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Huge Cigarette Butt Sculptures Popping up May 1-14 in Hampton Roads

#NoButtsAboutIt promotion aims to snuff out cigarette litter throughout region

(Hampton Roads, Va., May 3, 2021) – Cigarette litter is no small matter; and askHRgreen.org and its locality partners are taking a big approach to encourage Hampton Roads residents to stop dropping their butts. From May 1-14 larger-than-life size cigarette butt sculptures will loom large in public spaces across the region. Coupled with an offer to provide free cigarette



butt receptacles to area businesses, organizers of the [#NoButtsAboutIt](https://www.facebook.com/NoButtsAboutIt/) promotion hope the artwork will convince smokers to keep local landscapes and waterways cigarette litter-free.

“It is well documented that cigarette butts are the most frequently littered item in the United States,” said Katie Cullipher, an askHRgreen.org team leader. “Sure they’re small, but flicking a cigarette butt on the ground is actually a big deal. Cigarette litter has a ripple effect in our communities with long-lasting impacts.”

Constructed out of [PVC pipe and spray foam insulation](#), the sculptures vary in size, measuring approximately two- to three-feet long. They will be on display on the following dates at these locations:

- May 1-7, in:
 - Gloucester at Abingdon Park & Ark Park
 - Hampton at the Y. H. Thomas Community Recreation Center
 - Norfolk at Nauticus
 - Virginia Beach at the Virginia Beach Convention Center

- May 2-6 in Suffolk at the stoplight onto Godwin Blvd (ramp off of U.S. Route 58 heading eastbound)
- May 3-6 in Norfolk at the Virginia Zoo
- May 3-7, in:
 - Suffolk at the VDOT Hampton Roads District Office (7511 Burbage Drive)
 - Virginia Beach at the Brock Environmental Center
- May 3-10 in Chesapeake at the Central Library
- May 4-7 in James City County at the JCC Recreation Center
- May 7-14 in Gloucester at Woodville Park & Gloucester Point Beach



Cigarette litter is a big deal

Funded in part by a grant from [Keep Virginia Beautiful](#), the #NoButtsAboutIt promotion illustrates the negative impact cigarette litter has on the environment. According to [Keep America Beautiful](#), it represents 38 percent of roadway litter, 32 percent of litter in storm drains and 32 percent of litter in outdoor recreation areas. The filters are not biodegradable because they contain cellulose acetate, a form of plastic that will persist in the environment. Also, the filters hold toxins, which can leach into the ground and waterways, damaging living organisms that come in contact with them.

Free-standing cigarette waste receptacles, however, can make a difference when conveniently placed where people gather. As part of the #NoButtsAboutIt campaign, Hampton Roads business owners can apply online for one of 100 free cigarette waste receptacles at www.askhrgreen.org/grants/cigarette-waste-receptacle-grant/.

In addition, Cullipher invites owners to sign on to the askHRgreen.org [Bay Star Business](#) program, which recognizes local businesses that implement easy or no-cost practices to improve the health of local waterways.

“Good or bad, our everyday actions can have a lasting impact on the environment,” Cullipher said. “We hope this new initiative highlights that fact and encourages people to make responsible decisions when it comes to cigarette waste disposal.”

For a listing of the sculpture locations and updates visit <https://askhrgreen.org/no-butts-about-it/>.

About askHRgreen.org askHRgreen.org is your go-to resource for all things green in Hampton Roads – from recycling tips and pointers for keeping local waterways clean to water-saving ideas and simple steps to make local living easy on the environment. Launched in 2011, the region-wide public awareness and education campaign is administered through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and powered by the following members: The cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York; the town of Smithfield; and HRSD. Like askHRgreen.org on [Facebook](#), follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), tune in to [YouTube](#) and catch the “Let’s Talk Green” [blog](#), written by a team of local experts.