

Tobacco-Free Park and Playground Resolution

Resolution 2011-9

The **Village of Bergen** agrees to the adoption of the following resolution designating all parks, beaches and recreation spaces under its jurisdiction to be 100% tobacco-free.

WHEREAS, smoking is responsible for the premature deaths of over 430,000 Americans each year from lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is responsible for over 50,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year; and

WHEREAS, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, accidents, fires, and AIDS combined; and

WHEREAS, 80% of smokers started smoking before the age of 18, and the average initiation age is 12 years old; and

WHEREAS, everyday an estimated 3,900 young people under the age of 18 try their first cigarette and one-third of these children will die prematurely from tobacco-related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, to help role model non-smoking behavior to children and youth; to provide children, youth and their families with a safe, smoke-free environment; therefore be it

Resolved that the **Village of Bergen**, State of New York, is committed to providing a high quality of living to all residents. And be it further resolved that the **Village of Bergen** believes:

1. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. It can cause asthma, respiratory infections, cancer and cardiovascular disease. Children should be able to play and exercise in the **Village of Bergen** Parks without being exposed to harmful effects of secondhand smoke.
2. Tobacco product use in the proximity of children, youth and adults engaging in or watching recreational activities is unhealthy and detrimental to the health of both the participants and observers.
3. Tobacco products, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground, thus posing a risk of ingestion to children and causing a litter problem. And be it further

Resolved that all of the **Village of Bergen** parks, beaches and recreation areas will adopt a 100% tobacco free policy.

Compliance

The enforcement of this policy is through **voluntary compliance**. Appropriate Village park land, park facilities and open space will have signage indicating that the designated areas are tobacco-free.

The Commissioner of Parks and Recreation will communicate with parks employees and officials, community organizers, leaders and coaches to discuss the policy and to distribute information.

The **Village of Bergen** parks staff will be responsible for promoting awareness of this policy.

This policy will become effective on: September 14th 2011

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Barclay accept the resolution as written and was seconded by Trustee Cooper. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Deputy Mayor Barclay – aye

Trustee Adams – aye

Trustee Cooper – aye

Trustee Donovan – aye

The Administrator hereby certifies that this is a true and complete copy of this resolution passed by the Board of Trustees at its Regular Meeting on

Administrator