

Tobacco Products

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has the unfavorable ranking of second highest use of tobacco products in the United States. The Louisville Metro area shows similar high use with consequences for health and longevity. Our challenge is, through public service messages and community education, to change behavior so that this ranking becomes more favorable over time. Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation will set a good example for the park users and for future generations.

The Policy:

Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation, working closely with the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness, is enacting the policy to prohibit tobacco use at all our playgrounds, spray grounds, splash pads, and athletic fields where children are present. This policy covers all tobacco products from cigarettes, cigars, bidis, pipes and related devices, chews and related products, and e-cigarettes. This policy works in conjunction with the existing smoking ban within fifty feet of Metro owned buildings.

Procedures:

This policy will take effect Friday, 01 July 2016. The policy will be implemented through education and a higher level of customer service in explaining the value of implementing this restriction in areas where children are present.

Metro Parks will install new signs with the appropriate language at over two hundred sites prior to the implementation date. The language of the signs is as follows: **“To protect and promote our children’s health, all tobacco related products and e-cigarettes are prohibited at our playgrounds, spray grounds, splash pads, and athletic fields.”**