

CENTRE REGION PARKS & RECREATION AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION # 01-2011  
Adopted 17 Feb 2011

**“YOUNG LUNGS AT PLAY”**

The Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority, State College, PA hereby confirms their support and implementation of the “Young Lungs At Play” program to designate specified park areas and municipal play equipment areas under its jurisdiction to be tobacco-free.

WHEREAS, the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority provides and operates municipal and regional recreation facilities on behalf of five municipalities as part of the Centre Region Council of Governments, and

WHEREAS, the Authority remains committed to providing high quality and healthful recreation experiences to all residents and visitors,

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, the use of tobacco products 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 nonsmoking behavior to children and youth; to provide children, youth and their families with a safe, smoke-free environment; and

WHEREAS, 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 without being exposed to harmful effects of secondhand smoke; and

WHEREAS, use of tobacco products 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; and,

WHEREAS, tobacco products, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground, thus causing a litter problem and posing a risk of ingestion to children;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Centre Region Parks & Recreation Authority:

- hereby designates the following Authority-operated sites at which the advisory-type signs will be installed:
  - Millbrook Marsh Nature Center
  - John Hess Softball Field Complex
  - Wm. L. Welch Community Swimming Pool
  - Park Forest Community Swimming Pool.
- agrees to mount, install and maintain the signs supplied by the Young Lungs at Play program for areas so designated by the Authority or the owning municipality
- confirms that this is an advisory program, built upon voluntary compliance by park visitors
- agrees to promote the initiative for park visitors to voluntarily support the program
- encourages the governing Board/Council of each participating municipality to similarly authorize that play equipment areas in their parks be so designated (these approvals were obtained on 25 Apr 2011)
- agrees to consider expanding this program to new or additional park areas in the future, that this policy will become effective as the signs are installed at each designated park