

Smoke-free Conservation Area Initiative

What are Smoke-Free Conservation Areas?

Smoke-free Conservation Areas are about creating an environment for everyone to enjoy. In 2016, the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy celebrated a decade of progress. There is now growing support from the public and momentum from municipalities to prohibit smoking in more outdoor spaces to help lower smoking rates even further, and to protect young people and the environment. There is also overwhelming evidence that more smoke-free outdoor spaces will help make Ontario cleaner and healthier.

What are some of the benefits of Smoke-Free Conservation Areas?

- Reducing health risks of second-hand smoke-research has shown there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke, even in outdoor spaces.
- Protecting the environment-smoking is a major source of litter in communities and on beaches.
- Preventing youth from starting to use tobacco industry products-social exposure to smoking (i.e., seeing smoking or smelling smoke) can normalize its use, leading to initiation among youth.
- Helping those who smoke quit or cut back-seeing people smoking outdoors or smelling smoke can provide sensory cues for relapse among those who quit and make it difficult for others trying to quit.

What does this mean for Wildwood?

Starting in 2018, all forms of smoking are prohibited in all public spaces within Wildwood CA. The only areas where smoking is permitted are on a registered campsite or in a designated area. Smoke-free overnight sites have been designated for those who want to camp without having anyone smoking on adjacent sites. The updated maps in the 2018 visitors guide show these designated areas and smoke-free campsites. Staff will continue to evaluate options on further smoke-free initiatives in the future.