



# GASP

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As of 6/24/15

## Municipal and County Smokefree Park and Recreation Area Policies in NJ

County	Authority
Atlantic	Absecon City
Atlantic	Atlantic City
Atlantic	Atlantic County (county property only)
Atlantic	City of Brigantine Beach
Atlantic	Egg Harbor City
Atlantic	Hamilton Township
Atlantic	Hammonton
Atlantic	Linwood City
Atlantic	Northfield City
Atlantic	Pleasantville
Atlantic	Somers Point City
Atlantic	Ventnor City
Bergen	Allendale Borough
Bergen	Bergen County (county property only)
Bergen	Carlstadt Borough
Bergen	Cliffside Park
Bergen	Closter Borough
Bergen	East Rutherford Borough
Bergen	Elmwood Park Borough
Bergen	Emerson
Bergen	Englewood
Bergen	Fair Lawn
Bergen	Fort Lee Borough
Bergen	Franklin Lakes Borough
Bergen	Garfield City
Bergen	Glen Rock Borough
Bergen	Hackensack City
Bergen	Harrington Park
Bergen	Haworth
Bergen	Leonia Borough
Bergen	Little Ferry Borough
Bergen	Mahwah Township
Bergen	Maywood
Bergen	Moonachie Borough
Bergen	North Arlington Borough
Bergen	Norwood
Bergen	Oakland Borough
Bergen	Old Tappan Borough
Bergen	Oradell
Bergen	Palisades Park Borough
Bergen	Paramus Borough
Bergen	Park Ridge
Bergen	Ridgefield Borough



–SMOKE-FREE TOOLKIT



# SMOKE-FREE TOOLKIT

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Cape Atlantic Coalition for Health implements the New Jersey's Office of Tobacco Control Program's Smoke-free Toolkit by participating in the Integrated Municipal Advisory Councils in Atlantic and Cape May County. Also, the coalition raises awareness about the impact of second hand smoke. In addition, the Cape Atlantic Coalition for Health help spread awareness and provides information about the benefits of passing a smoke-free outdoor recreational ordinance in municipalities in Atlantic and Cape May county.

## List of Municipal and County Smoke free Park and Recreation Area Policies in each county:

### *Atlantic County:*

- Atlantic County (county property only)
- Atlantic City
- Atlantic City of Brigantine Beach
- Egg Harbor City
- Hamilton Township
- Hammonton
- Linwood City
- Northfield City
- Pleasantville
- Somers Point
- Ventnor City

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WEATHER  
COLUMN

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# Smoking ban at Egg Harbor Township recreational fields and playgrounds gaining steam



This Week's E-Edition



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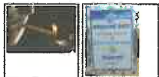
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Posted: Thursday, July 23, 2015 5:00 am



Posted on Jul 23, 2015  
by [Laura Stetser](#)

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP – For five years, a grassroots effort to ban smoking at Egg

Harbor Township's athletic fields and playgrounds has been smoldering, failing to ignite enough support among elected officials to move ahead.

The efforts of those in favor of restricting smoking at youth fields and playgrounds around the township have seemingly been stuck in limbo between the Recreation Commission, which took an official and unanimous 8-0 vote in favor of the proposed ban in 2014, and the Township Committee, which has yet to introduce an ordinance on the matter.

But the ban is expected finally to gain traction at an upcoming Recreation Commission meeting, during which Committeewoman Laura Pfrommer said she expects to get renewed support and comments from those who run the youth sports organizations.

"We are finally moving ahead on this, which is great," said Pfrommer, who acts as the liaison between the Recreation Commission and the Township Committee. "I have already talked to the baseball and soccer folks and they are in support. But, we are going to hear from the rest of the sports groups at that meeting and ask for their input."

The general meeting of the sports organization is held twice a year and provides all of the decision makers a chance to discuss issues that affect all of their volunteers and athletes.

Pfrommer said she already has garnered support from all of her fellow committee members and expects an ordinance to be introduced in the fall, pending what occurs during the Recreation Commission meeting.

"There have been discussions about a partial ban with an area designated for smoking, but I think we are going to go through with the full ban," she said. "Parks are about fresh air and exercise. Smoking is contrary to all of that."

## Are you in favor of a smoking ban at Egg Harbor Township recreation fields and playgrounds?

Egg Harbor Township Committee is expected to consider implementing a full ban on smoking in outdoor recreational areas. Take a moment to share your opinion on the matter in our poll.

- ☐ Yes, smoking should be banned from township recreational areas.
- ☐ No, smokers should be allowed to chose where they can smoke.
- ☐ Maybe designated smoking space at the parks is the solution.

[Vote](#)

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## Events Calendar

November 2015						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
today's events   browse   submit						

## Upcoming Events

**OC REALTORS Warmth for Winter- Coat, Blanket, Jacket Collection**

Fri, Nov 13, 2:05 pm EST  
Ocean City Board of REALTORS, Ocean City

[Sit-and-Be-Fit Classes for Seniors](#)

[CREATE AN EVENT](#)

Other nearby towns passed laws that ban smoking at municipal parks and athletic fields. Among Atlantic County's 23 municipalities, 11 have such laws on the books. A total of 282 out of the 565 towns in New Jersey have policies banning outdoor smoking in these areas.

According to Global Advisors Smokefree Policy, the Atlantic County towns that have adopted ordinances that restrict smoking are Atlantic City, Absecon, Brigantine, Egg Harbor City, Hamilton Township, Hammonton, Linwood, Northfield, Pleasantville, Somers Point and Ventnor. Atlantic County itself also bans smoking at its parks and recreational properties. Cape May County towns that have banned outdoor smoking include Cape May Point, Lower Township, Middle Township, Ocean City, Stone Harbor and Upper Township. Cape May County has banned smoking only at its zoo.

"We are going to do what Somers Point, Linwood and Northfield have already done and that's go for a full ban," Pfrommer said.

#### Hot issue

Resident Ed Keil, a former president of the Egg Harbor Township Baseball Association, said the issue of banning smoking began with a coach approaching that organization's governing body in 2011. He said without a township law in place, the topic can be contentious when nonsmokers request that smokers refrain lighting up at the parks.

"There was someone with a cigar and his wife with a cigarette walking through the playing areas during a tournament. I wanted to say something ... but without a sign indicating an ordinance number and penalty, the likely response is less than cordial, so I held my breath and didn't speak up."

Pfrommer said she expects some push back from smokers leading up to the potential ban.

"A lot of smokers I know have said they feel like a stigmatized group," she said. "We are not trying to single out people, but I think it is a wise thing to do with all of those kids around in these areas."

The ban in Northfield parks received opposition at first, according to City Councilman Frank Perri, who was serving as mayor in 2009 when the law was enacted there.

"There was some push back from residents at the time the ordinance was proposed," Perri said. "They said the park is open space and they should be free to enjoy themselves in the park, but no one complained when it was voted on and passed."

Current Northfield Mayor Erland Chau said he is pleased the ban is in place at spots like Birch Grove Park.

"Our parks are for health, fresh air and for our youth, and smoking just does not fit in with that. But beyond good health, we have this beautiful park, and smoking is a safety hazard. A tossed cigarette could cause significant damage."

Keil said he felt without residents' support behind the movement, there was little chance of its gaining traction, so in 2014 he created a petition on [Change.org](http://Change.org) to assist Pfrommer in demonstrating community interest to the larger governing body.

"We got almost 200 signatures in a short amount of time from people who live in EHT and other people whose child has played in our parks either in a tournament we host or other sporting event," Keil said. "I asked the president of the Street Hockey Association if he would join me and his answer was, 'We've been telling everyone it is a smoke free park! You mean we don't have an ordinance? Yes I want to join you!'"

But Keil said not all organizations were as supportive, worried that it may upset some of the volunteers who are smokers.

"Like most youth organizations, they live and die by the level of effort of volunteers, so while I had private support, I could not claim their support publicly," he said.

Bridget Healy of Egg Harbor Township stated on the petition that she had asked a smoker to relocate away from her daughter during a sporting event, a request that she said was not received well.

"My son plays baseball and winter hockey. I have noticed an increase of people smoking at the games over the last three years. Sometimes my daughter likes to watch her brother play but has to leave due to her asthma and the smoke causing her to wheeze," Healy stated in the petition. "I have tried asking the smokers to please move, and this resulted in one man blowing smoke in my face."

#### Fees imposed

Like other ordinances, if a smoking ban is enacted into township law, there will be penalties assigned for violations.

Ocean City's ordinance, adopted in 2014, calls for a fine of between \$100 and \$250 for first offenses and fines of between \$500 and \$1,000 for subsequent violations.

Linwood's ordinance, which also bans smoking from its bike path, stipulates that the law does not apply to parking areas near the recreational properties. The fees for violation are less here, with up to \$50 for a first offense or two days of community service. Subsequent violations could carry fines up to \$200 or 10 days of community service.

