

# TOBACCO-FREE PARKS COUNTY ORDINANCE



Mecklenburg County Ordinance effective March 18, 2015

TOBACCOFREEMECK.ORG



Mecklenburg County's park system, including all greenways, parks and property are tobacco-free.

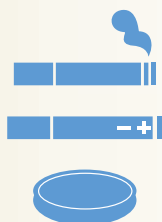
**EXCEPTIONS:** golf courses and some regional parks

**TOBACCO-FREE** means no cigarettes, cigars, pipes, cigarillos, electronic cigarettes, or smokeless tobacco.

## BENEFITS OF TOBACCO-FREE PARKS:

-  **PROTECTS** people from exposure to secondhand smoke
-  **PROMOTES** healthy lifestyles
-  **MODELS** tobacco-free norm for kids
-  **LOWERS** tobacco rates
-  **REDUCES** tobacco litter and fire risk

## TOBACCO FACTS



There is no safe form of tobacco

Source: National Cancer Institute

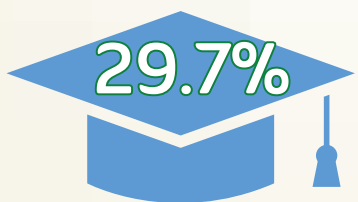
There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke

0%

Source: The Health Consequences of Smoking - 50 Years of Progress, A Report of the Surgeon General, January 2014.

% of NC high school students who use tobacco increased from **25.8%** in 2011 to **29.7%** in 2013

2013 NC Youth Tobacco Survey



87%

**87%** of tobacco users start before the age of 18

Source: The Health Consequences of Smoking - 50 Years of Progress, A Report of the Surgeon General, January 2014.

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