

# Young Lungs at Play Frequently Asked Questions

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## What is Young Lungs at Play?

Young Lungs at Play is an initiative to create tobacco free playgrounds and parks in Allegheny County. Since Tobacco Free Allegheny began working with the program in 2010, over 30 different municipalities have made the commitment to keeping their children healthy by giving them clean and tobacco free areas to play.

## How do we join the Young Lungs at Play program?

By passing an ordinance, resolution, or policy stating that playgrounds and/or parks are designated as tobacco-free areas within your municipality. Tobacco Free Allegheny will then provide you, free of charge, with signs that can be hung in and around those areas reminding citizens of this policy.

## What is the cost?

There is none! The signs are given to municipalities free of charge.

## How do we enforce a tobacco-free park?

If you have an ordinance prohibiting alcohol, the enforcement policy can be the same. Individuals will help enforce the policy and non-confrontational signs help remind everyone that this policy is for the children.

## How do we respond to taxpayers who say they have the right to use their park in any way they wish?

Restricting tobacco is not a civil rights issue; it's a public health issue. Most Pennsylvanians do not smoke – in 2010, 78.7% of Pennsylvanians were non-smokers. By creating tobacco-free parks, you're encouraging the majority to use the parks.

## What are the benefits to joining Young Lungs at Play?

There are many benefits to joining Young Lungs at Play including creating a clean and healthy place for both children and adults to play. Cigarette butts do not decompose because they are made of acetate, which means they can end up polluting local waterways or being ingested by local wildlife.

