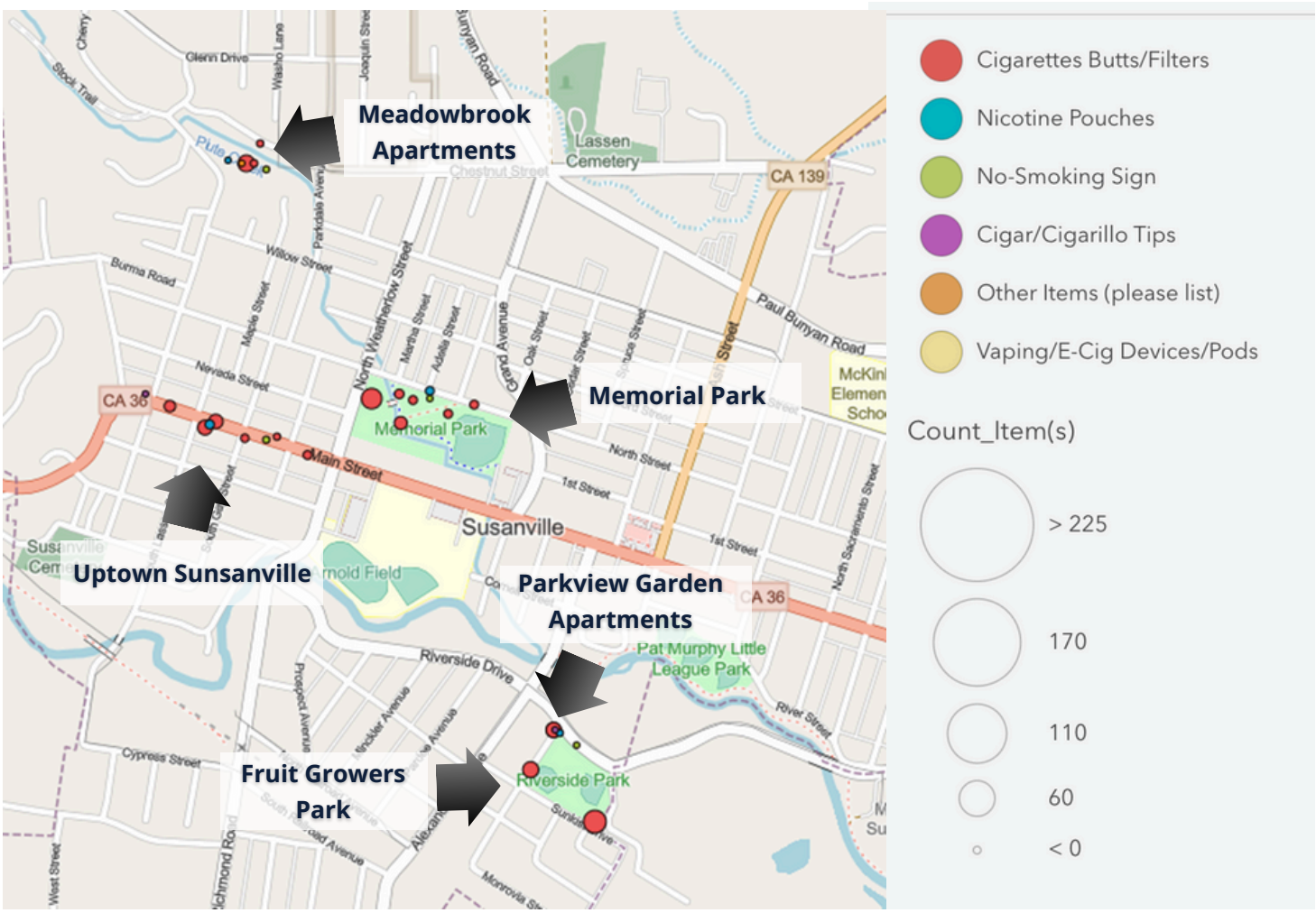
Observing Outdoor Areas for Tobacco-Related Signs and Litter

Sep - Oct 2025 in Susanville, CA

CALIFORNIA HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

In September and October 2025, Smoke Free High Country (SFHC) program staff and volunteers conducted surveys at **five outdoor locations** in Susanville CA to check for tobacco-related signs and tobacco litter. These observations were done to gather baseline information about tobacco use in public spaces. The goal was to help program staff and city leaders decide whether the city might benefit from a smoke- and tobacco-free outdoor air policy. The findings for each location are outlined below.

Map of 5 Susanville Observation locations, 2025.

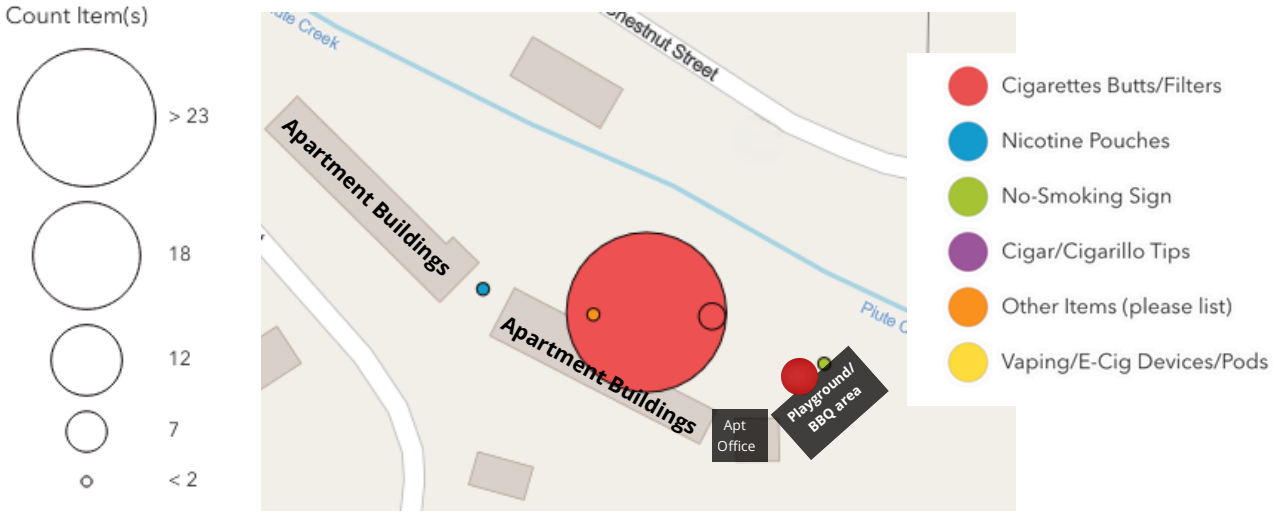


Susanville CA, Tobacco Signage and Litter Survey Results, 2025

Meadowbrook Apartments

Meadowbrook Apartments Tobacco Litter Findings

- The apartment complex is HUD housing. All HUD housing is designated smoke and tobacco-free.
- There is one smoke/tobacco free sign and one drug-free zone sign
- Staff counted **35 cigarettes butts** near the playground area, near housing and in the parking area as well as a nicotine pouch and a cigar tip.



Meadowbrook Apartments are a medium-sized apartment complex with multiple buildings, a playground, and a barbecue area. The observation occurred on September 23, 2025, under favorable weather conditions. The observation took approximately 30 minutes and was completed by SFHC Staff.



Tobacco litter and smoke-free signs at Meadowbrook Apartments

Memorial Park

Memorial Park Tobacco Litter Findings

- There is one smoke/tobacco free sign
- Staff counted **86 cigarettes butts** and 7 nicotine pouches. Most of the cigarette butts were found behind the museum/Roop's Fort
- A maintenance worker was on site, which may have affected the numbers of tobacco waste observed



Memorial is a medium-sized park with two playgrounds, skate park, creek, baseball field, and another area across the creek.

The observation occurred on September 23, 2025. The observation took approximately 60 minutes and was completed by CHC SFHC Staff.







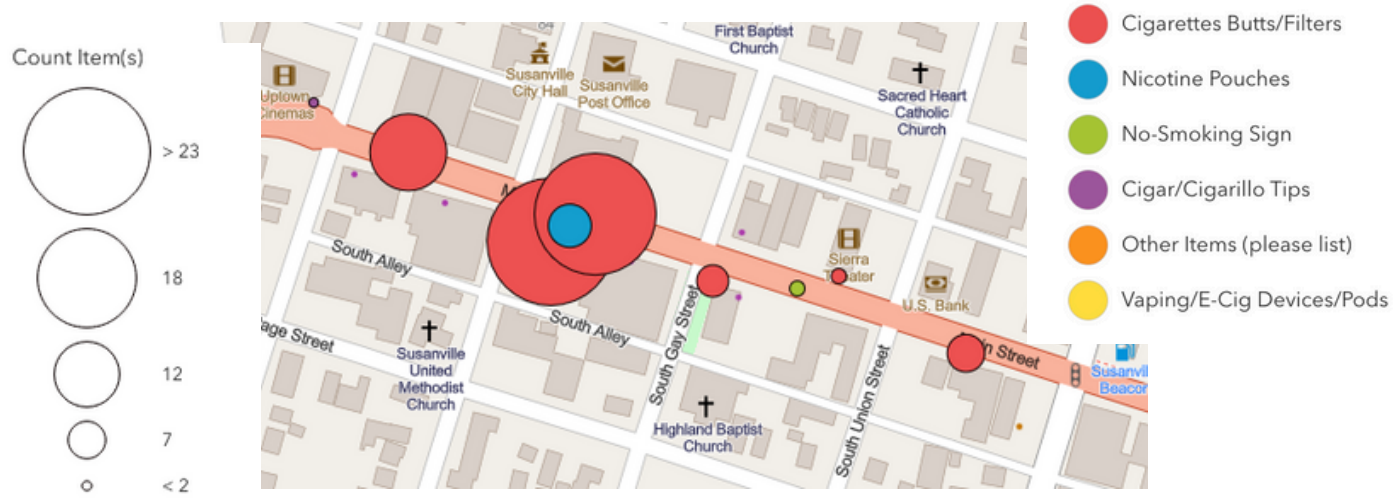


The majority of the cigarette butts were found across the creek behind Roops's Fort Museum

Uptown Susanville

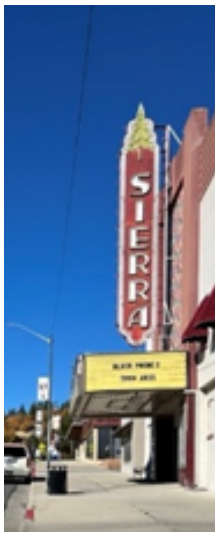
Uptown Susanville Tobacco Litter Findings

- When community events are held in uptown, the road is blocked off and the events are promoted as “smoke-free.”
- There are two smoke/tobacco-free signs and there is 1 ashtray outside of the movie theater (there were no cigarette butts in the ashtray).
- Staff counted **75 cigarettes butts** and 8 nicotine pouches in total.



Staff walked and observed Uptown Susanville including sidewalks, curbs, and in front of businesses for the 500 - 900 blocks on both the north and south sides. There were a total of 8 blocks observed.

The observation occurred on September 22, 2025. The observation took approximately 90 minutes and was completed by CHC SFHC Staff.





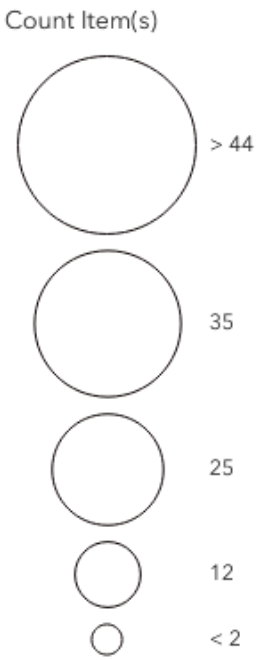


Tobacco litter on streets and ashtray outside of theater

Fruit Growers Park & Parkview Garden Apartments

Fruit Growers Park and Parkview Garden Apartments Tobacco Litter Findings

- **23 cigarette butts** were found at the apartments and no smoke-free signs
- **109 cigarette butts** were found at the park as well as one no-smoking sign and 3 nicotine pouches







The apartments include 6 buildings and about 44 residents. Fruit growers park includes three playgrounds, 2 baseball fields, a soccer field, and picnic area.







The observations occurred on October 10, 2025, took about 60 minutes and was completed by CHC SFHC Staff.



Summary & Next Steps

All five of the areas surveyed in Susanville had a significant amount of tobacco litter, highlighting a potential need for policies that address this issue. Experience from other similar rural jurisdictions suggest that adding “tobacco-free” signs and introducing a smoke- and tobacco-free outdoor policy could help reduce tobacco waste and protect the local environment.

Next steps include exploring the public’s interest and the feasibility of creating a citywide ordinance to limit smoking and tobacco use in outdoor areas.