

Non-smoking policy proposed for Tenafly buildings, parks

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DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The governing body is looking into drafting a non-smoking ordinance for borough buildings, parks, and athletic courts — including the Municipal Field seen here. Initially, Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin was interested in drafting an ordinance for borough buildings, but after increasing support from the council, will additionally ban smoking at parks.

TENAFLY — Following the footsteps of other North Jersey towns that have banned smoking in municipal areas, the governing body is set to craft a non-smoking policy for borough buildings, parks, and athletic courts. The proposal comes after Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin discovered that the borough lacked such a policy for its buildings, while the Department of Public works was interested in posting signage warning smokers to stay away.

"[DPW Director] Bob [Beutel] was looking into putting up some no-smoking signs only to find that we didn't codify it," Thompson-Chin said during a council meeting Sept. 24. "He has given me a model ordinance that I'm looking at. The model ordinance doesn't allow smoking on Earth, so we have to kind of, tone it down, just a little."

Originally Thompson-Chin was interested in drafting an ordinance for borough buildings, but after increasing support from the council, will additionally ban smoking at parks. "I wouldn't want to be in Froggy Park and have several people smoking in an area full of children," Councilwoman Nadia LaMastra said.

However, Beutel recommended drawing up an ordinance for municipal buildings first because adding parks could ignite controversy. "His true intent was to deal with buildings and he was concerned about the issue of parks being in and of itself controversial and possibly delaying the ordinance," Thompson-Chin said. Despite initial concerns about including provisions for parks, the council will draw up an ordinance banning smoking at all borough facilities and present it for a first reading at the next Mayor and Council public meeting on Oct. 22.

If the ordinance passes, [Tenafly](#) will join, [Closter](#), [Glen Rock](#), [Paramus](#), [Garfield](#), [North Bergen](#), [Secaucus](#), [Wayne](#) and a slew of other towns that have banned smoking in parks or recreational areas. More than 160 municipalities in 12 counties statewide restrict smoking in outdoor public areas. That includes 14 [Passaic County](#) municipalities and 22 in [Bergen County](#), according Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy (GASP) which has advocated for such laws to be passed across the state. According to GASP Executive Director Karen Blumenfeld, the shift to ban smoking is in part because people saw the success of New Jersey's Smoke-Free Air Act of 2006, which banned smoking in indoor public places and workplaces. Another turning point came in 2011, when New York City prohibited smoking in all its parks and beaches, inspiring New Jersey towns and cities to do the same.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/227173871_Nonsmoking_policy_proposed_for_Tenafly_buildings_parks.html?c=y&page=2#sthash.5FtO23KJ.dpuf