

## Secaucus council OKs smoking ban in parks, recreation facilities - NorthJersey.com

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SECAUCUS — The town council this week expanded its smoking ban to all public parks and recreational facilities.

Before the comprehensive ban, tobacco products were prohibited at the Little League field and ice rink at Buchmuller Park, the Shetik Soccer Field and the Mill Ridge soccer and softball fields only.

Now, individuals caught smoking in the prohibited areas will first receive a warning, a \$25 fine for the second time and up to \$100 in fines for the third offense and after.

One member of the public called the ban “ridiculous.”

“Smokers got rights, too,” a man said during Tuesday’s council meeting.

But officials cited studies linking health risks to secondhand smoke moments before they voted unanimously to extend the ban.

Similar prohibitions have been adopted by municipalities throughout the state. At least a dozen of Passaic County’s 16 municipalities have smoke-free parks, and the 12 county parks are also smoke-free.

In Bergen County, Cliffside Park has adopted a smoking ban, and officials in Ridgewood, Westwood and Fair Lawn are considering following suit. Twenty municipalities in the county have at least a partial ban, according to the Global Advisors Smokefree Policy advocacy group.

Likewise in Hudson County, North Bergen officials were scheduled to vote Wednesday evening whether to prohibit smoking on public property.

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/Secaucus\\_council\\_OKs\\_smoking\\_ban\\_in\\_parks\\_recreation\\_facilities.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/Secaucus_council_OKs_smoking_ban_in_parks_recreation_facilities.html)