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## Woodcliff Lake introduces ordinance to ban smoking in parks

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PASCACK VALLEY COMMUNITY LIFE

Woodcliff Lake residents will soon be able to breathe easier at its ball fields and recreation areas.

On April 22, borough officials unanimously introduced an ordinance that will ban smoking on the grounds of its parks and recreation facilities. Officials also amended the ordinance that evening to include a smoking ban on the grounds of the Tice Senior Center on Chestnut Ridge Road, as motioned by Councilwoman Donna Abene.

Slated for adoption on May 5, Woodcliff Lake will join 27 other municipalities in Bergen County - including River Vale, Westwood and Washington Township from the Pascack Valley - which prohibit smoking in the aforementioned areas.

"We can breathe a little better with this ordinance," said Councilman Carlos Rendo.

Rendo, who is the board of health liaison, met with the Bergen County Integrated Municipal Advisory Council in March and was advised of the health, environmental and economic benefits of the creation of smoke-free zone in parks and recreational areas. These included setting a healthy example for children and protecting individuals from the dangers of secondhand smoke. While the borough has an ordinance on the books that places a partial ban on smoking on ball fields, the Old Mill Pool, and school property, the new self-enforcing ordinance will provide full coverage.

To view the ordinance, visit [wclnj.com](http://wclnj.com). Email: [albrizio@northjersey.com](mailto:albrizio@northjersey.com)

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