

TOBACCO LITTER IS A THREAT TO OUR ENVIRONMENT.

A cigarette butt on the ground isn't just ugly. It's toxic because the butts contain harmful chemicals like ammonia, cyanide, mercury, and lead that leach into our lakes and rivers and pose a hazard to animals, fish, and other marine life. San Diego State University

DID YOU KNOW?

Tobacco waste (cigarette butts, lighters, and wrappers) is the most common form of litter, making up 38% of all litter. Keep America Beautiful

More than half of all cigarette butts are discarded improperly—and they can take a decade to break down. Keep America Beautiful

About 4.5 trillion butts make their way into the environment each year. Discovery News

Tobacco litter that is discarded in parks, along sidewalks, and in street gutters inevitably makes its way into storm drains, creeks, lakes, and rivers leaching dangerous chemicals into our watershed. City of Austin Watershed Protection Department

Just one cigarette butt in a liter of water can kill a fish. Discovery News


If the butts littered in Travis County in one year were lined up, they would stretch across the state of Texas.

LITTER ISN'T THE ONLY PROBLEM.

More than 11 million acres of forest are lost each year due to tobacco production. One tree is consumed for every 300 cigarettes that are produced. Tobacco-Free Florida

Cigarette butts can cause wildfires or brush fires when littered on the ground, especially in drought-prone areas. Texas Forest Service

FACTS ABOUT TOBACCO'S IMPACT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT



Tobacco litter makes our parks, trails, sidewalks, and recreation areas less attractive, is costly to clean up, and pollutes our waterways.

TOBACCO-FREE LIVING PROTECTS YOUR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Nationwide, there are almost 500 smoke-free or tobacco-free parks. In Texas, 30 communities have such policies for local parks.

HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A TOBACCO-FREE PARK

Reduces exposure of park visitors to secondhand smoke.

Maintains the park as a family-friendly environment that models healthy behaviors.

Reduces tobacco-related litter that is ugly to look at and toxic.

Reduces the chance of wildfires caused by discarded tobacco butts.

Reduces the chance of toxic chemicals getting into the water we drink and into the lakes and streams that our fish and other marine life live in.



**LIVE
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AUSTIN**



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LiveTobaccoFreeAustin.org