



Benefits of Tobacco-Free Outdoor Public Spaces

The benefits of making outdoor public spaces tobacco- and vape-free are many and include:

- Protecting visitors from the harmful and damaging effects of exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosols emitted by e-cigarettes.
- Reducing tobacco litter which protects people, pets and the environment.
- Providing an environment that supports tobacco-free choices.
- Being responsive to the majority of NYS residents who support tobacco-free shared spaces.

With the spread of COVID-19, providing tobacco- and vape-free shared spaces offers the additional benefit of eliminating people's exposure to toxins that can increase their susceptibility to COVID-19 and their risk of experiencing severe health-related consequences.

Consider instituting protections on all properties where people recreate, gather and receive public services:

Recreation areas: Includes parks, beaches, pools, boat launches, sports fields, bike paths, walking trails, nature preserves, golf courses

Public gathering places: Includes public squares, plazas, greens, gazebos

Municipal services property: Other properties where municipal services are provided such as city/town/village hall, police/fire/other emergency services, public works, local courts

Consider including all Tobacco Products that pose a risk to the user, to others, and to the environment:

Combustible tobacco products: Any product made or derived from tobacco, or which contains nicotine, which is smoked, such as cigarettes, pipes, cigars, cigarillos, hookah, herbal cigarettes.

Non-combustible tobacco products: Any product made or derived from tobacco, or which contains nicotine, such as chew, spit, dip and snuff.

Electronic Cigarettes: Any electronic device that, when activated, produces an aerosol that may be inhaled, whether or not the aerosol contains nicotine, such as e-cigarettes and vape pens.

NOTE: Tobacco Products and Electronic Cigarettes do NOT include drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation.

To help local municipalities achieve their tobacco-free goals, Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities (CDTFC) provides:

- Information and technical assistance
- Tobacco-free signage
- Sample policies

There is no fee for any of our services. CDTFC is funded by the NYS Tobacco Control Program to provide whatever help you need at no cost to you. Email Theresa.Zubretsky@SPHP.com to learn more.