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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Saginaw City Council Adopts NEW Smoke-Free Parks Ordinance**

**August 27, 2020 SAGINAW, MI** – At the August 24, 2020 City Council Meeting, council members adopted an ordinance prohibiting smoking in all City parks. The ordinance becomes effective on September 3, 2020.

Specifically, the ordinance provides that “No person shall be allowed to engage in smoking in any City park, including, but not limited to, any playground, tennis court, community center or outdoor athletic complex owned or controlled by the City.” To view a list of all city-owned parks, click [here](#).

Smoking is defined to include “possessing a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, hookah, or pipe that contains tobacco, marijuana, or any other product that is lit or burning; lighting a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, hookah, or pipe that contains tobacco or any other product; or exhaling smoke from burning tobacco or any other burning product that is contained in a hookah, pipe, cigar, cigarette and/or e-cigarette.”

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Currently, over 1,500 municipal park systems across the country are smoke free. Smoke-free outdoor recreation areas, bike paths, and outdoor assembly areas encourage healthy behavior, reduce unwanted exposure to secondhand smoke, a known carcinogen, and reduce fire hazards. The City also hopes to protect its parks and recreation areas from environmental degradation caused by littering of cigarette butts and other tobacco-related waste.

Saginaw Mayor Floyd Kloc commented on the new ordinance “By adopting this ordinance, Saginaw is helping reduce the rate of tobacco use in the community and is demonstrating that our parks are where people go to improve their fitness and enjoy nature.”

Signage noting the smoking ban will be posted at all city parks. Non-compliance enforcement will be directed to the Saginaw Police Department. Per the ordinance, violations may result in the issuance of a municipal civil infraction and a \$50.00 fine, as well as removal of the individual from the City park.

To view a copy of the ordinance, click [here](#).

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