

# Princeton's Smoke-Free Air Ordinance

## Protecting the Health of Employees and the General Public

*In the spring of 2013, the Princeton Board of Health passed an ordinance to protect employees and the general public. The Smoke-Free Air Ordinance prohibits smoking in parks, recreation areas, in public buildings and on public property.*

Effective, April 12, 2013, Princeton's Smoke-Free Air ordinance went into effect. The ordinance is in compliance with the State of New Jersey's "Smoke-Free Air Act" that prohibits smoking on public property.

The health and safety risks posed by smoking are well known. It is within the public interest to prohibit smoking in public buildings and on public property, such as parks and recreations areas.

### **Why do we need a Smoke-free Air ordinance? How dangerous can secondhand smoke be *outside*?**

Studies show that concentrations of outdoor Secondhand Smoke can equal indoor levels (NJ GASP, 2012). Additionally, for children and older people with asthma and/or heart conditions, even small amounts of cigarette smoke in outdoor areas can have dangerous consequences.

A Smoke-Free Air ordinance is important because:

- The public interest is served by preventing the youth of Princeton from being exposed and succumbing to the temptations of experimenting with tobacco products.
- The appearance of the park, recreation areas and pool will be improved by not allowing smoking in those areas.
- The limited resources of the Department of Public Works and Recreation will be conserved because outdoor public areas will be free of litter generated by the smoking of cigarettes, such as cigarette butts, ashes and packaging.

### **Which areas in Princeton are covered?**

The ordinance applies to outdoor parks and recreational facilities including: playgrounds, ball fields, swimming pools, plazas publically owned or leased by Princeton, which the public is invited or permitted or where individuals gather for recreational activities. This includes all areas adjacent to such facilities, including, but not limited to, sidewalks, any parking area, driveway or drive aisle.

**The Princeton Health Department is here to help you understand the new Smoke-Free Air ordinance.**

**For more details, visit [www.princetonhealthoffice.org](http://www.princetonhealthoffice.org)**

**Questions? Give us a call at 1-609-497-7608**



The ordinance also covers municipal buildings including: all structures and enclosed areas in those structures, owned, leased, rented and/or operated by Princeton, and/or occupied by employees and used for the official business of Princeton. Smoking is not allowed within 35 foot of all entrances of all municipal buildings. Smoking is not allowed in any municipal vehicle registered to Princeton.

### Type of smoke banned

The burning of, inhaling or exhaling the smoke from, or the possession of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other matter or substance which contains tobacco or any other matter that can be smoked, or the inhaling or exhaling of smoke or vapor from an electronic smoking device.

### Signs

No-smoking signs or the international no-smoking symbol will be posted at each municipal building entrance and enclosed areas, and all areas regulated by this ordinance. The sign will also indicate the violators are subject to a fine.



### Violations

Any person that violates any part of the ordinance will be subject to a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for the first offense, five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for the second offense and one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each subsequent offense. Municipal employees in violation of the ordinance may *also* be subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Princeton policies and procedures.

# PRINCETON'S



## SMOKE-FREE AIR ORDINANCE

An introduction to the new ordinance



### Princeton Health Department

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