

# Strategies for Enforcing Tobacco-Free Parks

Tobacco-free parks are relatively easy to enforce because these laws are, for the most part, self-enforcing, meaning that people “police” themselves and cooperate with the law.

**80% of the population will follow a well-communicated policy.**

## Let Community Members Know about the Policy

In addition to posting signs, parks and recreation staff have used a variety of means to educate citizens about their tobacco-free policies:

- Staff notification of the new policy and setting procedures for handling violations
- Articles in a local newspaper, as the results of a news release or reporters' coverage of city council meetings
- Social Media
- Rulebooks or policy statements that are distributed to sports league administrators, coaches, officials, parents, and participants.
- Postings on the recreation department's or city's website

## Post signs

The most important way to publicize your tobacco-free policy is by posting signs. The following locations are suggested places:

- fencing, playgrounds, and fields
- Backstops
- Picnic shelters
- Restrooms
- Concession stands
- Parking lot entrances
- Beach entrances
- Lifeguard stands
- Hiking trail entrances
- Skating rink warming houses

## Talking Points

Municipality X recently passed **Ordinance X** prohibiting all tobacco products on all park properties. We ask that you follow this and not smoke or use tobacco products on our property.

If you are interested, there are free resources available to quit. You can call 1-800-QUIT NOW today.

Thank you for respecting our new policy.

### **For people looking for a justification:**

Municipality X implemented this policy because we are committed to providing a healthy, safe, and productive work and recreational environment for the community. Thank you for helping us keep our properties smoke and tobacco-free.

### **For people who ask where they can smoke:**

Since we are trying to create a healthy environment for everyone, we do not provide a place for people to smoke/use tobacco. You may want to leave the property for a little while to give yourself the opportunity to smoke/use tobacco.

