



**LEWIS AND CLARK  
CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

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Helena, Montana 59601  
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*Resolution in Support for*  
**Lewis & Clark County and City of Helena Tobacco-Free Parks  
Policy**

**WHEREAS**, secondhand smoke has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, and asthma in both smokers and nonsmokers<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006, the United States Surgeon General determined that secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke; that children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems and more severe asthma; that smoking by parents causes respiratory symptoms and slows lung growth in their children; and that scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, research indicates that, during active smoking, outdoor levels of secondhand smoke may be as high as indoor levels and may pose a health risk for people in close proximity (such as sitting next to someone on a park bench, or children accompanying a smoking parent or guardian)<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation reports close to 500 municipalities have eliminated exposure to secondhand smoke with 100% Smoke Free Parks, and 100 municipalities have eliminated exposure to secondhand smoke with 100% Smoke Free Beaches<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC reports that smoking and smokeless tobacco use are almost always initiated and established during adolescence, that most people who begin smoking during adolescence are addicted by the age of 20, and that adolescent smokeless tobacco users are more

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Smoking and Tobacco Use Fast Facts, [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/fast\\_facts](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/fast_facts).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*.

<sup>3</sup> Neil E. Klepeis, Wayne R. Ott, and Paul Switzer, *Real-time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles*, Neil E. Klepeis, Etienne B. Gabel, Wayne R. Ott, and Paul Switzer, *Outdoor Air Pollution in Close Proximity to a Continuous Point Source*.

<sup>4</sup> American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation, Municipalities with Smoke-free Parks Laws, <http://www.no-smoke.org/pdf/SmokefreeParks.pdf>.

*"To Improve and Protect the Health of All Lewis and Clark County Residents."*

likely than nonusers to become adult cigarette smokers<sup>5</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, everyday an estimated 3,450 young people between 12 and 17 years of age try their first cigarette, and an estimated 850 youth become daily cigarette smokers<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, children follow behavior after models of non-smoking behavior and benefit from positive reinforcement of healthy lifestyle messages through exposure to smoke and tobacco free public areas<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, parents, adult leaders, and others involved in recreation serve as role models for youth and can have a positive effect on the lifestyle choices they make; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations, including Keep America Beautiful, the Ocean Conservancy, and North Carolina Big Sweep, consistently report cigarette butts as a leading cause of litter<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, cigarette trash is toxic to plants, animals, and increases risk of fire danger; and

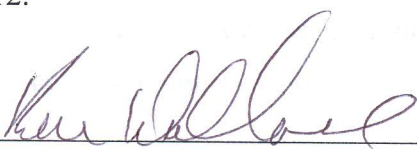
**WHEREAS**, small children playing in city parks and recreation buildings and on city recreation grounds are more likely to ingest cigarette butts if they are discarded and accessible<sup>9</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, American Poison Control Centers received over 7,000 reports of children under the age of 6 being poisoned by contact with tobacco products<sup>10</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Lewis & Clark County has a unique opportunity to create and sustain an environment that supports a non-tobacco norm through a tobacco use policy which serves to protect the health, safety and welfare of county residents; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Lewis & Clark City-County Board of Health recommends that the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County implement policy that ensures all parks in the City and County are tobacco free.

Adopted by the Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health on this day, Thursday July 26, 2012.

  
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Ken Wallace, Chair

<sup>5</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth and Tobacco Use, [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/youth\\_data/tobacco\\_use](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use).

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth and Tobacco Use, [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/youth\\_data/tobacco\\_use](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use).

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth and Tobacco Use, [http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data\\_statistics/fact\\_sheets/youth\\_data/tobacco\\_use](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/youth_data/tobacco_use).

<sup>8</sup> *Ocean Conservancy, Trash Travels from Our Hands to the Sea, Around the Globe and Through Time 2010 Report 11* (2010).

<sup>9</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Ingestion of Cigarettes and Cigarette Butts by Children – Rhode Island, January 1994-July 1996*.

<sup>10</sup> Alvin C. Bronstein, MD, Daniel A. Spyker, PH.D., MD, Louis R. Cantilena Jr., MD, PH.D., Jody L. Green, PH.D., Barry H. Rumack, MD, and Sandra L. Giffin, RN, BSN, MS, *2008 Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers' National Poison Data System (NPDS): 26th Annual Report*.

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