Great Outdoors Month LTE Template

Drafted May 14, 2018

Final LTE should be no longer than 250 words

Tobacco-free parks would be a great way to honor the “Great Outdoors”

Dear Editor,

START YOUR LETTER BY SHARING THAT JUNE IS GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH, A SPECIAL MONTH-LONG OBSESRVANCE THAT CELEBRATES THE INCREDIBLE BEAUTY OF THE OUTDOORS AND THE HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS IT PROVIDES. TALK ABOUT HOW (**COMMUNITY NAME’S**) PARKS PROVIDE A GREAT WAY TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS, BUT THAT THEY’D BE EVEN BETTER IF THEY WERE TOBACCO-FREE.

GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF A TIME TOBACCO AFFECTED YOUR ENJOYMENT OF YOUR (**COMMUNITY NAME**) PARKS. THIS COULD INCLUDE SEEING LITTERED CIGARETTE BUTTS OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON THE GROUND, DEALING WITH SECONDHAND SMOKE, OR SEE CIGARETTES LEFT IN LAKES, ETC. HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL. DO YOU THINK (**COMMUNITY NAME**) RESIDENTS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE BETTER CARE OF THEIR OUTDOOR RESOURCES?

DISCUSS TOBACCO’S BROADER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT BEYOND (**COMMUNITY NAME’S**) BORDERS. GIVE EXAMPLES FROM <https://truthinitiative.org/news/5-ways-cigarette-litter-impacts-environment>.

NOW DISCUSS WHAT YOUR NETWORK/COALITION IS DOING LOCALLY TO EDUCATE ON THIS TOPIC. DISCUSS ANY RECENT ACTIONS YOU’VE TAKEN (**CIGARETTE BUTT CLEAN UPS, EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS, ETC.).**

INVITE OTHERS INTERESTED IN PROTECTING THE BEAUTY OF (**COMMUNITY NAME’S**) PARKS TO FIND THE COALITION AT (**URL, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC.**).