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## **Alma playgrounds now tobacco-free**

Stanton- Last September, the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners agreed to create tobacco-free zones in its three county parks. Those zones, the ones most frequented by children, include playgrounds, ball fields and beaches.

On May 27 of this year, the City of Alma followed suite by passing a similar ordinance of its own, making its playgrounds tobacco-free.

Tobacco-free policies:

- Protect children from cigarette and tobacco waste
- Protect residents and visitors of all ages from secondhand smoke
- Model a healthy lifestyle for youth
- Provide a healthy environment for recreation use

Signs notifying Alma park users of the new policy will be installed in the near future. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to remind others who may not be aware of the new policy that the playgrounds in Alma are now tobacco-free and an ideal place for children and families.

The Mid-Michigan District Health Department has been charged with enforcing the new law. If residents see the tobacco-free policy being violated and wish to report it, they can do so by filling out a complaint form via MMDHDs website ([www.mmdhd.org](http://www.mmdhd.org)), or by contacting MMDHD at 989-875-3681.

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

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