

Local smokers may soon have even less places to take their breaks.



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A smoker in Hershfield Park enjoys what could be one of her last legal puffs there.

The Borough Council is joining other communities in [Passaic County](#) in banning smoking on all publically owned and operated properties.

The council introduced an ordinance that will ban smoking at its Oct. 9 meeting. It is scheduled to adopt the ordinance on Oct. 23.

A smoker in Hershfield Park enjoys what could be one of her last legal puffs there.

In an interview with Suburban Trends, Borough Attorney Joe Ragno said there is already a state law that prohibits smoking inside public buildings, and this ordinance will expand the ban to outside all publically owned properties, parks, and recreation areas.

At the Oct. 9 meeting, Ragno added that this ordinance includes electronic cigarettes as well.

Araceli Pintle, a member of the [Passaic County](#) Integrated Municipal Advisory Council (IMAC), briefly talked about the economic, environmental and health reasons of why it is important to implement an expanded smoking ban at the Oct. 9 meeting.

IMAC was formed by Global Advisors Smokefree Policies (GASP) after the City of Paterson banned smoking outdoors on publically owned properties in 2012.

Since 1974, GASP has been educating New Jersey communities about smoke-free outdoor policies.

IMAC has brought this campaign to ban outdoor smoking on publically owned property to every municipality in [Passaic County](#).

Pintle said with the exception of [Totowa](#), every community and the county agreed to implement the ban.

GASP Executive Director Karen Blumenfeld said the group is pleased that so many communities have agreed to expand the smoking ban outdoors.

"It is a consistent message to children about living tobacco-free lives, and it reduces second-hand smoke exposure, especially to those with chronic diseases, and children and the elderly," she said.

Blumenfeld said the expanded ban would also "improve the environment since there is less tobacco waste on the ground, and therefore maintenance costs can also be reduced since there is less litter to pick up."

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