



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Town of Ogden Implements Temporary Operational Changes Due to Elevated Air Quality

OGDEN, NY – Due to deteriorating air quality caused by smoke from the ongoing Canadian wildfires, the Town of Ogden is implementing temporary operational changes in accordance with guidance from the Monroe County Department of Public Health.

As of this morning, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in our area has exceeded 200, placing conditions in the "Very Unhealthy" category according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's AirNow monitoring system.

Following guidance from Monroe County Public Health, the Town is taking proactive measures to protect the health and safety of residents, employees, and visitors.

Effective immediately:

- Town parks, trails, and sports fields, including Pineway Ponds Park, will be closed.
- Town departments will postpone non-essential outdoor work whenever practical while continuing to provide essential public services.
- Town-sponsored outdoor recreation programs and activities will be relocated indoors or canceled when appropriate.
- Town staff whose duties normally require prolonged outdoor exposure have been directed to modify work assignments whenever feasible.
- Additional operational adjustments may be made as conditions warrant.

Residents are strongly encouraged to avoid prolonged or strenuous outdoor activity until air quality improves. Children and teens, older adults, pregnant women, and individuals with asthma, heart disease, or other respiratory conditions are especially encouraged to limit their exposure.

To assist residents seeking relief from the smoky conditions, the Ogden Farmers' Library remains open as an air-conditioned public space. The library's meeting room and private study rooms are also available for residents seeking a quiet, comfortable indoor environment while air quality remains poor. The library will remain open until 8:00 p.m. this evening.

Monroe County has temporarily closed all County parks, county golf courses, the Seneca Park Zoo, and the Ontario Beach Park swim area and spray park in response to the elevated AQI. The County has also reassigned outdoor employees to indoor duties where possible while limiting outdoor work to emergency response activities.

The Town will continue monitoring conditions in coordination with Monroe County and will adjust operations as needed. Because air quality can change throughout the day and vary by location, residents are encouraged to monitor conditions by visiting [AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov) and Monroe County's Outdoor Air Quality webpage.

At this time, the Town anticipates returning to normal operations on Friday, July 17, provided air quality conditions improve as forecast. Residents are encouraged to continue monitoring local air quality updates, as conditions may change and operational adjustments could be extended if necessary.

We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we work together to protect the health and safety of our community.

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