

Community News (The Bergen Record)

Maywood Council may ban smoking in parks

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The Maywood Council is considering a ban on smoking in the public parks.

"We don't want to set a bad example for the children," said Mayor Gregg Padovano. "Secondhand smoke is a danger to children. There is a massive amount of cigarette litter (in the parks). It's a way to have the parks be enjoyed by everyone and avoid a hazardous situation for everyone."

Padovano said that other towns as well as other levels of government had their own bans.

"A lot of towns are doing it. It's the right thing to do. Hackensack just passed an ordinance recently that banned smoking in parks, and Paramus has done so too," said the mayor.

He also pointed out that cigarettes can sometimes be fire hazards.

"A school in Edison burned to the ground because of cigarettes," explained Padovano.

He also recalled Mariner's Cove Inn in Point Pleasant. A carelessly discarded cigarette led to a fire in the motel that killed four people and injured eight others recently.

Bergen County has also passed legislation banning smoking in county parks.

The ordinance should be up for introduction at the next public meeting.

- See more at: <http://www.northjersey.com/community-news/council-may-ban-smoking-in-parks-1.839181#sthash.ehuojOgt.dpuf>