



TOBACCO-FREE ZONE POLICY

Township of Northampton

The Township of Northampton Parks and Recreation Department Tobacco-Free Policy, Young Lungs at Play, is designed to protect the health, welfare and safety of our park patrons.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Township of Northampton is committed to providing a high quality of living for all residents. This policy is adopted based on the following findings:

1. Tobacco product use in proximity of children, youth and adults engaging in or watching recreational activities is unhealthy and detrimental to the health of others.
2. Tobacco products once consumed in public spaces are often discarded on the ground, thus posing a risk of ingestion to toddlers and causing a litter problem.
3. Parents, leaders, coaches and officials are thought of as role models, and the use of tobacco products around youth has a negative effect on their lifestyle choices.

TOBACCO FREE FACILITIES

The Township of Northampton does not allow the use of tobacco products in tobacco free zones in Township parks and recreation facilities. A tobacco free zone is any area within 50 feet of active recreation including but not limited to amphitheater, athletic fields, basketball courts, hockey rinks, playgrounds and tennis courts.

COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

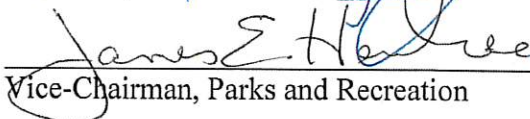
The emphasis on enforcing the Tobacco-Free Zone Policy is through voluntary compliance:

1. Township Parks and Recreation facilities will post Young Lungs at Play signage.
2. Township staff will meet with activity organizations and/or leaders or coaches to discuss the policy and to distribute flyers with the "Tobacco-Free" regulations.
3. Township staff will make periodic observations of activity sites to monitor compliance and help to promote awareness of the tobacco-free policy.

Policy Adoption Date: March 1, 2012




Chairman, Parks and Recreation


Vice-Chairman, Parks and Recreation

AOUTREACH

program of the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Pennsylvania Department of Health
Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TOBACCO CONTROL PROJECT



Young Lungs at Play Fact Sheet

Tobacco-Free Parks and Playgrounds Are Important.

Many Pennsylvania communities have instituted outdoor tobacco-free ordinances at parks, zoos, athletic fields, playgrounds, trails, beaches and even city sidewalks and streets as a way to protect both children and the environment.

Tobacco-Free Parks are Clean Parks.

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world. Discarded cigarettes and other forms of tobacco are toxic, hazardous to the environment and costly to cleanup. When washed into creeks and streams, tobacco waste is a toxic pollutant that does not decompose easily; it takes decades! Small children and animals are at risk of swallowing, choking, or burning themselves with discarded butts and poisoning themselves with the drug nicotine. Tobacco waste makes parks and playgrounds look dirty and uninviting. Tobacco-free parks provide children with a clean and healthy place to play.



Children are Hurt by Secondhand Smoke!

Exposure to secondhand smoke has been estimated to result in at least 38,000 annual deaths in the United States and over one million illnesses in children .

Secondhand smoke contains more than 250 chemicals known to be toxic or carcinogenic (cancer-causing), including formaldehyde, benzene, vinyl chloride, arsenic, ammonia, and hydrogen cyanide. The Environmental Protection Agency classifies secondhand smoke, as a class A carcinogen; a substance known to cause cancer in humans and many serious illnesses in children including asthma, respiratory infections and cardiovascular disease.

Children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are inhaling many of the same cancer-causing substances as smokers. There is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke exposure. Even brief exposures can be harmful. The only way to fully protect yourself and your loved ones from the dangers of secondhand smoke is through 100% smoke-free environments. (*The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General June 27, 2006*)

¹ National Cancer Institute. *Health Effects of Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke: The Report of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Smoking and Tobacco Control Monograph no. 10* Bethesda, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, NIH Pub. No. 99-4645, 1999. http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/tcrb/nci_monographs/MONO10/MONO10.HTM

Children Imitate Adult Behaviors

How do children learn to walk? To talk? To play sports? From adults! Every year in Pennsylvania, nearly 16,100 children under the age of 18 will become new daily smokers. *(Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, 2009)* When children see adults smoking in family-friendly places such as parks and playgrounds, they see the behavior as acceptable. Parks are about clean air, natural beauty and engaging in healthy activities, smoking just doesn't fit in.

Pennsylvanians Support Tobacco-Free Outdoor Areas.

Most Pennsylvanians **DO NOT** smoke. Tobacco-free policies that restrict tobacco use where children play help to protect the health of all community members.

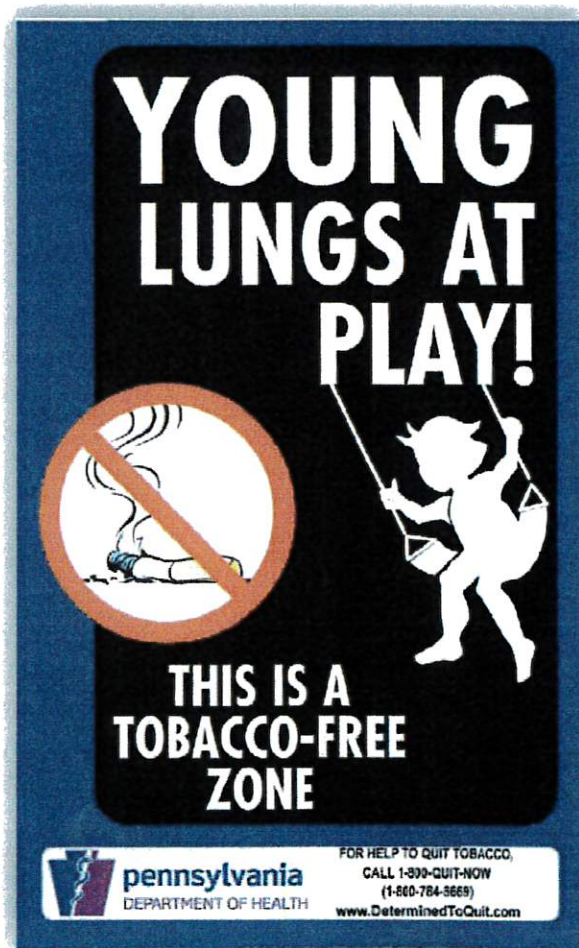
Tobacco-free policies are public park policies similar to those prohibiting alcohol use or littering in public parks and are largely self-enforcing.

Posting adequate signage provides an opportunity to educate the community about the tobacco-free policy and allows individuals to handle tobacco use in the same manner as an alcohol or litter complaint that may occur at these facilities.

Help to prevent children's exposure to secondhand smoke at outdoor public play places. Supporting a tobacco-free ordinance in your city will make a difference in the health and welfare of all community members.

Thank you.

To request Young Lungs at Play signs or for a sample ordinance, please contact:



This program is supported by the Health Promotion Council and funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Health

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTHAMPTON
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

Ordinance Number 579

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTHAMPTON, BUCKS
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA PROHIBITING SMOKING ON
TOWNSHIP PROPERTY AS DEFINED HEREIN EXCEPT IN
DESIGNATED AREAS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Township of Northampton recognizes that smoking is one of the leading causes of preventable disease and death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the deleterious effects upon smokers, tobacco smoke is a substantial health hazard to the public, and an annoyance and a nuisance to the nonsmoking public; and

WHEREAS, tobacco smoke also creates a substantial health hazard to residents of the Township who may be participating in activities or events in or around buildings owned or leased by the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Township of Northampton understands while it is not in its public policy to deny anyone the right to smoke, a balance must be struck between the right of smokers to smoke and the right of nonsmokers to breathe clean air; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Township of Northampton concludes the right of nonsmokers to breathe clean air outweighs the right of smokers to smoke on Township property; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Township of Northampton, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by authority of the same as follows:

- I. The Code of Ordinances of Northampton Township at Chapter 10, Health and Safety, is hereby amended to add a new Part 3 entitled "Smoke-Free Environment," which reads as follows:

Part 3

Smoke-Free Environment

§10-301. Title.

This Part shall be known and may be cited as the "Northampton Township Smoke-Free Environment Ordinance of 2015."

§10-302. Definitions.

Smoke - the gases, particles, or vapors released into the air as a result of combustion, electrical ignition or vaporization, when the apparent or usual purpose of the combustion, electrical ignition or vaporization is human inhalation of the byproducts. The term "smoke" includes, but is not limited to, tobacco smoke, electronic cigarette vapors, and marijuana smoke.

Smoking - engaging in an act that generates smoke, such as, without limitation, possessing a lighted pipe, a lighted hookah pipe, an operating electronic cigarette, a lighted cigar, or a lighted cigarette of any kind; or lighting or igniting a pipe, a hookah pipe, cigar, or cigarette of any kind.

Township Property - All properties, buildings, and vehicles owned and leased by the Township of Northampton. Properties include, but are not limited to, the Administration Building, Fire Stations, Rescue Squad Buildings, Public Works Building, Police Station, The Free Library of Northampton Township, The James E. Kinney Senior Center, the Civic Center and all parks and recreation fields.

§10-303. Regulations.

Smoking shall be prohibited on all Township Property as defined in §10-302 of this Ordinance, excepting only those areas located on Township Property that are specifically designated as areas on which Smoking shall be permitted. Any and all such areas located on Township Property on which Smoking shall be permitted shall be determined by the Township Manager or his designee, and shall be identified by a conspicuously posted sign indicating that the area is an area on which Smoking is permitted.

§10-304. Posting of Signs.

"No Smoking" signs, "Smoke-Free" signs, or signs bearing the international "No Smoking" symbol shall be clearly, sufficiently and conspicuously posted on all Township Property at such locations as shall be determined by the Township Manager or his designee. Such signs shall also indicate that violators are subject to the penalty provisions set forth in §10-305. "Smoking Permitted Area" signs shall be clearly, sufficiently and conspicuously posted at those areas located on Township Property that are specifically designated as areas on which Smoking shall be permitted in accordance with §10-304.

§10-305. Penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not less than twenty-five (\$25) dollars and not more than five hundred (\$500) dollars.

§10-306. Repealer.

All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed.

§10-307. Severability.

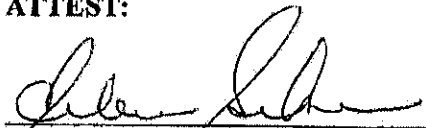
If any section, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudications shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be and shall remain valid and enforceable.

§10-308. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final adoption, publication, and as otherwise provided by law.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 28th day of January 2015.

ATTEST:



Eileen Silver, Secretary

NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP



Barry Moore, Chairman