



Our Vision: Every person in Columbia County can enjoy the great outdoors – free from toxic smoke and litter.

Tobacco Free spaces set a positive example and provide fewer opportunities for youth to start smoking and they support people who want to quit and help them succeed.

- Two-thirds of youth in Columbia County are exposed to secondhand smoke
 - Children exposed to secondhand smoke have an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome, asthma, and cancer.
 - Both cigarettes & electronic vapor products (vape) contain nicotine, lead, and formaldehyde.
- Cigarettes are the most littered item
- U.S. poison control centers reported 9500+ cases (2020) involving children who consumed or were exposed to tobacco or nicotine products

A healthy environment and economy

Tobacco products are toxic to the planet

- Lead, arsenic, and other chemicals in cigarettes & vape products cause pollution
- Cigarette filters & vape products are not biodegradable
- The tobacco industry cuts down 600 million trees every year
- Litter hurts tourism, our pristine natural springs are core to the economic health of Florida

Florida Clean Air Act

In July 2022, The Florida Clean Air Act was updated

- Counties & municipalities can now restrict smoking & vaping in public parks (unfiltered cigars are excluded from regulation)
- Smoking is currently prohibited in state parks

Model Ordinance

The Public Health Law Center created model ordinances for Florida counties & municipalities that would:

- Prohibit smoking & vaping at public parks
- Require signage
- Allow for enforcement
 - Encourage equitable enforcement – use signage as enforcement and deterrent, discourage criminal penalties as punishment, and limit law enforcement involvement.

Smoke-free policies can support and drive the local economy and improve our environment. It can also change social norms and acceptance of tobacco use and reduce youth exposure to tobacco and nicotine products.