

A Guide to Tobacco-Free Outdoors

What is a Tobacco-Free Parks Policy?

A tobacco-free park policy eliminates all tobacco use including smoking, vaping, and chewless tobacco across all parks in the municipality.

TOBACCO
FREE Erie & Niagara



36 Counties across New York State have tobacco policies in their parks, 13 of those are 100% tobacco-free.



Erie County

has a smoke-free policy that bans smoking and vaping in all county parks.



City of Lockport, Town of Lewiston and the Town of Hartland are just a few municipalities across Niagara County who have policies restricting tobacco use in their parks.

City of North Tonawanda

In 2020, Tobacco-Free Erie and Niagara partnered with students from North Tonawanda High school and CHANT (Community Health Alliance of North Tonawanda) to help the City of North Tonawanda adopt an ordinance. This new ordinance eliminated tobacco, smoking, and vaping use in 26 parks, fields, and recreation areas across the city.

BENEFITS:

✓ Tobacco-free parks policies help keep our environment clean and safe.

↳ Cigarette butts are the #1 littered item in the world, with over 1.69 billion pounds of cigarette butts littered each year. Additionally, approximately 600 million trees are chopped down every year by the tobacco industry.

✓ Eliminating secondhand smoke saves lives.

↳ About 3,000 non-smoking adults in NYS die from diseases (including heart disease, lung cancer and stroke) caused by secondhand smoke every year. The Surgeon General has said there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

✓ Tobacco-free outdoor air policies keep children safe and establish tobacco-free living as the norm.

↳ Tobacco use in family-friendly places such as playgrounds, parks, and athletic events normalizes the use of tobacco. The more kids see tobacco use, the more likely they are to start smoking. Additionally, discarded cigarette butts contain concentrated levels of carcinogens as well as nicotine, which can be poisonous when ingested by children.

To learn more about tobacco-free outdoors or request free signage, reach out to Rashawn Smalls at RSmalls@caiglobal.org

For more information, visit www.caiglobal.org/tfc

Established in August 2019, Tobacco-Free Erie & Niagara Counties is an initiative of CAI that is committed to reducing tobacco use and second-hand smoke among individuals living in Erie and Niagara Counties. They support community efforts that will reduce the impact of retail tobacco marketing on youth and adults and promote anti-tobacco evidence-based education and activities.