



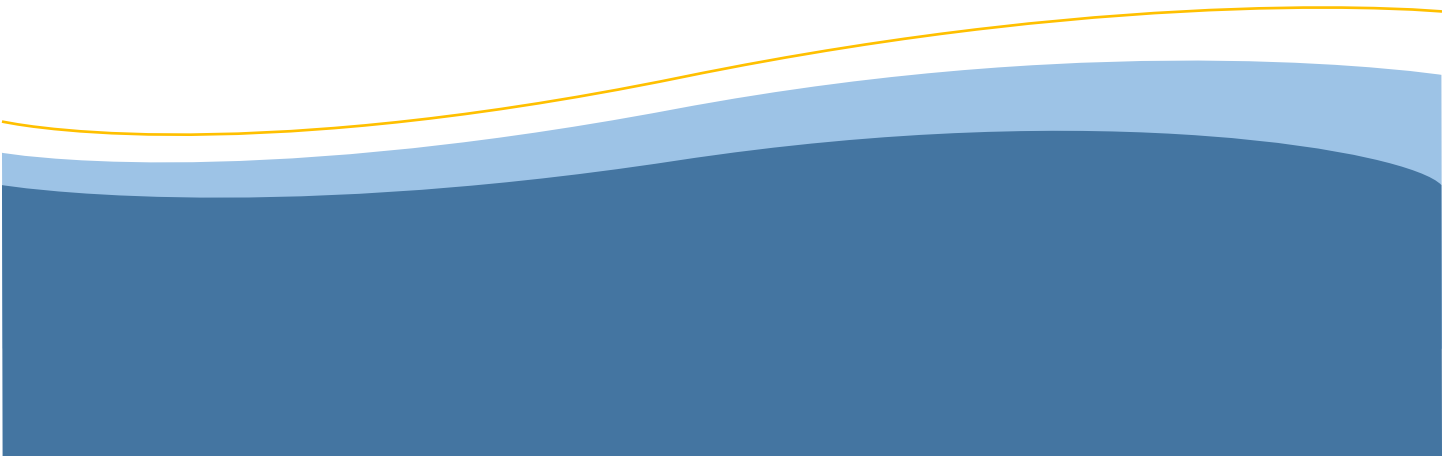
# Ceremonial Tobacco Use and Tobacco-Free Parks and Beaches

## **What is traditional tobacco and ceremonial tobacco use?**

Traditional tobacco has been used by American Indians for ceremonial or medicinal purposes for thousands of years and can also include other plant mixtures. Traditional tobacco preparation varies across Tribes and regions. It holds a place of cultural and spiritual importance for many Tribes, such as when it is used as traditional medicine, an offering to the Creator, or a gift when asking for guidance. It is always used in a respectful way. Traditional tobacco is *not* associated with addiction or poor health outcomes when used appropriately. Learn more about traditional tobacco on the National Native Network website:

## **What does traditional tobacco have to do with tobacco-free parks & beaches?**

Ceremonial tobacco use may traditionally occur in areas where local communities consider implementing tobacco-free parks and beaches policies. It is important to protect American Indians' right to use traditional tobacco, not only to be respectful of cultural practices, but also to be consistent with federal law. The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 protects the traditional religious rights and cultural practices of American Indians, including requiring policies of all governmental agencies to eliminate interference with the free exercise of Native religion granted by the First Amendment and the 1978 Federal Law, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.





## **How can ceremonial tobacco use by American Indians be protected?**

Local communities working to enact tobacco-free parks and beaches policies should contact Tribes in their area (see the map below) to work together on a policy to ensure that it accommodates ceremonial use appropriately and reflects the practices and perspectives of local Tribes. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with South Eastern Michigan Indians Inc. and the Smoke-Free Environments Law Project, has developed a model policy that includes an exemption for ceremonial tobacco use but recommends adapting the policy based on local needs.

## **What does meaningful consultation with Tribes look like?**

Mutual understanding and respect are at the core of meaningful consultation. Consult with local Tribes early in the process of working on a policy to ensure there is time to work on the policy together and feedback is incorporated. Ensure that consultation occurs *in advance* of decision making. Communicate openly and transparently. Whenever possible, move beyond consultation towards collaboration and shared leadership.

## **Are there times when a policy should not include an exemption for ceremonial tobacco use?**

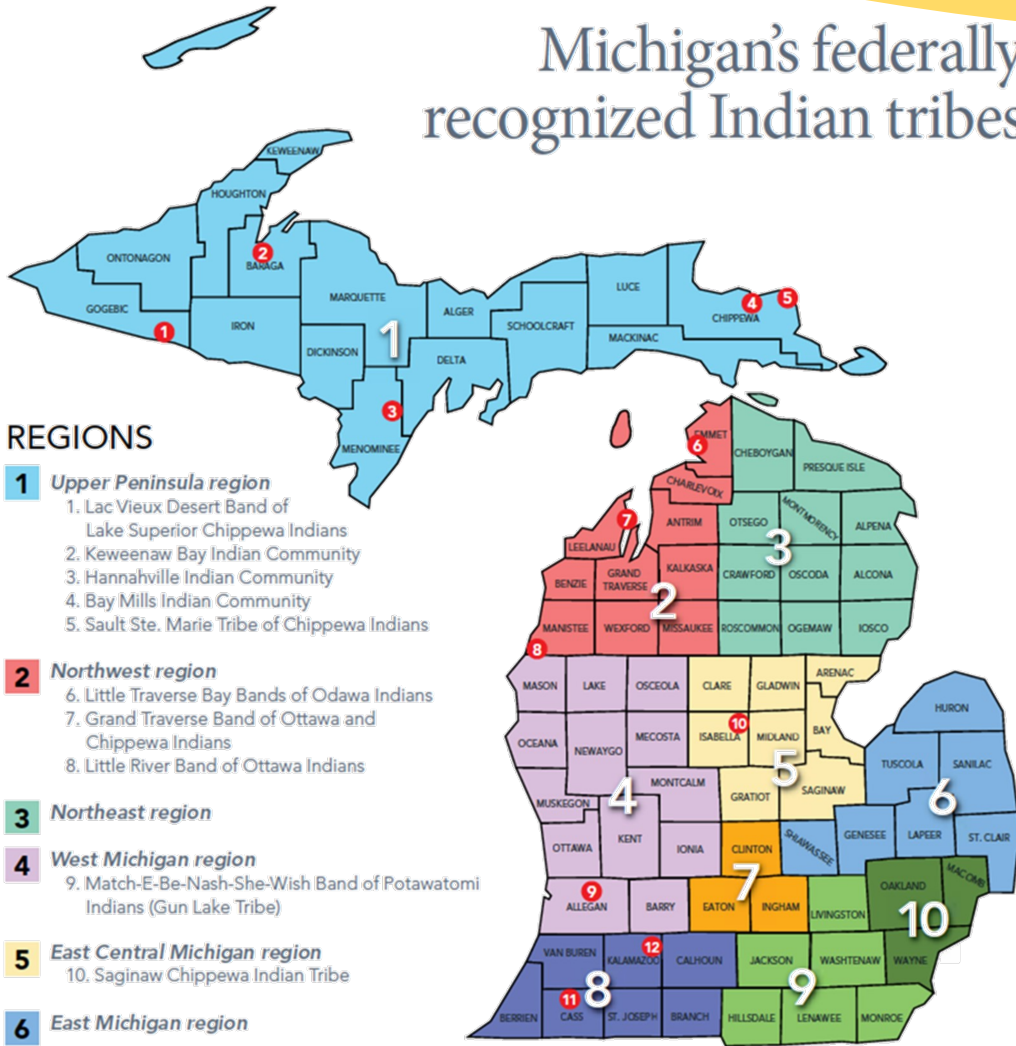
This should be decided on a case-by-case basis and may depend on whether there are American Indian populations in your area. For example, it may be reasonable for a policy not to include an exemption if it only addresses children's playground areas or other areas where ceremonial use is unlikely to occur.

## **Need Technical Assistance?**

For training or technical assistance related to tobacco-free parks and beaches policies, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Tobacco Section at 517-335-8376. Visit our website for more resources: [www.michigan.gov/tobacco](http://www.michigan.gov/tobacco).



# Michigan's federally recognized Indian tribes



## REGIONS

- 1 Upper Peninsula region**
  - 1. Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
  - 2. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
  - 3. Hannahville Indian Community
  - 4. Bay Mills Indian Community
  - 5. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- 2 Northwest region**
  - 6. Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
  - 7. Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
  - 8. Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- 3 Northeast region**
- 4 West Michigan region**
  - 9. Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe)
- 5 East Central Michigan region**
  - 10. Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- 6 East Michigan region**
- 7 South Central region**
- 8 Southwest region**
  - 11. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
  - 12. Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians
- 9 Southeast Michigan region**
- 10 Detroit Metro region**