

# Čanlí Coalition of CRST

## Talking Points for Smoke-Free Parks & Recreational Areas



### **Commercial Tobacco-Free Park and Recreation Areas Promote Health**

Each year in South Dakota, more than 1000 young people under the age of 18 become new daily smokers. Each day 45,000 youth are exposed to secondhand smoke in S.D. More astonishingly, 18,000 youth under the age of 18 will die prematurely from smoking. Supporting commercial tobacco-free parks and recreation areas makes sense because it sends the right message...that commercial tobacco use is unhealthy and an unnecessary behavior.

### **Why Commercial Tobacco-Free Parks?**

- Help change the social norms about commercial tobacco use
- Promote positive role modeling (the more tobacco-free parks the fewer opportunities for youth to observe others smoking and smoke themselves)
- Ensure that participants and spectators are not exposed to secondhand smoke
- Secondhand smoke is dangerous even outside – The U.S. Surgeon General in 2006 said “there is no risk-free exposure to secondhand smoke”
- Reduce harmful cigarette litter (cigarettes are the #1 littered item in the world)
- Cigarette litter is harmful, costly to clean and can be swallowed by toddlers and animals
- The public supports tobacco free parks as a whole (the question has not been brought up and many community members think they are already smoke free.)
- Reduces chances of an asthma attack from a youth or adult suffering from the disease (commercial tobacco smoke is a trigger for an asthma attack)
- Smokers still come to use and enjoy parks and recreational areas just use commercial tobacco at other places.



### **Tobacco Free Parks Policy Basics**

- In general, a park policy is the rules regarding the park property that are established through a signed policy by the owner of the park.
- Generally, those who ignore park policies do not receive a fine, but are asked to refrain from using commercial tobacco or leave the premises.
- Park policy – prohibits commercial tobacco use on park property.
- Park policy should include a list of the facilities that are covered; a statement that all forms of commercial tobacco use are prohibited; enforcement plan that includes community and staff notification and signage.

Last Updated February 2020