



Tobacco-Free Onondaga County

421 Montgomery Street, 9th Floor, Syracuse, New York 13202

315.435.3280 • 315.435.3613 Fax

Tobacco Free Onondaga County (TFOC) has invited all the parks and towns and villages in Onondaga County to eliminate children's exposure to secondhand smoke at public parks and playgrounds by participating in the "Young Lungs at Play" initiative. Through this project, TFOC assists municipalities and Parks Directors to:

- Develop a local law, ordinance, policy or resolution that prohibits all forms of tobacco use in parks and playgrounds or specific areas within the town or village.
- Develop an enforcement plan that includes signage.
- Develop a plan to notify and educate park and playground staff as well as the general community.



1. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death.
2. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
3. Secondhand smoke leads to many serious illnesses including asthma, respiratory infections and cardiovascular disease.
4. When children see adults smoking in family-friendly places such as parks and playgrounds, they see the behavior as acceptable and are more likely to mimic the behavior.
5. A critical component in addressing youth smoking is to create an environment in which tobacco use is not considered the norm in adult society.
6. Parks are about clean air, natural beauty and engaging in healthy activities.
7. Kids should be able to play without being directly exposed to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.
8. Cigarette butts are the most common form of litter.
9. Cigarette butts are hazardous to children, animals and the environment: children who ingest discarded cigarette butts are at risk for toxic poisoning, choking or burning themselves.
10. Cigarette butt cleanup is costly to taxpayers.
11. Over 70% of Onondaga County adult residents favor smoke-free parks & playgrounds. Even among current cigarette smokers, there is a large degree of support for restricting smoking in outdoor venues: 77% of Onondaga County smokers believe that smoking at playgrounds should be eliminated.
12. In Onondaga County, 80% of the adult population doesn't smoke.
13. NYS kids who become new daily smokers each year: 24,900
14. Nearly 90% of adult smokers began at or before the age of 18.
15. It's common sense to protect children where they play and socialize.

Working to create a healthy and tobacco-free environment