

## History of Tobacco Free Parks strategy

Richland County, WI

Date	Action Steps	Outcome	Who
11/18	Partners for Prevention Coalition is established	At this time, RCHHS was part of the SCW Tobacco Coalition. Tobacco Logic Model developed resulting in local condition-tobacco use is allowed on public property.	Tara Noye, Juneau County Public Health, P4P
1/19	Presentation to Parks Board. Consider and possible action on adding vaping to ordinance related to city owned buildings.	Discussion on adopting in the city ordinance not allowing vaping in city buildings such as the Community Center. (note: in 2010 the state adopted all enclosed spaces not to have any smoking/ tobacco and also vaping. This would be the Clean Air Act which includes vaping. Bellman made a motion to have no vaping in any city parks building to help compliance the same from the 2010 Clean Air Act).	Seconded by Hallett and motion carried Betsy Roesler, Tara Noye, and John Collins
1/19	Youth presentation to City Council.	Education, awareness, and request to adopt vaping to outdoor/indoor air ordinance. We also discussed the prospect of Tobacco-Free Parks model policy since it was tabled last time. We said that our coalition is interested in providing education to raise awareness and conducting surveys to gain public opinion. They are aware that we are interested in pursuing a comprehensive policy in the future.	Brianna Vigil and Veronica Carpenter. Erin Louis, Bethany Weldon, Sharon Schmidt, John Collins, Mary Collins-Johnsrud
End of 2020	Richland County dropped affiliation with Juneau County Public Health.	RCHHS does not have the capacity to participate on SCW Tobacco Alliance	Juneau County Public Health
1/20	Youth4Change organizes	Richland Center and Ithaca School District established youth prevention organizations.	Jeff Behrens, RCHS Heather Dickey, Sam Wilson, IHS
4/20	Parks Survey conducted	Juneau County Health Department administers the survey	Tara Noye
6/20	Presentation of data to Parks Board.	296 people took the survey 88% don't use tobacco 50% use the parks often or always 17% see tobacco use often and 32% sometimes 38% say use has kept them from enjoying the park (this one has shifted a lot) About 75% are strongly or somewhat in favor of parks being tobacco free 73% view secondhand smoke or aerosol as very harmful Discussion of Parks Board: Comments very split. So, though the minority were in opposition of the policy, they were more likely to tell us why. Many feel that there is not a risk or less risk of secondhand exposure outdoors. There were other comments about individual rights. Litter was touched on by both sides, so that will be a strong point. Quite a few comments with examples of times smoking ruined someone's experience. <b>Discussion</b> Concerns regarding Tourism. "People won't rent the Community Center because they can't go right outside for a smoke." Concerned for smoker's rights. ""Smokers are people who really need to be outside in	John Collins, Mary Collins-Johnsrud, Lauren Moe

		<p>the parks. This is discriminating against them. They of all people need the exercise."</p> <p>Concerned for enforcement. "The police can't be everywhere. How will we enforce this?" Park and Rec Director</p> <p>Concerned about individual events. "We have a big music event outside of the community center every year. When people drink, they like to smoke too. How will we enforce this? We will stop attracting people to the event if they know they can't smoke at a concert."</p>	
11-14-22	You4Change attends Park Board meeting to deliver/present information Park Director	After Monday night's meetings, some of us discussed the idea of inviting two of the Park Board members to a Y4C meeting to continue to discuss options for tobacco free parks. Since RCHS meets next Tuesday, we picked that meeting with hopes that some of you might be able to "van over". Unfortunately, the board members (Ms. Lewandowski and Ms. Woodhouse) are not available. I have proposed 12/6 for an alternative date. Interested in a possible "rule" that is not against the law.	Ithaca Y4C, P4P, Richland Y4C
11-16-22	Developed draft proposal for tobacco free parks "rule"	Much correspondence with Park Board, shared resources	Betsy Roesler and P4P
12-6-22	Park Board members invited to attend the Y4C meeting- Woodhouse and Lewandowski	Park Board members unable to attend Y4C meeting on 12/6.	Betsy Roesler
12-7-22	<p>Followed up with Parks Board members Lewandowski and Woodhouse</p> <p>Correspondence from Park Board admin-Jena</p>	<p>I wanted to reach out and touch base with you. I have shared the following information with Kathryn and Allicia and I will share it with the Park Board, but at this time it will not be on the December Agenda. We will review this topic in the new year and revisit the information at the discretion of the Park Board. Let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Thank you, Jena</p>	
3-22	Y4C Breakfast	Presentation advocating for enforcement of Social Host Law and Tobacco Free Parks	Member of Youth4Change presenting
4-2022	Correspondence with coalition	<p>Thank you for attending the Parks Board meeting in March. For the first time, there was notable interest and open mindedness. Y4C you are making a difference!</p> <p>There were three areas where the Parks Board wanted more discussion. I have asked Mr. Stibbe to convene a group to work on (negotiate) the following as a way toward a change in policy:</p> <p>Defining areas. Here is the language from two Model Policies:</p> <p>2.3. Recreational areas means all facilities, parks, trails, open space, and other property owned, leased, rented, contracted, used, or controlled by [City/County] for parks and recreational purposes. The term includes, but is not limited to, restrooms, spectator and concession areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, beaches, and aquatic areas.</p> <p>2.3. Recreational area means all facilities, parks, trails, open space, and</p>	Betsy Roesler

		<p>other property owned, leased, rented, contracted, used, or controlled by [City/County] for parks and recreational purposes, including streets and sidewalks located within a park or recreational area. The term includes, but is not limited to, restrooms, spectator and concession areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, beaches, picnic areas, golf courses, walking paths, gardens, hiking trails, bike paths, riding trails, roller and ice-skating rinks, skateboard parks, amusement parks, zoos, and aquatic areas. Can you suggest language they might go for?</p> <p>2. Enforcement. I think we can continue to point to the evidence indicating when signage is posted, there are no issues with enforcement. I provided that evidence to you previously in the attached letter. Also, testimonials from Mauston, WI Dells, and Reedsburg.</p> <p>3. Signage. The board requested sample signage. Sent to Mr. Stibbe.</p> <p>Who would like to be on a small group working with some members of the Parks Board ahead of the next meeting?</p> <p>Please save the date for the next meeting of the city Parks Board. April 11th at 5 pm. (or later if that works better for y'all like last time).</p>	
4-22	Response	<p>So after looking at the map, I see their point about the large contiguous area covered by the park. I do think you need to tell people where they can smoke, not just where they can't because of the wide area you are covering. I know this is not "best practice" but I was thinking about the issue of the park being so large perhaps you could designate a smoking area in the pavilion by the tennis courts. That is out of the way and out of the view of the shelters and the ball/soccer fields. So people would have to walk across the bridge away from the fields or away from the community center/fields. Otherwise, maybe state that smoking is only allowed outside of the park grounds, across the streets or sidewalks.</p>	Sheri Scott
4-5-23	Correspondence with P4P and Y4C	<p>Hello all,</p> <p>Jodi Mieden, the new Parks Director, contacted me today saying the Parks Board would like to "resolve the discussion around tobacco policy and would like me to attend the next meeting on Monday, April 10th." I responded to her by saying that I would not feel comfortable attending without Y4C/P4P members (given the long history of advocacy), that we have considered approaching the City Council after our experience, and finally, that it's too short notice to gather people to attend on Monday.</p> <p>She called back later and said the topic would be on the May agenda so we could participate in the discussion if our coalition wanted to. I have not committed to the May meeting.</p>	Betsy Roesler

		<p>What are the next steps? Try again to advocate at the May meeting of the Parks Board OR begin talking to City Council members such as Karen Tepley, who attended the breakfast and wants to help out? One certainty is—we need to present a united front. (rule or ordinance). My bias is toward a more permanent and evidence-based policy that makes tobacco use illegal on public property because, ultimately, that is easiest for people to understand and the community to enforce. The Parks Board has not favored an ordinance.</p> <p>Overall, a community-level ordinance sends an impactful, life-promoting and health-protecting message, but readiness IS a factor.</p>	
4-5-23	Response	<p>My inclination would be to give it one more shot, since Jodi asked and it is on the agenda. I would also be up front and let them know that without the result the Y4C group is championing, the next step would be City Council.</p>	Cindy Chicker
4-5-23	Response	<p>Maybe one more shot would be appropriate? I know a concern of the Parks Board was police enforcement. At the breakfast, both Clay Porter and Billy Jones mentioned that they did not see that as a major issue from the law enforcement standpoint. Also, being open about moving on to the City Council is a great idea! Is there a date for the May meeting?</p>	Jeff Behrens
4-5-23	Response	<p>I agree as well! Sadly I have a track meet on Monday, otherwise I would love to attend. I wonder if the Parks Board has a new opinion, and it wouldn't hurt to find out. It seems to be a good sign to me that she reached out to you!</p>	Kate Waterfall
5-8-23	Presentation to Park Board-Y4C	<p>General statement of advocacy for ordinance</p>	Y4C Erica Steinmetz, Alana Nelson, Kailey Hockerman, Luci Joyce, Behrens, Collins,
4-2023	Correspondence	<p>Betsy,</p> <p>I think it is appropriate to try again in May and encourage this. My May is pretty busy, but let me know when the meeting is scheduled and I will make an effort to go with you.</p> <p>An ordinance would be preferred, but perhaps we should use a “rule” as a starting point; it’s probably and easier sell. Aim high with the ordinance language, and then perhaps they would settle “down” to an ordinance? And then hopefully gain momentum.</p> <p>Just a thought.</p>	Brandie Anderson
Summer 2023	Correspondence	<p>Hi Jodi,</p> <p>Do you have the minutes of the Parks Board May meeting? Those of us who were present understood the Parks Board agree to take action by posting No Smoking signs that are already owned by the city. When</p>	Betsy Thanks, Betsy

		did that change take place and was it the entire board in agreement to not take action?	
Summer 2023	Correspondence	From my notes... Pat recommended we would not make a rule, we would allow Signage to be made by P4P, Y4C and placed in parks. Manning made a motion to approve and it was quickly seconded. I believe after that was when you guys made more comments about wanting an ordinance and Dave said something about some signs he had in the shop. I only noted what Pat officially said that was approved in the minutes.	Jodi L Mieden
Summer 2023	Correspondence	Nice to hear from you! While we work on the process of an ordinance, could the existing signs that Dave referred to be placed in the Park?	Betsy
		I will ask Dave here shortly and send it to you.	Jodi L Mieden
Summer 2023	Correspondence	Thanks so much, Jodi. Do you have an image of the sign you could share? I will ask our coalition to weigh in.	Betsy
Summer 2023	Correspondence	I spoke with Pat, he mentioned that when Dave talked about his signs, someone mentioned them not saying vaping, etc so they weren't quite what you were looking for. That was the reason Dave was told to hold off. Unfortunately with the pool opening up, I didn't process my minutes right away and had to cipher my notes...lol Anyway, please let me know if you would like me to ask for Dave's signs to be put up officially as they are worded. I will have to see them to know just how they are worded.	Jodi L Mieden
Summer 2023	Note	Jodi never got back to me but there were no smoking signs posted on the Meyer Building During the summer of 2023. Those signs are no longer there as of May 2024.	
July 2023	Presentation	Lucy and Kate presented to the Richland Center City Council when Park Board would not even agree to a rule.	Ludy Joyce and Kate Waterfall
March 2024`	Meeting	Y4C meets with Mayor Coppernoll bypassing the Parks Board. He agrees to help out once the election is over.	Several Y4C members
June 2024`	Presentation to Mayor	Maddy and Ethan will put together a presentation for the Mayor	Maddy, Ethan, Betsy, Jeff and Kate
January 2024	Mayor leadership	Mayor announces at Community Dinner that he supports Tobacco Free Parks and would like to make them a reality in RC.	Audience and to Betsy