

Tobacco Free Parks

BENEFITS:

- Healthier recreational environments that promote physical activity, encourage personal development, and minimize exposure to tobacco use and secondhand smoke
- More public awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure
- Cleaner parks that contribute to high quality recreation experience because they are free of tobacco, secondhand smoke, and cigarette butts
 - Cigarette butts are not biodegradable
 - In a study from 2011 published in *Tobacco Control* estimated that “Tobacco product litter” makes up 36% of all visible litter with estimated removal costs ranging from \$3 million - \$16 million
 - Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the U.S. & across the globe
- Fewer carcinogens, toxic metals, and poisonous gases from secondhand smoke and tobacco products that impact human health, worsen air quality and impair physical activity necessary to fully enjoy park and recreation facilities

INFORMATION:

- **Seven Rivers Health Initiative found that 96% prefer tobacco-free playgrounds**
- **73% of La Crosse County residents surveyed favored creating tobacco-free parks, beaches, and fairgrounds out of 300 surveys**
- **Gundersen Health System, Mayo Clinic Healthy System-Franciscan Healthcare, and other schools/businesses have smoke-free campuses**
- **Smoke Free Park Ordinances are found in these Wisconsin counties and cities:**
 - **Appleton, Brown County, Columbia County, Greenfield, Shorewood, St. Croix County, Verona, and Wisconsin Dells**
- **La Crosse Area Health Initiative:**
 - **Make Our Parks Clean Again event on April 27th : Tobacco Litter Pick-Up Event**
- As of July 1st, 2016 over 1,260 municipalities have tobacco-free park laws
- 58% of the general public was supportive of smoking bans in all public places in 2015
 - 68% of women & 47% of men support bans
- In 2016, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) survey showed that four out of five (79%) Americans support policies that prohibit the use of tobacco products at parks and recreation centers
- NRPA Position Statement on Tobacco Consumption in Parks – supports prohibition/use of tobacco products at all parks and recreation facilities

- 1) La Crosse County survey: Most people support banning smoking in parks, fest grounds

https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/la-crosse-county-survey-most-people-support-banning-smoking-in/article_d918a877-dac9-5188-8c35-fd40e61d886b.html

- 2) Tobacco Consumption in Parks

<https://www.nrpa.org/tobacco>

- 3) Tobacco Free Model Policy Example

<http://www.tobaccofreeparks.org/fckfiles/Model%20Outdoor%20Rec%20Areas%20ecig%20Policy%20.pdf>

- 4) Smoke-Free Parks: Why Park and Recreation Departments Should Lead the Effort

<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2016/october/smoke-free-parks-why-park-and-recreation-departments-should-lead-the-effort/>