



## TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH

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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Hillsborough Township's "Smoke Free" Recreational Areas Become a Reality** *Smoking Prohibited at Township Parks and Recreational Areas*

Hillsborough Township adopted an ordinance at Tuesday's Township Committee Meeting banning smoking at the Township's parks and recreational areas. It was a joint effort between the Township Committee, the Board of Health and the Hillsborough-Millstone Municipal Alliance.

"Somerset County already bans smoking at County Parks and Recreational facilities, it is only fitting that we also ban smoking at Hillsborough Parks and Recreational facilities," stated Mayor Doug Tomson during the ordinance adoption. The ordinance amends the Code of the Township of Hillsborough, Chapter 221 to include a section to 'prohibit smoking in Township Parks'.

The concept was brought forth on two fronts to the Township Committee; first by the Municipal Alliance and also by the Regional Chronic Disease Coalition of Somerset through the Township's Health Department. The Coalition's mission is the prevention of chronic illness with smoke prevention as a top goal because it is a major, preventable cause of heart disease, cancer and other chronic health issues. The Regional Cancer Coalition will donate signs to be placed around the parks, alerting the public about the law.

The benefits of banning smoking at area parks is multifaceted, aside from the obvious health implications, there is also the reduction of litter as well as the decrease of accidental fires caused by discarded cigarette butts, along with overall environment preservation.

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