

Tobacco-Free Park Zone Policy

Purpose:

Designate specific tobacco-free zones in City parks.

Objectives:

Increase public awareness that consideration must be exercised by tobacco product users when they are in proximity to non-tobacco users.

Of primary importance is role modeling by adults to eliminate tobacco use by youth.

Establish tobacco-free zones at public events.

Minimize the amount of litter from discarded tobacco products.

Policy:

Tobacco-free zone areas shall be established where children recreate, such as playgrounds, splash pads, picnic shelters, restrooms, sports fields, the skate park, etc., as well as at community events.

Provide and install tobacco-free zone signs.

Promotion of tobacco-based products is prohibited at all park properties and events conducted on park property.

For more information visit
www.mt-pleasant.org/parks

For more information on supporting community-wide healthy parks visit:

www.tobaccofreeparks.org

www.lungchicago.org

www.nwhealth.org



Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Department

320 W. Broadway Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

(989)779-5331



Supporting Tobacco-Free Park Areas



What can Tobacco do to You?

- **Tobacco causes cancer:**

Tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals. About 70 of them are known to cause cancer. Smoking cigarettes is the number one risk factor for lung cancer.

- **Children model adult behaviors:**

Children mimic the actions of adults; tobacco-free policies encourage young people to make healthy choices.

- **Secondhand smoke is dangerous:**

It causes disease and premature death in children who do not smoke.

It puts children at a higher risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), infections, severe asthma and more.

Being exposed affects the cardiovascular system, and causes heart disease and lung cancer.



What can Tobacco do to the Environment?

- Cigarettes are the most littered item in the United States and the world.
- Several trillion cigarette butts/filters are littered worldwide every day on sidewalks, nature trails, picnic shelter floors and other public places.
- A single cigarette filter takes 5-10 years to decompose and its chemicals filter into the environment.
- Cigarette litter is harmful. Tobacco products can be picked up by children and animals, and they contaminate area park land and waterways.



Benefits of Tobacco-Free Park Zones

- Promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Reduce environmental damage.
- Reduce litter, burns, fires and exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Help promote recreation and healthy activities for all.
- Join other Michigan cities adopting policies identifying tobacco-free park areas.

