

Prohibit smoking near park playgrounds

I was at my local park in Woodridge the other day with my 6-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son. We were playing on the children's play equipment with other kids when one of the parents lit up a cigar. Not only was the cigar stench annoying, but it meant my children and I were breathing in cancer-causing secondhand smoke. And because the Woodridge Park District does not have a no-smoking policy in its parks, I was powerless to do anything to protect the health of my children except to leave the area. Does that seem right to you?

I would prefer that smoking be prohibited in all parks and at all family-friendly events, such as the Woodridge Jubilee, Concerts in the Parks, etc., but the Woodridge Park District has expressed an unwillingness to do so. So I propose, at a minimum, that smoking be prohibited within 25 feet of all children's play equipment in Woodridge parks. Children are the most susceptible to the unhealthy effects of secondhand smoke and deserve to be able to play in our parks without endangering their health.

Such a restriction would be a minor limitation for smokers and a major improvement for the health of our children.

Robert "Bob" Brandt

Trustee, village of Woodridge