



KEEP TRUCKEE MEADOWS B E A U T I F U L

Dedicated to creating a cleaner, more beautiful region through education and active community involvement

April 2, 2018

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Christi Cakiroglu, CCEP

P.O. Box 7412
Reno, NV 89510
775-851-5185
www.ktmb.org

Dear Sparks City Council,

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) is dedicated to creating a cleaner, more beautiful region through education and active community involvement. KTMB would like to express our support of the smoke free parks initiative.

The use of tobacco and specifically cigarettes results in a significant amount of litter in area parks. KTMB volunteers who participate in our cleanup events like the Truckee River Cleanup Day and the Great Community Cleanup consistently report that cigarette butts are the number one piece of litter found. In addition to cigarette butts being unsightly, the chemicals in the improperly discarded cigarettes can get into our water supply where they contaminate the Truckee River, and cause harm to fish, pets and other wildlife. Cigarette butts and ash can start fires in our dry desert climate, and cleaning up cigarette litter is very time consuming and costly.

Information from Keep America Beautiful shows that tobacco litter makes up 31.5% of all litter in our parks and other outdoor recreation areas. Keep America Beautiful data also tells us that 85% of all butts are dropped on the ground, and of those, 37% are thrown into bushes and shrubbery, 25% are thrown on or around the area where an ash receptacle is placed, and 15% of are thrown into planters.

KTMB promotes and educates about proper disposal, but continues to clean up significant cigarette waste during cleanup events. Creating smoke free parks, trails and open spaces is supported by KTMB because in doing so cigarette waste is expected to be significantly reduced in these public places while reducing the risk of fire and protecting our waterways, pets and wildlife. Thank you for considering this important improvement to our community.

Sincerely,

Christi Cakiroglu
Executive Director