



Cigarette litter is a major environmental health issue nationally and locally. Everyone deserves a clean place to play. Last year, high school youth picked up cigarette litter in our local parks and this is what they found:

- Gauche Aquatic Park: 534 items; 1 lighter
- Moore Park: 19 items
- Shanghai Park: 84 items; 1 lighter
- Patriot Park: 101 items
- Lloyd Park: 125 items
- Northridge Park: 79 items
- Regency Park: 26 items
- Happy Park: 50 items
- Hillcrest Park: 75 items
- Greenwood Park: 97 items
- Southside Park: 206 items; 1 lighter
- Blackburn Tally Park: 148 items
- Geweke Field and Sports Complex: 22 items
- Kingwood Park: 269 items
- Maple Park: 84 items
- San Brannen Park: 615 items; 2 lighters.

A California state law was passed in 2002 that says:

Smoking and cigarette disposal are prohibited within 25 feet of a playground or tot-lot area.

The city has posted signs to this effect in all city parks.

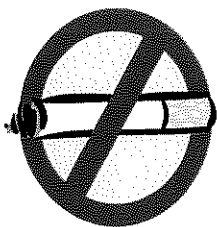


For a total of over 2500 pieces of tobacco related litter in our local parks!

Why are smoke-free parks important for all of us?



Cigarette litter hurts everyone



Cigarette butts are the number one littered item in the world. Over 4.5 trillion cigarettes are littered world wide each year. Cigarette butts are not biodegradable and make our parks look dirty and uninviting. Wind and rain can carry

river and streams. Careless smoking and disposal of burning cigarette butts are a major cause of forest fires. Young children may pick up butts and possibly choke on them or burn themselves. When children see adults smoking in

teens more likely to try cigarettes or other tobacco products.

cigarette butts into waterways, where the toxic chemicals in the filters can leach into

a family friendly place, like a park, it normalizes smoking, making children and



On April 2, 2008, over 500 pieces of tobacco litter were picked up from Gauche Park. The City of Yuba City passed an ordinance declaring Gauche Park as tobacco free.

Play here for a breath of fresh air.

According to the US Surgeon General's report in January 2007:

"There is no risk free level of exposure to second hand smoke."

Scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to second hand smoke. Breathing even a little second hand smoke can be harmful to your health. Secondhand smoke is a known human carcinogen and contains more than 50 chemicals that can cause cancer. Concentrations of

many cancer-causing and toxic chemicals are potentially higher in secondhand smoke than in the smoke inhaled by smokers. Breathing secondhand smoke for even a short time can have immediate adverse effects on the cardiovascular system, interfering with the normal

functioning of the heart, blood, and vascular systems in ways that increase the risk of heart attack.

For more information, call Sutter County Tobacco Control Program 822-7215