegan Parks & Recreation Department is to provide recreational and leisure opportunities in safe environments that enhance the quality of life for its residents; and

WHEREAS, tobacco and drug use, exposure to secondhand smoke, and exposure to such activity are clearly contrary to enhancing the quality of life and providing safe environments; and

WHEREAS, it is ordered by the Skowhegan Board of Selectmen that the use of any tobacco and/or drug product is prohibited, including but limited to cigarettes, cigars, snuff, dip, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, electronic nicotine delivery devices and vaporizers, on, in, or at the Town of Skowhegan Community Center and all town recreation facilities is prohibited.

WHEREAS, "Smoking" refers to inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe of joint or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, whether natural or synthetic in any manner or form. "Smoking" also includes the use of electronic smoking devices which creates an aerosol or vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this policy.

WHEREAS, The success of this policy will depend on the courtesy and cooperation of both tobacco users and non-users. each of is responsible for the following and helping enforce the policy. Any person violating the policy may be subject to immediate dismissal from the recreational facility.

Thank you for assisting us to create a healthy environment for our community.