Many communities have passed tobacco-free policies for outdoor spaces like parks, recreational facilities, beaches, and festivals. Clean air goes hand-in-hand with the intent of outdoor spaces, such as providing healthy opportunities for physical activity and connection with nature. Here are three major reasons to make outdoor spaces tobacco-free in [Community Name].

**Cleaner Air**

Secondhand smoke is still dangerous—even outside. In fact, studies show that outdoor exposure to secondhand smoke can reach levels on par with indoor exposure.[[1]](#endnote-1),2 There’s no safe level of secondhand smoke.

Health issues linked to secondhand smoke include:3

* sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)
* impaired lung function
* stroke
* heart disease
* lung cancer

**Less Litter**

Cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded piece of waste worldwide.4 About 65% of smoked cigarettes are littered.5 Disposable e-cigarette pods, such as those used in JUUL products, also often end up as litter. This may leak both residual nicotine and heavy metals into the environment.6

Taxpayers and local authorities are left to pick up the bill for the cost of cleaning tobacco product waste.

**Healthier Kids**

Prohibiting all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, from outdoor spaces models healthier behavior for kids that encourages them to grow up tobacco-free.7 Tobacco-free parks also provide consistency for youth sports in [Community Name] by making expectations clear for teams, coaches, and fans.

“Quote – Include a quote here from a coalition member discussing why they support tobacco-free parks. Emphasize kids’ health, beauty of the community, etc.”

**References**

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   [↑](#endnote-ref-1)