

Smoke & Vape-Free Parks TALKING POINTS – Washoe County

- Washoe County and the Washoe County Health District, City of Reno and City of Sparks have worked together over the last two years on a regional effort among all jurisdictions to ensure our city and county parks are designated smoke and vape-free locations.
- **Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation survey** – a public survey of nearly 1,000 residents throughout the Truckee Meadows showed that an overwhelming majority 76% supported some kind of regulation governing smoking in parks.
- Considerations in making this decision included:
 - Health of the public – second hand smoke is harmful and can cause health problems for some individuals, i.e. those with asthma
 - Safety for pets and wildlife - consumption of discarded tobacco products
 - Environmental impacts – creates a fire risk and contaminates our soil and waterways
 - Costs of clean up from tobacco waste is about \$0.22 per pack of cigarettes sold. Clean-up of cigarette waste in parks and recreation areas makes up 31.5% of the total litter collected
- Our region's parks & outdoor recreational facilities have now joined over 1,500 other municipalities nationwide in enacting smoke free parks ordinances.
- Other Nevada communities have implemented restrictions on smoking and vaping in outdoor recreation facilities:
 - Henderson and North Las Vegas have ordinances prohibiting/limiting smoking, vaping and tobacco use in parks
 - Incline Village has tobacco free signage for parks, beaches, trails, the golf course and the ski resort
 - Carson City uses smoke free/vape free signage at park playgrounds
 - Douglas County has smoke free signage for their playgrounds
- Enforcement - first step is to install of consistent regional signage and educate the community that this ordinance is in effect. Most policies such as this are successfully enforced by the people that use and enjoy shared spaces and voluntary compliance with park rules. Park patrons can help educate other park goers that may not be aware of the change, and signage will assist with ongoing education. Other enforcement measures will be determined by each jurisdiction.