

LEAF BLOWERS

ARTICLE __

__-1. Purpose.

Consistent with the municipal powers granted under sections 7-148(c)(7) and (10) of the Connecticut General Statutes, including the protection of the health and safety of residents and abatement of nuisances, it is the intent of this ordinance to set specific controls on the use of Leaf Blowers, in particular Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers.

__-2. Definitions.

For the purpose of this Article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

“Leaf Blower” shall mean any device that is used or designed to move leaves, grass clippings, dust, dirt, or other matter by blowing them with air emitted by such device.

“Gas-Powered Leaf Blower” shall mean any backpack or handheld Leaf Blower that is powered by an internal combustion engine utilizing gasoline, diesel, or any other similar fuel.

“Electric-Powered Leaf Blower” shall mean any Leaf Blower that is powered by electricity utilizing a plug-in cord or battery power.

“Summer” shall mean the days beginning on May 15th and ending on October 15th of each year.

“Approved Hours” shall mean Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 8:00 pm; and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 9:00 am to 8:00 pm.

__-3. Regulation of Leaf Blower Activity.

(a) Electric-Powered Leaf Blowers may be used during the Approved Hours on all properties within the Town.

(b) Beginning on May 15, 2023, Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used on any state or federal holiday.

(c) Beginning on May 15, 2023, and ending on October 15, 2023:

(1) Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may be used between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm on Mondays through Fridays, and between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on Saturdays. Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used on Sundays.

(2) Only one (1) Gas-Powered Leaf Blower may be used on a property of one-quarter (1/4) acre or less.

(d) Beginning on October 15, 2023 Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may only be used outside of

Summer between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm.

(e) Beginning on May 15, 2024, Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers may not be used during Summer.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections ___-3 (a) through (e):

- (1) Individual residents maintaining their own property shall be permitted to use Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers during the Approved Hours. Effective May 15, 2024, individual residents shall comply with Section ___-3(e) regarding the use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers during Summer.
- (2) The use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers and Electric-Powered Leaf Blowers shall be permitted for storm condition clean-up, emergency situations affecting the health or safety of residents, and snow removal operations.
- (3) The provisions of this Article shall not apply to the use of Leaf Blowers on State- or Town-owned property, or on any property in excess of 20 acres except residential communities, or the use of Leaf Blowers by public utilities.

___-4. Education.

The Conservation Department shall broadly communicate the terms of this Article and encourage property owners to comply. Upon receipt of a written complaint (via email or hard copy) of a potential violation of this Article, the Conservation Director or their designee shall provide written information and educational materials about the terms of this Article to the property owner.

___-5. Severability.

If any section, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, or provision of this Article shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the specific section, paragraph, subparagraph, clause, or provision so adjudged and the remainder of this Article shall be deemed valid and effective.

___-6. Effective Date.

The provisions of this Article shall become effective on May 15, 2023.