

Commercial Tobacco-Free Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Areas in Michigan*

Talking Points

- Exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol is harmful to health. Even in outdoor settings air pollution from outdoor tobacco smoke and e-cigarette aerosol can be quite high. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke or e-cigarette aerosol.
- Tobacco-free policies, including e-cigarettes and ALL new generation products (IQOS, strips, sticks, orbs, etc.), help to change community norms, and provide a positive tobacco-free model to children.
- Many communities in Michigan have already made their parks and beaches tobacco-free. We should follow their lead and create a healthier community for residents and visitors to our area to exercise, relax, and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.
- Tobacco/nicotine litter is toxic to wildlife, including aquatic life, and pollutes our waterways. A single cigarette butt can take 5-10 years to decompose. In addition, e-cigarettes contain lithium-ion batteries which can leach heavy metals such as mercury, lead and bromines, as well as battery acid, into the ground. A tobacco-free policy will help to protect the environment and keep it beautiful for generations to come.
- Cigarette butts, e-cigarette pods and cartridges, and tobacco-related litter are picked up and mouthed by babies and toddlers. This is unsafe and potentially very dangerous. We should protect our children through a tobacco-free policy.
- Smoldering cigarette butts, matches, and e-cigarettes can cause fires.
- A tobacco-free parks and beaches policy makes sense for our community. Over 80% of Michigan residents are nonsmokers, and the same is true for tourists from other states.
- A tobacco-free policy may help to reduce maintenance costs due to reduced staff time needed for litter and waste clean-up.
- There is support for a tobacco-free parks and beaches policy in our community. [insert agency names of key supporters if applicable] all support this policy.
- We are lucky to have beautiful public parks and beaches in our community. Let's do the right thing and make them tobacco-free.

*Communities seeking to enact tobacco-free policies in areas where sacred/ceremonial tobacco use may occur should prohibit commercial tobacco use and include an exemption for sacred/ceremonial tobacco use.