

CITY PARKS, WATSONVILLE SLOUGHS TRAIL SYSTEM AND CITY SPONSORED EVENTS DESIGNATED AS NON-SMOKING

Our Parks and City Plaza are places where families and children congregate, play sports, picnic and enjoy the outdoors. The Slough Trails also provide **5.8 miles** of trail ways for all the residents of Watsonville to enjoy. It is the mission of the Parks and Community Services Department to promote the health and wellness of residents, particularly that of children and youth. Children are especially powerless to control their exposure to tobacco smoke and yet they are the group most adversely affected. The Parks and Community Services Department conducted an informal opinion poll where 58% indicated that they preferred that smoking not be allowed at City events and 32% preferred that smoking be allowed and limited to designated smoking areas.

On September 25, 2007 the City Council approved a resolution to ban smoking at all City parks to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents in the City of Watsonville. The City of Watsonville's park system consists of 24 parks, which include 17 playgrounds and tot lots, and the Watsonville Slough Trail system, when completed, will be a total of 5.8 miles long. Residents may expect to see the No Smoking signs at all City parks and the Watsonville Slough trail system **by December 15th**.

With the continued efforts of the Parks and Community Services Department to provide safe environments for children and families, City Council also approved that city-sponsored community events be designated as non-smoking. The City sponsors various community events that are alcohol-free and for the enjoyment of all City residents. These events include the Day of the Child/Earthday, Holiday in Lights, Spirit of Watsonville 4th of July Parade, Monterey Bay Strawberry Festival, Cinco de Mayo and Fiestas Patrias celebrations.

Initial efforts to promote public awareness and education will be offered through collaboration with the Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA)'s PASEO Program education and outreach components. You may contact PVPSA's PASEO Program by calling 728-6445 or visit their website at www.pvpsa.org

You may contact the Parks and Community Services Department at 768-3240 or visit the website at www.watsonvillerec.com for more information about the Non-Smoking Policy.

HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING COMPETITION

The Watsonville Parks and Community Services Department is once again giving you the opportunity to beautify Watsonville during the holiday season by decorating your house, yard, tree or neighborhood. You can enter in one of the following categories: Best outdoor lighted tree, best indoor lighted tree, best house and yard-religious theme, best house and yard-contemporary theme, and best neighborhood. The deadline to enter the competition is December 13. Homes will be judged on December 18th. For additional information call 768-3240.

HOLIDAY IN LIGHTS

The City Plaza comes to life with tens of thousands of sparkling, colored lights. The official lighting ceremony will take place on Friday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the Gazebo in the heart of the City Plaza. Music from local schools will be featured. For additional information call 768-3240.

HOLIDAY FACTORY SALE

Here's a great way to start or finish your Christmas Shopping. Once again the Watsonville Parks and Community Services' Special Events Division presents the annual Holiday Factory Sale on December 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Participating in this year's factory sale are: Annie Glass, Mystic Fish Creations, McLellan Botanicals, Orion Telescope and Binoculars, Smith and Vandiver, Photoflex, and Salamander Graphix. For additional information call 768-3240.