

Estacada Tobacco-Free Parks: A Community Effort

Whenever Estacada resident Shirley Burke visited the Estacada Wade Creek Skate Park, she saw cigarette butts everywhere, visitors subjected to tobacco smoke, and park users spitting chew all over the family park. Sensing that she and other Estacadans also objected to the tarnishing of this beautiful environment, Shirley asked park users what they thought about having a tobacco-free park. Shirley found strong community support for tobacco-free parks, motivating her to move forward and do something.

Shirley gathered more than 80 signatures supporting tobacco-free parks and advocated in front of the Estacada City Council for “a kids right to not have to put up with the smoke and littering all over the family park.” The Estacada City Council took action by placing a survey with its customer’s water bills and found additional support for a tobacco-free parks policy. The decision was made by the Council to adopt City Ordinance 12.28.020, reducing the risk of second-hand smoke exposure and providing a healthier environment for park visitors. All Estacada City Parks have been tobacco-free since January 2014.

