



Town of East Greenwich

Parks & Recreation Department
1127 Frenchtown Road
East Greenwich, RI 02818

TO: Suzanne McGee Cienki, Town Council President
and the Honorary Town Council Members

FROM: Catherine E. Bradley, Director of Parks & Recreation

RE: Tobacco Free Parks

DATE: January 17, 2018

The State of Rhode Island, Department of Health announced a grant titled, “Tobacco Free Parks Mini Grants”, this December. The grant is intended to increase partnerships to expand public spaces free from cancer-causing tobacco chemicals through implementation and enforcement of 100% tobacco-free parks. Up to eight grants of up to \$5,000 each were awarded. With the support of the Town administration, the High School Athletic Director and the Town’s Substance Abuse Coordinator, I applied and received funding for one of these grants to make Town of East Greenwich Parks and Recreation facilities tobacco free.

A Town ordinance is required to make the facilities tobacco free (including smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco and electronic smoking devices) and the policy enforceable. I have drafted an ordinance based on the RI Department of Health’s template and based on other cities’ and towns’ ordinances. (See attached) The ordinance has been forwarded to the Town Solicitor for review as well as the School Superintendent, Athletic Director, Substance Abuse Coordinator and Planning Director.

Once the ordinance is passed, signs would be erected to notify park users of the ordinance. All youth group presidents would be notified of the change. The ordinance will also be added to the facility rental application as well as included in the seasonal program brochures sent to East Greenwich residents. Press releases and announcements would be made to make the public aware. The Town website and e-news would also have an announcement.

The grant funds will be used to purchase the signs and hardware, staff time for installation, and promotional banners.

Enforcement will mainly come from fellow users of the facilities, coaches and staff. The Police Department will have the authority to fine individuals who don’t comply up to \$500.

With your approval, I would like to submit this ordinance for passage.

cc: Gayle Corrigan