



No-smoking policy enacted for New York State parks

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ALBANY, N.Y. - The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation announced that it will create smoke-free areas within state parks and historic sites where large numbers of people congregate, including around playgrounds and pools.

Beginning this spring, smoke-free areas will be created around all playgrounds and swimming pools, as well as other zones specifically designated as no-smoking areas.

These may include specific swimming beaches, pavilions and picnic shelters, outdoor seating areas that are near food and beverage concessions, areas where outdoor environmental education programs are held, or public gardens.

"State Parks and Historic Sites should be healthy and clean places for our visitors, especially our youngest guests," said State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey. "It makes sense to ensure all visitors have a place to go in our parks to enjoy fresh air, while also protecting children playing at our pools and playgrounds from the dangers of second-hand smoke and reducing litter from discarded cigarette butts."

Signage will be installed at each outdoor location where smoking is prohibited. Smoking will continue to be allowed outdoors elsewhere within the parks including in state park campsites.

A listing of the designated non-smoking areas is available on State Parks' website, <http://www.nysparks.com/>.

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