

STAFF REPORT

DATE: January 18, 2022

TO: City Council

FROM: Stan Gryczko, Director - Public Works Utilities & Operations
Adrienne Heinig, Assistant to the Director

RE: Leaf Blower Ordinance Update Introduction

Recommendation

1. Receive informational report on the status of discussions around the use of leaf blowers in Davis; and
2. Review feedback from community surveys and City staff; and
3. Receive recommendations from the Natural Resources and Recreation and Parks Commissions on considerations to amend the current City ordinance rules around the use of leaf blowers; and
4. Review Assembly Bill 1346, recently signed into law, which bans the sale of new gas-powered small off-road engines (including leaf blowers) in California by 2024; and
5. Direct staff to return with recommended updates to the City's current ordinance governing the use of leaf blowers (Section 24.02.040(b) of the Davis Municipal Code), along with any additional information the Council wishes to consider in their deliberation of the topic.

Fiscal Impact

The cost to prepare, administer, implement and enforce the interim emergency ordinance related to prohibitions on leaf blower use has been paid out of the existing City Manager's Office, Police Department and Public Works Utilities & Operations budgets. Direction from Council on permanent modifications to the City's ordinance could result in the need for additional resources, particularly in the Parks Division of Parks and Community Services.

Council Goals

This item is consistent with the Council Goals to Pursue Environmental Sustainability and Ensure a Safe, Healthy, Equitable Community.

Commission Input

As directed by City Council, staff met with the Natural Resources and Recreation and Park Commissions for recommendations on modifying the use of leaf blowers. A memo was sent to all City Commissions in September 2021 to invite participation in the

discussion via a liaison to the Natural Resources Commission. In addition, staff worked with a subcommittee of the Natural Resources Commission on the data gathering process.

Background

While the use of leaf blowers within the City of Davis has been a topic of discussion for a number of years, a substantial fire season from August to October 2020 (across California) severely impacted air quality within the City of Davis, and brought focused attention to the use of leaf blowers in the community, particularly during periods of significant air quality impacts. Ash particulates on the ground which could become airborne, further contributed to concerns with leaf blower use.

In response to the air quality deterioration and concerns, the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) produced a draft report (Attachment 2) presented to Council in September 2020, with a recommendation that leaf blower use in the City be halted in observance of the ash particulate and the other air quality impacts. After Council discussion and deliberation, the Council ultimately adopted a resolution proclaiming a local air quality emergency, and authorized the City Manager to:

Impose a temporary ban on the use of leaf blowers and authorizing the Director of Public Works Utilities & Operations, acting as Assistant Director of Emergency Services, to suspend and reinstate the ban as needed, depending on air quality conditions, the presence of wildfire ash, future air quality forecasts, and/or forecasted smoke conditions for the region.

As of the drafting of this report, the local air quality emergency is still in effect, and the City has had cause to ban the use of leaf blowers, based on the criteria in the resolution, once in 2020 and twice in 2021 (September 26-October 10, 2020; August 18-23, 2021 and from August 27 to September 2, 2021).

In addition to the action directed on the local air quality emergency, City Council directed staff to “return to the City Council at a future meeting with a full analysis of the NRC’s report and a staff recommendation for amending the Davis Municipal Code.”

NRC Subcommittee Work & Full Commission Recommendations

Based on Council direction, at the end of 2020, an established NRC subcommittee (members Hannah Safford and Courtney Doss, later Safford and Keara Tusso) on leaf blowers and City staff met to discuss outlines, objectives, and assignments to work through the process to recommend updates or changes to the City’s ordinance on leaf blower use. During the discussion, it was clear that the overall discussion would benefit from a better understanding of the community use of leaf blowers and what types of leaf blowers are used. Surveys were released in Spring 2021 to collect responses from the community and commercial operations on the use of leaf blowers, the concerns the

community has regarding their use, and possible modifications to their usage. Summary responses from the surveys, along with comments, are included with this report as Attachment 1.

In addition to the surveys, City staff reached out to other jurisdictions that have implemented a full or partial ban of leaf blowers to understand their process and experience. Staff also collected information on the City's use of leaf blowers from the Public Works Utilities and Operations and Parks and Community Services departments. This information is summarized further in this report.

Interested Commissions were invited to participate in the leaf blower discussion with the NRC via a memo distributed to staff liaisons at the beginning of September 2021. The Recreation and Park Commission was the only commission which elected to participate in the leaf blower discussions via the assignment of a commission liaison.

Natural Resource Commission Discussion and Recommendations

At their meeting on September 27, 2021, the NRC, along with the Recreation and Park Commission (RPC) representative, received a presentation from staff on the background of the recent (and temporary) actions of the City Council on leaf blower use, and the recommendations of the NRC subcommittee on possible modifications to the City's ordinance, along with staff responses on those recommendations.

Discussion at the meeting included the following topics:

- The request for further detail on the staff recommendations for the modifications on the start time for leaf blower use on weekends (related to general start times for blower use across the State, as well as allowing work to start while the weather remains cooler in the summer months), and the non-response from staff to the last recommendation for a total ban on leaf blowers in residential areas.
- The variety of feedback from the surveys, with some of the members of the community feeling very strongly about the need to eliminate the use of leaf blowers, with other members of the community feeling as strongly that no modifications should be made.
- The need to raise public awareness of the benefits of leaf mulch, and a conversation that essentially boils down to aesthetics versus public health.
- The focus on residential areas, especially given the volume of feedback related to noise complaints, and the importance of mitigating the risks of fugitive dust (particulate matter suspended in the air primarily from soil) in the places where people live.
- The benefits of electric or battery-powered vacuums as a replacement for leaf blowers in most uses.

- The importance of carving out exceptions to the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums after January 2023 for public landscape, park maintenance and public safety needs.
- The need for the City to establish best management practices to prioritize the use of alternatives to leaf blowers whenever feasible and possible.

Public comment on the item at the meeting included concerns that the AQI ban currently in place is not addressing the local air quality issues, the ban on leaf blowers should include all types, as there are additional issues related to leaf blower use that are independent of the power types, the concern that multifamily housing properties should also be restricted from using leaf blowers for tenant safety, and the need to provide more education on the benefits of leaf mulching.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission made the following recommendations. *(Of note, the Commission voted on each recommendation. The votes are included in parenthesis with each bullet for Commission reference)*

Short-term Actions

Amend the City's Municipal Code Section 24.02.040(b) with the following:

- Make the current Air Quality Index (AQI) limits¹ on leaf blowers permanent for all City and City contractor use. (3-1-1)
- Amend the City ordinance to prohibit all use of blowers before 8 am on weekdays and before 9 am on weekends. (Unanimous)
- Launch a public-messaging campaign to raise awareness of the exhaust emissions, dust, and debris pollution from blowers, as well as the benefits of leaf mulching and leaving organic material in place to landscaping, and to promote use of (electric) leaf vacuums as alternatives to blowers. (Unanimous)

Long-term Actions

- By January 1, 2023, amend the City's ordinance to prohibit all use of gas-powered leaf blowers and vacuums within City limits, with limited exceptions of the use of gas-powered vacuums for public landscape, park maintenance and public safety needs. (Unanimous)
- By January 1, 2024, amend the City's ordinance to prohibit all use of leaf blowers on residential lots (including single-family homes, apartment complexes and HOA-maintained common areas). (Unanimous)

¹ City Of Davis Executive Proclamation and Order No. 02-2020 - "The conditions that will result in the imposition of a ban on the operation of all powered blowers include AQI values exceeding 100 (unhealthy for sensitive groups), the presence of wildfire ash settled on the ground or other surfaces, and future air quality forecasts."

The Commission also requested a check-in on the leaf blower ordinance in one year, prior to the prohibition of the use of all leaf blowers in residential areas, to determine if the full ban on blowers remains a priority for implementation in a year, or if the implementation of the full ban for residential areas could be pushed out a year or two more, based on the level of continued complaints and/or significant unforeseen challenges.

Recreation and Park Commission Recommendation

At their meeting on October 13, 2021, the Recreation and Park Commission (RPC) received a presentation from staff on the background of the recent (and temporary) actions of the City Council on leaf blower use, and the recommendations of the NRC subcommittee on possible modifications to the City's ordinance, along with staff responses on those recommendations.

Discussion at the meeting included the following topics:

- Concern that the City be consistent with any regulations related to leaf blowers and not exempt themselves from restrictions on leaf blower use. The City should lead by example.
- Timelines, and if the City were to move forward with Natural Resources Commission recommendations, if the City would be moving ahead of the State and the State's comprehensive rulemaking process.
- If the regulations would inspire businesses or residents to stockpile gas powered equipment.
- Concerns around the use of AQI as a factor in banning leaf blower use.
- Suggestion that allowing for an earlier start for the use of leaf blowers would be better (especially in the summer months).
- The need to better understand battery technology before being comfortable with the longer-term recommendations of the NRC in banning the use of gas-powered blowers.
- General support for the short-term recommendations of the NRC, and reiteration of the need for education.
- The acknowledgement that the scope of the RPC focuses the discussion of the Commission on parks.
- Concern that there could be public safety issues involved.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission made the following motion:

Motion: The Recreation and Parks Commission takes no position on the Natural Resources Commission recommendation, and instead offers a separate recommendation that the City's leaf blower policy shall ensure that Parks and

Community Services staff can maintain safety of City parks through the use of leaf blowers and vacuums as maintenance staff deems necessary.

Feedback from City Staff & Contractors

Public Works Utilities and Operations staff met with Parks and Community Services staff, along with staff from the City's current landscape contract company, Brightview, to discuss the City's use of leaf blowers. Feedback was also obtained from the Public Works Utilities and Operations Streets and Urban Forestry Divisions. Summaries from these discussions are included below.

It should be noted that the information included in this report is based on initial observations and the recent implementation of an equipment piloting program in the field. Based on direction from Council, staff will return with any necessary cost benefit analyses around more concrete cost impacts. Prior to returning with the requested information from Council (if applicable), staff will also have additional time piloting equipment in the field and could provide greater detail on the actual use of battery-powered equipment, including how processes in the field might be modified to accommodate electric equipment.

Parks and Community Services/Landscape Contract Use:

- Staff do use gas-powered leaf blowers (between 10-20), currently neither staff nor contractor has battery-powered or electric blowers.
- On average, PCS staff use leaf blowers two hours per day.
- Of the 10 blowers used by Parks staff, 4 are brand new. Staff are charged with purchasing the cleanest and quietest of current options, as the newer gas-powered leaf blowers burn cleaner and have less emissions.
- Challenges with electric blowers include the duration of the battery charge (not sufficient to complete jobs), expense of batteries, horsepower issues, battery failure, battery storage and temperature issues.
- Discussion also included jurisdictions that had previously banned gas-powered blowers but had resumed use of gas-powered blowers within a short timeframe.
- Areas maintained with blowers include parking lots (where the texture of asphalt makes it difficult to use rakes or brooms), large maintenance areas, bike paths, etc. It was stated that electric blowers cannot address wet leaves.
- It was indicated that there would be a longer duration between services, and contract costs would go up, as well as staffing costs to maintain minimum service levels.
- Other benefits of leaf blowers include reductions in stormwater pollution, increased safety and efficient staffing.
- Concern was expressed that the ban of blowers would create a ripple-effect across efficiency in a number of areas, which would require more staffing and more resources.

- For Parks staff, the use of leaf blowers is not permitted when the Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeds 100. The City's current temporary emergency order also can restrict use when the AQI exceeds 100. When leaf blowers cannot be used, staff utilize rakes and other equipment for maintenance work, or defer tasks that require the use of leaf blowers.

Public Works Utilities and Operations Use:

- Within the department, leaf blowers are used by Urban Forestry and Streets.
- Urban Forestry has one leaf blower (gas-powered) that is used for cleanup after tree maintenance, or shop cleaning. West Coast Arborist (WCA), the company contracted with the City to provide tree work, also has a gas-powered leaf blower used for clean-up.
- Streets Division has six leaf blowers (gas-powered) that are used to clean debris out of the roadways. The use is most frequently in the aid of ensuring the safety of the public right-of-way.

Once the recommendations from the NRC were formalized, staff revisited the question of potential cost of replacing existing gas-powered leaf blowers with electric or battery-powered blowers with Parks Division staff, as well as the potential increases in costs associated with reduced or no leaf blower use in City parks and public spaces. While concrete cost impacts likely will not materialize until, if, or when a ban on gas-powered blowers is put into effect by the Council, Parks staff estimated that the costs per blower, to replace the current gas-powered units with electric versions, will roughly double, when the cost of the blower is combined with the backpack battery and charger costs. To replace the current set of blowers maintained by the City would therefore run just under \$20,000. Challenges remain with the run time of battery-powered blowers, and the refill benefits of gas-powered blowers over the recharge time necessary for battery-powered.

The timing of the recommended restriction on leaf blower use was of significant concern. Parks staff indicated that the City's contract landscape company would need to augment their blower supply (rather than replace) as other communities would not have gas-powered leaf blower restrictions, however with the current number of blowers utilized by the contractor the cost to purchase the blowers that could be used in Davis would be high. Additional discussions around resources and time spent on each job would need to take place, as it would likely take longer for work to be completed.

2021 Equipment Expo

In November 2021, Parks and Community Services hosted an equipment expo for representatives from jurisdictions in Sacramento and Yolo counties. Vendors of electric landscaping equipment participated, allowing staff an opportunity to use and test electric landscaping tools. These included blowers, hedgers and weed whackers. In testing the

equipment, staff considered the following: the duration of the battery charge, the time to regain a charge on a depleted battery, and the overall power of the tool (how feasible the tool was for necessary use).

Feedback from staff reiterated the concerns around electric leaf blower technology not matching the range of gas-powered blowers. The electric hedgers and weed whackers were more feasible, however there were concerns around the number of batteries that would be needed, as well as potential ergonomic issues around battery backpacks. A specific issue was raised around batteries; with the limits on the number of charges for each battery, it could mean the City would be looking to make yearly purchases of batteries to replace the depleted ones.

Pilot Product Testing

Despite significant obstacles to implementation of electric equipment for current activities, the Park Division is running a pilot project, with a focus on blowers. Staff note that battery-powered leaf blowers ran at a lower decibel level than gas-powered equipment, and the action to start use of the blower was easier. One of the piloted leaf blowers would likely have uses in smaller parks and streetscapes, although it was reported that the work took longer than when performed with a gas-powered blower. In the downtown area, City staff received positive feedback when the use of the pilot blowers was noticed. Staff have explored the option of working directly with vendors to provide feedback on challenges with the equipment, to aid those companies in developing tools that are environmentally-friendly, efficient and cost effective.

With the new law restricting the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers in California after 2024 (discussed further in this report), battery technologies will likely improve, along with the capacity and expertise in repairing and maintaining battery-powered and electric landscaping tools. The concern of the Parks and Community Services staff, along with landscape maintenance professionals (and users of small off-road engine-powered equipment) is the timeline for growth in the technology, should the improvements be years away.

Jurisdiction Feedback

City staff reached out to a number of jurisdictions in California that had previously fully or partially banned the use of leaf blowers to address questions related to the factors that influenced the decision to ban blowers, the effectiveness of the full or partial ban, measurable impacts to City operations, enforcement concerns, resident and commercial landscape company responses, as well as the timing of the restrictions and overall benefits or drawbacks of the action.

With responses from these jurisdictions, City staff identified two patterns: the jurisdictions responding to the City's request had banned or partially banned blowers twenty or so years previously, or were actively researching a ban of their own. Generally, the jurisdictions that had *recently* fully or partially banned leaf blowers had done so temporarily, and were largely unresponsive to the City's request for feedback (not surprising in the time of COVID-19 pandemic strain on staffing).

Of the responses received, most of the jurisdictions identified that the most significant influence on the action to fully or partially ban leaf blowers was based on residential complaints and noise concerns. Moderate influences included emissions from gas-powered blowers and localized air quality impacts. Minimal impacts were reported around City operations for the existing bans. Enforcement was reported as somewhat challenging, with the biggest issue being new companies operating within the jurisdiction.

As part of this review, staff examined the ordinance types for 31 California cities. Of those cities, nine implemented noise decibel and time of day restrictions on leaf blowers, 17 fully or partially banned gas-powered leaf blowers, and two banned all forms of leaf blowers. For this review, staff focused on cities in California. There are, of course, a number of cities across the country that have also banned the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Summary of other Jurisdictions Actions:

- **Noise Decibel and Time of Day Restrictions:** Noise decibel restrictions included permission for the use of units that are <70 dBA or <65 dBA. Time of day restrictions included permitted use only between 8/9:00 a.m. and 4/5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with weekend use permitted on Saturdays beginning at 9:00 a.m., with Sunday starting as late as 11:00 a.m. Some jurisdictions do not permit the use of blowers at all on weekends or holidays. Use is sometimes limited to 15-30 minutes at a time based on acreage of area being maintained. Several jurisdictions have limits on locations of the use of blowers, including around residential properties, schools and hospitals.
- **Gas-Powered Blower Bans:** Either full or partial bans, some of the ordinances developed by these cities include exemptions for public land use, golf courses and Homeowners Associations (HOAs). Some are bans that only apply to residential areas.
- **Full Leaf Blower Bans:** Ban on all leaf blower use with exemptions only for public safety.

Staff Review and Discussion on Commission Recommendations

City staff would like to note appreciation for the work of the Natural Resources Commission subcommittee, as well as the consideration and time that went into the

drafting of the initial report to Council in 2020. Staff is supportive of the intent of the recommendations, however had feedback on elements of the recommended actions. The feedback was discussed with the subcommittee, and where acceptable was incorporated into the recommendations. Staff remained silent on the recommendation for a full ban of leaf blowers in residential areas, and has included the response to that recommendation in this report for Council consideration.

Full Residential Ban on Leaf Blowers

As demonstrated in the survey responses from the community, and evidenced by the reports of other jurisdictions that have fully or partially banned leaf blower use, the noise produced by leaf blowers is the most frequently mentioned concern. The prohibition of the use of leaf blowers in residential areas would address that concern, and would be easier to enforce than partial bans related to time of use, or season. However, it is important to note that electric and battery-powered leaf blowers are quieter than gas-powered blowers, and feedback on the surveys also indicated support for the continued use of blowers for hard-to-rake landscapes, and for members of the community with mobility issues.

The subcommittee discussed the use of electric or battery-powered vacuums, rather than blowers, in residential areas to reduce both noise and air quality impacts, with a full ban on blowers. With the prevalence of the use of vacuums currently unknown, staff would caution the larger step of a full ban on leaf blowers at this time. During the discussion of the NRC at their meeting in September 2021, it was clarified that the ban would apply to all 'residential' areas, including Homeowners Association (HOA) common areas of condos/single-family homes and apartment properties, which in some cases can have large open spaces that may be challenging to maintain without blowers at all.

Timing

The long-term recommendations of the Natural Resources Commission include the implementation of a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers by January 1, 2023, with limited exceptions for public landscape, maintenance and safety needs, followed by a ban of all types of leaf blowers (to include electric/battery-powered as well) in residential areas by January 1, 2024. It is important to remind the Council that the action by the State through AB 1346 does not ban gas-powered leaf blower *use*, rather the *sale* of gas-powered leaf blowers, meaning that as early as 2024 (depending on the rulemaking process of the California Air Resources Board) gas-powered blowers could no longer be purchased in California, but the City could continue to allow their use. This is, of course, counter-intuitive to the goals of the law, and previous actions undertaken by the Council to address climate change locally. The shortcomings of the current technology, and the lack of commensurate alternatives to gas-powered blowers, is the chief challenge. The

Council could choose to move forward with a ban on gas-powered blowers, however defer the implementation to 2024, to allow for more time for the community to transition and monitor the landscape tool industry for improvements in battery technology, however there is no guarantee that improved tools will be available.

The Need for an Intentional and Considered Approach

While falling short of recommending the total prohibition of blowers in City parks and public spaces (outside of health and safety uses), the discussion at the NRC favored the City taking a considered approach to the use of blowers, and suggested the development of management plans that would utilize blowers sparingly. In many ways, an adjustment to managing the City's parks and open spaces to reduce the use of blowers would be an approach similar to the adjustments made related to integrated pest management practices a few years ago; and should Council recommend more limited or a cessation of the use of blowers in City public spaces, the approach of staff would likely be similar, and greater investments in resources (both in terms of the contract maintenance and City staff resources) would likely be necessary to continue the current level of maintenance, or a reduction in service level expectation would be required.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1346 and California Air Resources Board Action

Authored by Assemblyman Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park) and Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego), and signed into law in October 2020, AB 1346 directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to adopt "cost effective and technologically feasible" regulations to "prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small off-road engines." This action requires that all small off-road engines for sale in California be zero-emission motor equipment, and effectively bans the sale of gas-powered small off-road engines, including leaf blowers. The language of the bill² requires the adoption of the regulations by July 1, 2022, and will apply to engines produced on or after January 1, 2024 (or as soon as is determined to be feasible).

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) began rulemaking on AB 1346 in November 2021³. Staff notes that the law language does not provide direction on specific methods for CARB to adopt to reach the zero-emission requirement, rather the direction for that agency includes that the regulations be "cost-effective and technologically feasible."

It is important to note that while the City Council direction to staff was specific to the review of leaf blowers, this bill extends the prohibition of the sale of new gas-powered

² Bill text: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1346

³ The rulemaking process can be followed on the California Air Resources Board website: [Amendments to the Small Off-Road Engine Regulations: Transition to Zero Emissions | California Air Resources Board](#)

lawn mowers, chainsaws, and other gardening and outdoor equipment as well. As feedback from the community survey shows, and from comments received by staff related to the use of leaf blowers, there is some interest in the community to discuss the use of other forms of gas-powered equipment within City limits, however this is not a part of the current review and recommendation requested from the NRC, and the state action will likely mean a significant reduction in the use of gas-powered equipment in the next few years.

Direction to Return

This report and presentation outline the work completed to date by staff and the Commissions on the recommendations to adjust leaf blower use in the City of Davis. Council is asked to consider this information, and offer any additional items for staff to review prior to returning to Council with recommended modifications to the City's ordinance.

Attachments:

1. Community and Commercial Survey Summaries & Full Responses
2. Draft Report of the Natural Resources Commission

Attachment 1 - Responses to Surveys on Leaf Blower Use

Survey Results

Community Survey

The Community Survey was released May 17, 2021 and closed June 30, 2021. The Community survey was sent out via the Greener Davis eblast (more than 14,000 email addresses subscribed to this list when the survey was released) and was posted on social media. In total, 760 survey responses were received.



Here are some highlights from the survey:

- 82.5% (713) of the survey responses came from single-family homes.
- 70% (627) of responses reported that leaf blowers were used on their property. The majority of reported leaf blowers used on these properties were electric or battery-powered, and used once or twice per month, or a few times a year (generally seasonally, around the fall months).
- In the responses, the speed of clean-up, labor savings and improved cleanliness were reported as the most important benefits of using blowers.
- Over 70% (543) of the respondents indicated that leaf blower use was of concern. Noise was most frequently selected as the primary concern, followed by the kicking up of dust and particulate matter, and emissions of greenhouse gases. Noise was also included in the free response section.

In the survey, Question 9 asked the how respondents felt about modifying the Municipal Code to restrict the use of leaf blowers. Responses to this question were mixed (respondents could choose multiple options):

- The phase out of the use of gas and electric leaf blowers within City limits (with or without exceptions based on property type) received support from **37%** (284) of respondents.
- The phase out of gas-powered leaf blowers with permitted use of electric leaf blowers (with or without exceptions based on property type) received support from **55%** (418) of respondents.
- A seasonal ban on all leaf blowers during peak wildfire season (i.e., from June–October) received support from **26%** (203) of respondents.
- Stricter noise and time-of-use restrictions received support from **50%** (317) of respondents.
- **22%** (172) of respondents indicated that they did not support any additional restrictions on leaf blower use.

In addition to the questions within the survey, the City received 343 comments from respondents that are included in the attached Community Survey Summary.

Leaf Blower Summary Data

Community Survey

1 Does your household or a landscaper/maintenance service for your property use a leaf blower? Please mark all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, someone in my household uses a leaf blower	46.84%	356
No one in my household uses a leaf blower	28.95%	220
Yes, my landscaper or maintenance company uses a leaf blower	30.26%	230
No, my landscaper or maintenance company does not use a leaf blower	6.05%	46
Unsure	0.66%	5
	Answered	760
	Skipped	0

2 Please select your property type:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Condo, apartment or townhouse	11.32%	86
Single-family home	82.50%	627
Multi-family property	3.03%	23
Business	0.53%	4
Other (please specify)	2.63%	20
	Answered	760
	Skipped	0

3 If a leaf blower is used on your property, what type of leaf blower is used? Please mark all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Gas-powered leaf blower	27.63%	210
Electric or battery-powered leaf blower	45.39%	345
Unknown	6.71%	51
Leaf blowers are not used on my property	26.45%	201
	Answered	760
	Skipped	0

4 How frequently do you/your landscaper use leaf blowers on your property?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Multiple times per week	7.63%	58
Once per week	30.92%	235
Once to twice per month	16.45%	125
Only occasionally (a few times per year)	16.71%	127
Leaf blowers are not used on my property	25.52%	194
Other (please specify)	2.76%	21
	Answers	760
	Skipped	0

21 Comments
Overall, comments included the following themes:
Use of blowers is seasonally focused (leaf-drop) or after weather events; use as needed; not used

5 If a leaf blower is used at your property, please rank each of the following listed benefits of leaf blowers in order of importance to you (with 1 being most important). If leaf blowers are not used at your property, please select N/A.

Answer Choices	1 (Most Important)	2	3	4 (Least Important)	N/A	Total						
Speed of clean-up	37.0%	255	15.4%	106	9.9%	68	14.1%	97	23.8%	164	689	
Labor savings	31.0%	214	16.1%	111	12.5%	86	16.5%	114	24.1%	166	690	
Improved cleanliness	32.5%	224	16.4%	113	14.1%	97	12.9%	89	24.2%	167	689	
Improved safety (i.e. no leaves on walkways)	22.8%	155	11.6%	79	12.5%	85	28.2%	192	25.0%	170	680	
<i>If the benefit of most importance to you is not listed above, please include it here:</i>											87	
87 Comments											Answered	697
Overall, comments included the following themes: Benefit to aesthetics; safety and limited physical restrictions; ease of use and maintenance; ability to reach hard-to-reach places; and reducing wear and tear on landscaping or pools											Skipped	63

6 Is leaf blower use in Davis of concern to you or your household?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	71.4%	543
No	28.6%	217
	Answered	760
	Skipped	0

7 If leaf blower use is a concern to you or your household, please rank each of the following listed potential concerns of leaf blower usage in order of importance to you (with 1 being Most Important). If this is not a concern, please select N/A.

Answer Choices	1 (Most important)	2	3	4 (Least important)	N/A	Total					
Noise	49.2%	288	15.7%	92	11.5%	67	6.3%	37	17.3%	101	585
Kicking up dust and particulate matter	42.9%	289	24.1%	162	12.5%	84	5.9%	40	14.7%	99	673
Emissions of greenhouse gases and fumes	42.9%	292	19.5%	133	15.0%	102	8.7%	59	14.1%	96	681
Leaves and dust get blown onto my property instead of being cleaned up	18.5%	124	12.4%	83	15.6%	105	30.7%	206	23.1%	155	672
N/A: This is not a concern for me	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0
If the concern of most importance to you is not listed above, please include it here:											96

96 Comments
 Overall, comments included the following themes:
 Concerns included noise, the health of employees who use blowers, dust and particulate matter, the impact on bicyclists and pedestrians, the impact on wildlife, concerns with allergies and pollen, and concerns that without the use of blowers, there will be less maintenance

Answered 690
 Skipped 70

8 If the City provided additional outreach/education to landscapers, businesses, and residents on best practices for use of leaf blowers, how effective do you think it would be in reducing your overall concerns (if any) about leaf blowers?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very effective	6.8%	52
Moderately effective	19.3%	147
Slightly effective	27.2%	207
Not effective	32.4%	246
I'm not concerned about leaf blower use	14.2%	108
	Answered	760
	Skipped	0

The Davis Municipal Code currently allows gas and electric leaf blowers to be used on residential and commercial properties, subject to certain time-of-use and noise restrictions. The City is considering amending the Code to place additional restrictions on leaf blower use. Which of the following options would you support? (Check all that apply).

Answer Choices	Responses	
Phase out the use of gas and electric leaf blowers within City limits (on all property types)	29.1%	221
Phase out the use of gas and electric leaf blowers within City limits (on certain property types – please list)	8.3%	63
Phase out gas leaf blowers but permit use of electric leaf blowers (on all property types)	43.2%	328
Phase out gas leaf blowers but permit use of electric leaf blowers (on certain property types – please list)	11.8%	90
Seasonal ban on all leaf blowers during peak wildfire season (i.e., from June–October)	26.7%	203
Stricter noise and time-of-use restrictions	50.3%	317
I do not support any additional restrictions on leaf blower use	22.6%	172
	Answered	760
	Skipped	0

10 If you believe that additional leaf blower restrictions should only be placed on certain property types, please explain. (For instance, “I think that leaf blowers should only be permitted on large commercial properties, not residential properties.”)

128 Comments	Answered	129
Overall, comments included the following themes:	Skipped	630

Restrictions should be applied to all property types and blower types, for gas-powered blowers only, for commercial use only, for single-family use only, and that limits should be placed on time and duration, not location. In addition, responses included no change to current rules on leaf blower use.

11 If you have additional comments that you would like to make regarding leaf blowers, please include them here:

343 Comments	Answered	343
	Skipped	416

Leaf Blower Summary Data

Community Survey - Individual Responses

4 How frequently do you/your landscaper use leaf blowers on your property?

Other (please specify)

unknown, not sure

Davis city streets and neighbors

It's seasonal. When lots of oak flowers or leaf fall off on deck, I use it for maybe 5 minutes each day. But then it can be months before the next big seasonal drop. It takes me 10 minutes to do the pine needles in the front yard—maybe I do that once a week during the drop season.

As needed, typically more often in fall, and once a month the rest of the year.

not my lot but those surrounding me

I am unaware of a leafblower being used at all.

NEVER!!!!!!!!!! (Nor should anyone else)!!!!!!

Extremely rarely

Never

2-4 times per month

Mostly during fall, when there is a large leaf load

every other week

My property is rented and leaf blowers are used regularly

Infrequently, and on our patio only, and only after a broom has done most of the work

I use it as a vacuum.

only 1-2 times yearly, during the time period when leaves fall

never

When leaves and other tree stuff drops from a pistache, I blow the debris off my rock path weekly, or more b/c I can't remove it some other way (I tried).

Several weeks go by after that's done before I need to use it again. I sweep my concrete as much as possible.

Normally, once per week, except for additional occasions, such as after wind events, when it would be multiple times per week.

As necessary and especially after several windy days. Also in the fall.

Hardly ever use it, but I like the option to have one and use it when the occasion calls for one.

5 If a leaf blower is used at your property, please rank each of the following listed benefits of leaf blowers in order of importance to you (with 1 being most important). If leaf blowers are not used at your property, please select N/A.

If the benefit of most importance to you is not listed above, please include it here:

Raking is fine with me to avoid blower noise.

Used only for small places where it is not possible to fit a rake or broom, and only a few times a year.

Ability to clean gutters on second story, that I can't reach otherwise.

Safety and ease of use for older homeowners.

We mainly use it as a leaf vacuum/composter

General aesthetics of our patio and areas that guests will see

weekday after 9:00am No weekends

no benefits over what can be accomplished with other tools (e.g. brooms, rakes)

Easier for landscaper but I always ask him NOT to use it-too noisy & causes air pollution

Saves water by blowing dust/dirt off patio instead of washing

Easier on our old bodies than removing leaves with rakes or by hand from roof gutters

It cleans areas I can't rake or broom-sweep very well

Senior citizen would not be able to put in the energy to do it

Water savings. Spraying water can achieve similar results, but is more wasteful.

My ultra-low water landscape is all rock, so it is impossible to rake leaves. A leaf blower is the only feasible solution to maintain a rock dominated landscape during our continued sever drought.

I HATE leaf blowers! But I have no control over whether they're used at my complex.

Including Blow dust on a car that on the parking lot

There is no benefit.

Water savings and ease of homeowner to maintain yard

It can be used on surfaces where a rake or broom are difficult to use

Getting debris out of hard to reach places

we rack and sweep first and use a battery leaf blower for final bits of debris which we blow into garden beds.

No benefit. They are a nuisance!

We mostly rake and couple times a year use an electric leaf blower for hard to rake spots.

I do not prefer the leaf blower. It's use is fairly brief and is important to me just because I am too involved as a caregiver to do the work myself at this point. I expect it would just be more expensive if leaf blowers were not used

Because I no longer grow a lawn, I instead now have groundcovers and drip systems which can be easily damaged using a rake.

not damaging my landscape. Having to care for city trees and greenbelt because hired service doesn't do a good job.

No air pollution!

Ability to remove debris from areas that cannot be raked or swept, i.e., river rock, under & around furniture & pool equipment, and areas with bark that would be removed if raked.

I'm a renter and I wish they didn't blow once a week.

drainage of gutters and edge of house

keeping leaves and debris out of swimming pool

being able to clean areas not accessible with rake esp after big wind events

We have a lot of decomposed Granet and it's hard to rake it

It's better than using a hose to wash off the area.

hard to rake leaves on bark/mulch

We use a quiet battery-operated leaf blower only!

use of the blower reduces alergens in our house. Know this is counterintuitive, but the clean outside helps keep the inside cleaner.

There are areas in our yard that are very difficult to access, even with a small rake, i.e. between the bases of plants near a fence.

As a senior, leaf blowing completes a job without as much effort as raking or sweeping. When I can no longer care for my lawn, I do not want to pay a lawn service more because they cannot use the gas blower that they need to complete a job in a timely manner. This sure would discriminate against lawn service workers.

The benefits are not important to me. I wish my gardener would stop using a leaf blower.

I stated using a blower multiple times per week (2 or 3), but typically for less than 15 minutes.

too noisy for worker it will hurt his hearing in the future time and for residents, too much dust in the air. It is better to use garden leave vacuuming machine on the street, but difficult place only can use blower.

Able to reach areas that are not accessible to broom use

The leaf blower is the choice of the landlord, my preference would be to not use one.

A lot of people use leaf blowers to clean out their gutters, which is not addressed here

none; they're awful.

I don't see much benefit in leaf blowers (esp. gas-powered), given how obnoxiously loud they are and all the dust they kick up.

Essential when removing leaves from areas that cannot be raked (as with low-lying ground cover).

Improved physical health and hearing with quiet.

I do not see a benefit - this is the choice of my landscapers. I would prefer that they do not use a leaf blower.

House, lawn, driveway, sidewalk looks neat and well kept.

We actually use ours as a vacuum much more than blower, which is terrific.

Cost - our service would be more \$ if the landscape company did not use leaf blowers. That said, I hate them and we should probably pay more.

The best way to blow organic material from decomposed granite. Also good for wood deck to minimize debris getting trapped between wood planks (which rots wood during rainy season)

You forgot to ask about how important it is to keep leaves out of the gutter and storm drains.

I have disabilities that make sweeping difficult.

raking hurts my back, leaf blowing does not

We have drought tolerant landscape (including wood chips instead of grass). Lightly blowing is much more effective to separate and clear leaves than a rake.

As a large condo complex with many mature trees, safety is top priority and removing leaves, etc. has to be done on a regular basis - 1-2 times a week. There are liability issues for HOA's.

DAVIS IS A WINDY CITY. LEAF BLOWERS ARE AN OXYMORON.

The blower also keeps the street clean, since Davis only sweeps 12 times per 3 year

This not the most important benefit but using a leaf blower saves water. Instead of hosing off my patio, I mostly use an electric leaf blower.

Low noise

reduction of fuels in case of a fire

Improved cleanliness

Saves water

Able to get to hard to clean places

To reduce copious leaves, branches and dirt from entering our pool, which otherwise necessitates other electric usage.

Hate the noise and air pollution.

unable to sweep leaves off rocks next to house foundation in courtyard area

Our electric leaf blower allows us to clean otherwise inaccessible areas around our home with built-up leaf debris that could be a fire hazard.

to clean up the roof

Less back pain

Get leaves out of crevices and rock path where rake won't work

Helps because I have physical disability and unable to sweep.

most important to me: the alternative (raking) is incredibly hard on my back (end up unable to move the next day)

Easier to use than a rake and broom

how would older people deal with leaves and litter. How many immigrants would we need to maintain our property.

Being able to blow leaves and debris out of planting beds (especially cacti/succulents) that would otherwise be impossible to remove

Used to dry car

creates efficiency for my landscaper's business

well-being of those using the leaf blower
leaf blowers are not necessary in Davis
it is the right tool for the job i have to clean out debris in hard to get places. Also, it is better than a hose ...
safety from small pea-sized seeds dropping on pathways that make it very slippery.
Cleaning hardscapes without use of water.

7 **If leaf blower use is a concern to you or your household, please rank each of the following listed potential concerns of leaf blower usage in order of importance to you (with 1 being Most Important). If this is not a concern, please select N/A.**

If the concern of most importance to you is not listed above, please include it here:

Noise pollution! some gas blowers are incredibly loud

NOISE, NOISE, NOISE

Jeezus god...the f-ing NOISE!

Honestly the noise of the big gas powered ones that the neighbors landscapers use is a bummer. It is loud, and different neighbors use different companies so each one comes on different days—thereby making each day of the week a gas leaf blower day. I think it would be nice if they coordinated days, or concentrated the use to limit the number of days that the blowers cause noise. But now that my baby is not little and I am don't have to protect his nap—it's really not a big problem.

We can adjust to raking.

NOISE. We live next to a City park, and the City park maintenance workers use the leaf blowers to blow the alley next to our house. This usually takes more than half an hour and the noise makes it impossible to work during that period, and it blows dust from the alley into our house. Leaf blowers are also used in the park for at least another half hour where the noise is debilitating.

I do not wish to take away someone's lively hood by prohibiting leaf blowers and I don't think outreach will help and I think it will just be a punitive thing for them, they will have to raise prices and people will lose their jobs

Noise and smell of gas of leaf blower

Blowing leaves into street or adjacent property does not clean up leaves. Take time to pick them up and haul away.

Time of use ordinance not observed by landscaping companies

Pitch and volume of noise... disturbs doggie... makes her want to hide...

NOISE POLLUTION terrible for birds and animals and for people trying to enjoy nature

Noise

dust gets into my apartment (thru slightly open windows) and plastered on and in my car--main source of dust & grime in apt. & on/in car

I support ALL restrictions & prohibitions on use of gas powered & electric leafblowers- they create too much noise & air pollution

noise pollution

Noise from gas powered blowers.

The wind blows our city will look trashy without citizens being allowed to care for their property. Already a lot of limits it is hard for a senior citizen with auto immune disease to keep up with it all.I live in a great neighborhood and people are responsible about using blowers

Noise

Noise from gas powered leaf blowers is loud and distracting

As a bicyclist, I HATE them. Before the pandemic, I'd ride my bike to the train station early in the morning & would frequently encounter leaf blowers, especially downtown. I was in my professional work clothes & sometimes couldn't avoid all the dust raised. It made me SO angry. Would it be okay to open a driver's car door & blow dust & crap inside? No, but it's perfectly okay to do to bicyclists & pedestrians.

Noise pollution.

noise

horrendous noise

Greenhouse gases and fumes should not be lumped together.

Short term startup of blowers, but as with all of these other issues they are very minor in the everyday scheme of things

Noise pollution

health of worker using blower

Particulate matter is especially concerning during fire season when ash is kicked up and not properly disposed of.

Noise!!!! Health of worker

they stink, and they're disgusting, and they're dangerous to the poor workers who have to use them.

Tbh, all of these are 1 for us. It is a constant barrage of noise, air pollution and dust/smoke particles throughout the week. Just pushing dirt around, disruption peace, walks, severely lowering air quality.

Pollution for leaf blower operators' lungs.

I think it is stupid to be considering banning leaf blowers

with all the drought you cant use water so blowing is necessary

I am concerned that taking away leaf blowers or requiring electric ones will hurt the people who earn a living using these tools every day.

Interferes with taking a daily walk

Noise of gas powered blowers (much higher than electric)

Noise pollution

Noise!

damage to plants and animals

Noise levels-Commercial use on streets is VERY LOUD every Tuesday

noise

The noise pollution is awful

neighbors gardeners who blow early in the morning, and blow their debris all over my property.

noise/schedule

The sound Personally irritates me if it was just my yard I'll probably be OK with it but it's everyone's yard around me

Ridiculous waste of fossil fuel.

This is only a concern during poor air quality.

noise

Noise, Noise, Noise

Subjecting low wage workers (the landscapers) to even poorer air and sound quality

We are surrounded by fields that kick up dust.

On our HOA property the leaf blower use results in removal of the mulch around our landscaping plants. The noise is a concern also. The industry really needs to find a better alternative for mechanical debris removal.

I had a neighbor who used blower multiple days per week including during wind/rain and smoky days last year during fire season. It helped when the city imposed 'no blow' days.

Damage to my tiles in the patio and driveway

Noise and disruption to peace

Noise!

Health impacts to workers using the machines

oh my god please act like leaders and join the other California communities that have banned leaf blowers completely. Connect the dots to allergies as well, and fire ash during the summer. Brooms and rakes work just fine. Its ok if the ground outside is a little "dirty" - it doesn't mean we're sinners. an utter waste, all around.

noise pollution

Too many people use leaf blowers foolishly ... as with the garden crews at the apartment complexes across the street, who use them despite stiff winds that just make MORE of a mess

Noise. Allergens. Visual air pollution. Terrible to ride a bike through.

Take a look at Interstate 80 at any time of the day or night.....you really believe that banning leaf blowers is going to help with greenhouse gases and fume!?

noise

Noise! When several flowers are working on adjacent properties!

Landscaper's health - physical and financial

Most important: health hazard to the employees who use them regularly.

fumes for landscapers

It is the city workers that are abusing the leaf blower by blowing all the dust and leaves onto and toward my property!! The homeowners are not doing this

Noise

Blowing away fallen plant matter leads to poor soil health! We need to preserve healthy soil and putting all the blown plant matter in the garbage is a terrible waste.

noise is an additional concern

Noise from gas powered leaf blowers.

I am concern about the replacement of green yards to hardscape yards that do not trap and filter the dust

#1

NOISE

noise produced by leaf blowers

Noisy and unnecessary. It is not that hard to rake leaves.

Neighbors/landscapers using leaf blowers almost daily and all of above concerns; it's difficult to be outside

Some blow everything into the street

kicking dust and particulate matter

Home owners not cleaning their yards and their leaves blow into my yard by the strong winds

Your question format is not giving you the answers you are looking for. Be careful how you present this.

NOISE! Drives us out of our backyard during nice weather

Concern is the city banning the use without understanding the impact. The city has a lot of trees that drop leaves, pine needles, etc that need to be cleaned up. The city got rid of the claw service except for a few times a year and never considered the impact on a city that had a lot of vegetation

We have no peace. The noise of leafblowers is all day long.

Noise is also a major concern for our household

The electric models take longer, make noise longer, aren't much quieter, and kick up equal amounts of dust and pollen. I would defer to the preference of the people actually using the blowers to determine whether gas, electric or a broom is best.

leaf blowers are not necessary in Davis!

Weekend work is my only concern. I think restricting use on weekends would provide welcomed relief.

I'm okay with use of leaf blowers but they shouldn't start until after 8 a.m. and end before 5 p.m.

Kicking up dust and particulate matter is a concern only when wild fires are resulting in poor air quality.

Stirs up pollen and scares animals.

Small bugs/insects are attacked by these leaf blowers. Some people who use leaf blowers leave the leaves/dust on others' property.

- 1 **If you believe that additional leaf blower restrictions should only be placed on certain property types, please explain. (For instance, "I think that leaf**
- 0 **blowers should only be permitted on large commercial properties, not residential properties.")**

Yes, perhaps for larger properties only, but only in a manner where they are picking up the resulting piles and not blowing into the streets

Phase out all gas leaf blowers for all property types due to GHG emissions and only permit electric leaf blowers on commercial properties outside of wildfire season.

The ban should include all property types

I believe restrictions should be made so leaves are not blown out onto the streets and left there, landscapers should place leaves in piles or remove.

I think IF any limits are placed—it should be restricted to residential properties. This allowing landscapers of large spaces to use their preferred tools for the biggest jobs on commercial properties.

I do not like adding more laws or fees. Run a campaign to phase out blowers.

Reevaluate in a year.

Leaf blowers should be prohibited from use on alleys, sidewalks, drive ways, and streets. Leaf blower use should be limited to 15 minutes on any property located adjacent to or across the street from a residential property. including City owned property.

No, it would be too complicated

Electric blowers only and only permitted on large commercial properties, not residential properties.

No leaf blowers

I think electric leaf blowers should be permitted only on large commercial properties, not residential.

Landscapers should not be required to use leaf blowers, however, occasional use by residents should be permitted.

Allow electric leaf blowers only; and only on large commercial properties (not apartment property or other residential)

no use on single family dwellings and other low-density resident types until they can be made quieter

only on large commercial properties and parks

Leaf blowers should not be used to blow leaves/debris into the street. Get rid of the claw so everyone has to pick up leaves/etc. and put them in the bins.

I think additional restrictions should only be placed on commercial landscapers.

My opinion is that never use leaf blower because environment issue and health issue. too noisy and dusty. also they don't clean well. My car is always got dust a lot. After they blow leaf, they should blow car too. Thank you

Leaf blowers should only be allowed in neighborhoods with trees planted by the city or the homeowner. Electric Leaf blowers should be subsidized by the city.

Gas leaf blowers should not be permitted on residential properties

There should be no restrictions on residential use - to do so is an overreach.

If need be, electric blowers on commercial properties only

permit on large commercial properties

Leaf blowers should not be a concern to the city, or anyone else at all.

Should not be permitted in residential areas

I think leaf blowers should only be permitted for use on city properties or for the largest roads in town.

If leaf blowers were prohibited on residential properties, that would be a definite improvement.

Permit electric blowers on non-residential properties only.

Only electric or battery leaf blowers allowed on all properties

Ok for city properties (parks, greenbelts), apartment complexes, non-residential areas (businesses). Not okay for residential areas!

I agree; large commercial but not large residential

i think all leaf blowers should be banned, period, and immediately.

Large commercial properties for safety reasons only

On large commercial properties

Definitely leaf blowers should only be allowed on commercial properties

I believe that leaf blowers should be banned altogether on all property types.

Maybe we should spend time on the homeless situation not leaf blowers

Large commercial only

I would be in favor of disallowing ONLY gas-powered leaf blowers within city limits, but made law after a decent grace period, e.g. 18 months, to allow professionals to adjust.

gas powered leaf blowers should not be allowed on residential properties (single family homes or apartment complexes) or near schools.

Ban all commercial use of all blowers, while allowing private individuals to use electric blowers, but only during restricted hours and for a limited duration.

I think it shows how arrogant the city council is if the city bans leaf blowers

DO NOT MESS WITH RESIDENTIAL USE!

I do not we should make it even more difficult and more expensive for hard-working people to earn a living in our town.

Commercial only, not residential. Only in commercial zones

greatest restrictions on residential

Large commercial properties are the biggest offenders with leaf blowing happening late and night and early in the morning. Rental properties with absentee landlords are also the biggest offenders I'm having gardeners scheduled even when leaf blowing isn't necessary. There are several properties in our neighborhood that have landscapers using leaf blowers when it is extremely windy or when there are little to no leaves on the ground.

Leaf blowers should only be used on large commercial properties, not residential properties

timing, and fume restrictions

The survey should ask respondent for alternative ideas.

N/A

I think frequency of use is a problem. They blow till there isn't a speck of dust, every single week, at apartment complexes. Some people also use weekly yard services when I think they're not always needed.

Electric Leaf blowers only should be permitted on commercial properties, no leaf blower should be permitted on residential properties.

Leaf blowers, if permitted, should be regulated as to noise and pollution on all properties.

I think that electric leaf blowers should only be used on large commercial or public properties, not on residential properties.

Not on residential properties

I support the banning of all leaf blowers period

Leaf blowers should be allowed without discrimination between commercial and residential properties. Residential use includes keeping sidewalks clean and clear from city tree leaves and branches.

Leaf blowers should only be permitted on large commercial properties.

leaf blowers are needed in parks, how would they clean the parks without a gas powered tool? The parks would look horrible!

Only permitted on commercial properties

Allow electric leaf blowers on large commercial properties, but none on residential properties where neighbors must breathe the fumes and deal with the noise and debris that blows on their property as a result.

Our battery powered leaf blower is low noise, especially when not pressed in as far.

All should be like that.

Leaf blowers ok on large commercial property, apartment complexes, parks/schools/sports fields.

There is an opportunity to bring in revenue and reduce use by utilizing fees for the use of these externality producing items.

restrict leaf blower use on all properties. If not possible enforce restrictions to certain times of day

I do not think neighborhood residential properties should use gas-powered leaf blowers.

It is difficult to work at home when five of your neighbors all around you who is landscapers are blowing for three consecutive hours to get all five houses done is a noise concern. Unfortunately many landscapers do not speak English and don't seem to care when you ask them to reduce the length of time blowing.

We are okay with leaf blowers being used at certain times on commercial property. We also think it's okay for electric leaf blowers to be used occasionally on residential property

TOU restrictions should focus on peak commute hours (when kids bike/walk to school)

Used only in situations that pose a danger to travel by pedestrians or bikes.

Allowed only on large properties during heavy leaf fall.

I think raking should be mandatory.

I think any blower are not use on street.

There could be very limited exceptions for certain rare situations, with specifically-trained personnel and fees suitable for the negative knock-on effects. It would have to be announced in advance, and dispermited not only during a wildfire fallout event, but through the period afterwards until there is significant rain that mitigates the amount of particles that can be stirred up. It would require significant controls like making sure surrounding homes have closed windows, could not happen during school commute hours, and has to be done only with electrical leaf blowers. If anyone is outside in the

immediate vicinity, e.g. 100 feet from the work site - for example a neighbor leaving or UPS delivering a package - the operation must cease immediately. This would require the use of several spotters. All equipment used on commercial sites must be powered with 100% renewable energy.

No gas blowers in city limits, restrict use of electric blowers on residential property.

Use a broom instead.

There is no reason to authorize the ill effects of leaf blowers on any property in the City of Davis.

Not within 50 feet of the border of the user's property (i.e. only in the interior of large properties - anywhere on the exterior has too great an effect on others who may be adversely impacted).

Leaf blowers should only be allowed to blow leaves, not dirt/dust/debris

I would prefer to see research for/against any proposal before deciding which option seems best, but I do think we should do something to reduce use and educate homeowners of reasons why..

I think electric leaf blowers should only be permitted in large commercial properties, not residential properties

Only electric allowed. And only used by property owners, not commercial landscapers.

Why should large commercial properties be exempt?

On large commercial, non-residential properties only.

Leaf blowers should be banned in areas with residences nearby due to noise, dust and fumes.

Leaf blowers should only be used in the fall-winter season and only to gather leaves into a pile. Forbid the use of leaf blowers for sweeping.

Commercial Leaf blowers should pick up the dirt blown out into the streets.,

It would be discriminatory to restrict leaf blower use by property type.

permit on large commercial properties not at residential.

Phase out gas blowers in residential. Permit electric blowers below certain CFM (not sure what a good number would be, but dust and noise are important to me)

Do t restrict because you will just reduce maintenance. Blowers are annoying but but very short in time and are a good alternative to spending hours taking. Hard to do when you work full time. So you know it may not get done, :-/

Ban leaf blowers on all residential properties except during the time period where leaf cleanup is necessary

electric leaf blowers are ok

only electric for residential use (with time-of-use and wildfire restrictions), commercial properties could use EPA approved 4-stroke

Use at senior facilities acerbates senior difficulties interrupting rest and requiring noise canceling headphones

No use on residential properties

Blowing grass after cutting is not necessary. Blowing leaves in the fall off areas is fine but not for 15 minutes to perfectly clean sidewalks and make great piles. We have mowers for that. The noise pollution is significant.

Keep blower use for residential use. is the type of property that blowers work very well, and have a large share of urban forest. Larger properties could use yard vacuum with a filter bag. They have big areas in which this would work

Allow seniors and the handicapped (even temps by parking a vehicle with state or a local handicapped placard in car parked on street or by registering property with the City on renewable basis) an option to use of electric blowers on residential property but narrow the time of day

I support the restrictions placed on single homes.

Only use on large commercial properties. Racking doesn't take that much longer on smaller properties.

No gas powered blowers on any property

NO gas blowers due to NOISE and ALL forms of pollution

I think that leaf blowers should only be permitted on large commercial properties, not residential properties.

Leaf blowers should not be allowed downtown where people are sitting outside and can't get away from the noise and particulates.

Leaf blowers should not be allowed downtown areas because people are sitting outside at restaurants and cafes and can't get away from the noise and bad air.

Possibly electric blowers on commercial property.

I think only electric leaf blowers should be allowed in Davis.

Limit use in neighborhoods and use on large commercial properties

Stop use of gas blowers IMMEDIATELY by all.

Gas leaf blowers should only be used on large commercial properties, not in primary residential areas. Electric leaf blowers permitted in residential areas with strict time restrictions.

In downtown, almost every morning, some properties have leaf blowers in use, creating clouds of particulate matter, noise and gas fumes. Hard to avoid as a pedestrian. Further guidance/restrictions are merited to reduce the number of days an hours for downtown leaf blowing.

Some people have large residential properties and cannot pick up all the leaves on their own. I have already cut down several trees to cut down on the mess.

not permitted on any residential properties

Commercial properties, parks, and large (1/2 acre) property owners should be able to use leaf blowers. All others should be discouraged.

City of Davis workers should move to electric as a start.

Since many individuals have been working at home at the start of the pandemic, having leaf blowers operate during late morning hours has been very distracting. Recommend noon time around late afternoon usage.

Don't provide further restrictions

I think that leaf blowers should only be permitted on large commercial properties, not residential properties

I can understand how using leafblowers may help some folks who have disabilities, but not sure how to reflect that in the policy. I am extremely against use of leafblowers in residential settings.

only electric leaf blowers should be permitted, and only on large commercial properties

I think it would be useful to examine restrictions based on air quality: When the air quality is poor (due to allergens/smoke/pollution, etc.), then ban the use of any leaf blowers to try to avoid kicking up additional particulate matter

I do not think further restrictions are needed on leaf blowers.

Only downtown in/around commercial or business properties.

Ban leaf blowers.

terrible idea

All properties

1 If you have additional comments that you would like to make regarding leaf blowers, please

0 include them here:

I think blowers should only be allowed in the process of properly picking up/disposing matter, as opposed to blowing it out on the street where it blows into other properties. More focused/limited use would make it less of a nuisance. But maybe people couldn't handle that, and only a full ban would work.

I support our city in banning leaf blowers on all properties as they are inefficient and numerous studies have shown they directly contribute to GHGs and increased particulate matter in our air. Thank you City of Davis for bringing this matter forward.

How about using a rake instead!

Totally DUMB idea, except perhaps during bad air days. What a waste of resources (more than any resources used by leaf blowers!) to even be discussing such dumbness.

I'd like more information on electric leaf blowers--as far as I can tell, ALL leaf blowers are ultimately ineffectual, just moving debris around (including into the air, contributing to air pollution) but they're used widely, I assume for some (semi-) logical reason.

Most times it's not the leaf blowers it's the people who use them. I believe the property owners should be cited for not adhering to city restrictions regardless of property type, most live out of town or hire landscapers from out of town and they are not aware of city restrictions or either could care less. Mostly I feel bad for the laborers —especially those wearing the backpack style. Better to support these workers with choices, subsidies for replacing gas with electric, and supported business practices—like a department that offers professional advice, workshops, etc. rather than regulate their work and take away their choices. The residents of Davis should settle down with their concerns and learn to live with a little dust, noose, and general exposure to others.

I think there are quite a few people who would join Davis in cutting back leaf blowing. It's loud and dusty. Thanks.

Leaf blowers are used excessively to blow dust and other debris in the streets, sidewalks, alleys, and drive ways. This imposes a substantial burden on neighbors. A push broom is more efficient, and does not burden neighbors or the environment. I worked on a landscaping crew for a California School District, and did lawn work independently for private homeowners during the 1980s, we disposed of leaves and other debris without the use of leaf blowers. Leaf blowers also present a danger for the individuals operating the machine.

Electric leaf blowers allow me to clean out the garage in a way I would be unable to without them, and remove leaves from gutters before rain storms without going on the roof and being unsafe. There are uses for leaf blowers, such as those I mentioned, that are beyond what most would think of related to landscaping leaf pickup. My blower is also a mulcher, and used to create mulch from my leaves by sucking them in and grinding them into small pieces. With the claw no longer coming weekly, and the green waste bin too small to hold all of the leaves my property generates, using the blower as a mulcher is my only option. Electric blowers are great, and allow for work to be completed efficiently.

We use a very small battery powered blower to help clean our property and, as older homeowners, it would be difficult to use alternative methods. We do support banning GAS blowers, but not electric or battery powered.

I don't use a gas leaf blower, but for landscaping companies I can understand the necessity, I don't want to see their businesses harmed in an already tough economy. My neighbors employ landscaping companies and the noise does not bother me at all because they always come at reasonable hours and are done super quick thanks to the use of portable (gas/battery powered) blowers, if that is taken away from them and the hours restricted even more then it would make more work for them in less hours with less useful equipment, it just makes no sense to me.

Please stop "over regulation" by the government. Shouldn't we be allowed to do what we can to better our private property? Some of us seniors do not have the ability to clean our yards without the help of our leaf blower!

Gas blowers used by landscapers are extremely loud and high powered. Lower powered and quieter blowers would be ok, especially on commercial properties.

City should monitor all contracted landscaping use better. Currently there is very poor maintenance of existing greenbelts.

In my opinion, the city should spend time on things that matter. How about planting a few more trees? Take care of sick trees we already have? Pick up trash on roads? etc.

For the most part, I do not see the value of leaf blowers. Mostly the person with the blower just blows the leaves to a different place (such as the street). It doesn't make a huge difference to have the leaves removed. But it makes a huge difference in the air quality, especially if it is already a windy day, or if the air is polluted because of a wildfire. I think that leaf blowers should be banned. Thanks!

I am impacted most by constant dust and debris making its way into my home.

I'm discusted you would spend time on this issue when there are so many other issues of higher import facing the city. In the case of smokey, unhealthy air such as summer of 2020 it would be common sense restricting leaf blowers. Other than that circumstance, stop making unnecessary regulations and work for everyone. I should think you have better things to do.

It would be great if leaf blowers were quieter but will that cause landscapers to not want to service Davis if they had to have different equipment. Have leaf blowers caused fires? If so, they yes ban them on certain days when fire risk is high.

Enforcement of a ban needs to happen

any units, like ours are electric leaf vacuums as well as 'blowers'... that minimizes particulate dispersion... to that end, any new restrictions should apply to allergy seasons... electric/low noise units should be encouraged over gas--in our neighborhood Mace Ranch, most houses have outside power plugs... front yard and rear yard...

Adjust specific time for use during the day within certain week days. Control on sound or energy utilization would be unpractical in such or time with all the economic burdens.

I have a large yard and no leaf blower. I use a rake and brooms and don't care if things look a little scruffy and messy. I prefer a little mess to the noise. I'm also annoyed by hearing a leaf blower blasting to get every last leaf and seeing debris blown into the gutter just to be blown right back or into my yard. Along with wildfire season, I would include a ban on Spare the Air days.

Please please ban leafblowers. They ruin our quality of life. Thank you very much for seeking community input.

It's not just the noise; but the dust is likely a significant health hazard, particularly for those with allergies and breathing conditions. At the apartment I live in, if my apartment windows are even slightly cracked open (e.g. 0.5 inch to 1 inch open for fresh air), the leafblower is the main source of dust & grime in my apartment. In the apartment parking lot, the leafblower is also used in the parking lot, and every week gets the exterior of my car filthy, as well as blowing dust and grit into the interior of my car (windows typically left cracked open 1/4 inch to keep car cool & car air fresh)

Prohibit gas & electric gas blowers on all properties in Davis city limits. Hire students & unhoused to sweep leaves in public areas. Property owners hire landscapers to sweep instead of blow. INVENT electric or solar-powered leaf Vacuum Cleaners to avoid dust & air pollution.

It's absurd to watch people blow leaves and dirt into the street multiple times a week. I hope leaf blowers are banned.

I don't love using my battery-powered leaf blower, but the daily accumulation of particulate matter and dirt from living so close to I-80 can make my backyard unusable. It's either the leaf blower or hose it down.

Time to begin phasing in electric Mowers.

Leaf blowers are no different than lawn mowers as a tool. They have similar noise, are used intermittently for property maintenance, and increase efficiency over hand labor. They are more convenient and cause minimal environmental disruption.

If the city is going to further restrict the use of gas- powered leaf-blowers but not electric ones, then there should be a fund set up so small landscaping companies can get grants to make this transition. Thanks!

I see no good reason to use leaf blowers. We need to encourage a less "perfect" outdoor aesthetic because leaf blowers are an extreme nuisance. Every time I pass one in use I get debris in my eyes, have an allergic reaction, and am outraged to see people chasing single leaves that are "messy".

Most of the leaf blowing I do is spend cleaning up the Magnolia leaves in the street. If I don't clean them up, they end up in my landscaping. I miss the weekly street sweeper.

Occasional use of electric leaf blowers reduces the need for residents using precious water to clear accumulated dirt from walk ways and home structures onto garden areas; potential levels of airborne dust from electric leaf blower use is relatively low risk compared to chronic airborne dust from surrounding agricultural operations and routine road traffic; community noise from occasional leaf blower use in no-way compares to the routine traffic noise on community streets from loud automobiles and motorcycles in our neighborhoods. IF the main complaint from residents is "noise" then the City should resource staff time to developing a community noise standard based on an "average C scale" with "not to exceed levels" and applied to "use permits" for commercial operations, and residential areas "not to exceed levels" and noise level limits before and after certain hours. And once a community standard is established, then acquire quality "Sound Level Meter(s)" and calibrator, the SLM must be capable of measuring both slow and fast response, document "peak" as well as average noise levels, and possibly impact noise. Then the City will need to ensure staff are properly trained in the proper measurement of "representative noise levels" relative to the City standard and have a thorough understanding of the properties of noise, i.e., the energy of noise significantly decreases with doubling the distance from a source and understand risk associated the frequencies of noise as well as noise control. Do we want to be The City of Trees there are consequences

I think banning leaf blowers would have a disproportionate impact on landscape workers who are predominantly Latino and low income. It would greatly increase the time and labor required for them to do the job and have an adverse economic impact on them. Is everyone in Davis who hires landscapers willing to pay them more for the increased labor hours that would be required? They also would not be able to do as many jobs since each would take longer.

We use a small electric blower in our property. It's not as noisy as gas blowers and not particularly powerful, but gets the job done. It takes 5 minutes to remove leaves/dust from our backyard. We have never heard a complain from our neighbors and I'd be happy to modify it's use if any of them has any problems. I've certainly been bothered by landscapers making noise and creating dust. I just try to be considerate to others. I think a full ban would be inconvenient.

I despise leaf blowers. They have no benefits in my opinion that you can't achieve with a rake and a broom. And, most leaves should be left on the earth to provide mulch and nutrients for plants. Just get rid of them already!!!

Leaf blowers are an easy and safe way for homeowners and landscapers to remove leaves. Please do not add additional restrictions.

Leaf blower used for such a small amount of time—ease of cleanup far outweighs transient noise, etc. A lot larger problems in the world!

Much ado over minimal concern. Encourage electric, especially for big companies, city etc but no need to micromanage.

Thank you! Did I mention how much I hate leaf blowers? Plus, I've heard they're terrible for insects.

Instead using leaf blower, use bloom. It is an extra work, but good for protect both worker and residents health. Thank you.

Leaf blowers will naturally phase in electric powered as time passes and CARB adds more restrictions so small off road engines. Electric leaf blowers are already more efficient than gas blowers. There is no better way to remove the hazard of leaf matter from trees. The fire hazard, slip- and-fall hazard and the increase in vermin/ insects are all a problem. Leaf blower use should be encouraged in neighborhoods with trees to keep property and citizens safe. The other option is to remove the trees but the city should want the trees for the shade and beauty. The liability for the tree waste (fire, and accident) should fall on the city if the removal of the leaves is discouraged by banning one of the best ways to get the tree waste into the green waste. The dust raised by leaf blowing is primarily in the PM10 range and is not really a health hazard as particles in the PM2.5 and smaller range are ... even when it is ashfall. Make sure you have the facts correct.

Use a broom or a rake. Sweep it up and put it in compost.

I would like to see less use of two-stroke engines. I suppose that most of the use of such blowers is by professionals, who use them a lot. Modern lithium battery units may become viable alternatives, but I don't want to foster a "nanny state," with climate change as the central dogma in all decisions. Prudent environmental stewardship should be encouraged, but not forced.

Blowers should not be used before 8:00 am.

Leaf blowers are a necessity! You should be servicing the city trees and maintaining the roadways and not wasting time policing residents cleaning their properties - many of which are impacted by the city not maintaining their trees! Including root protrusion into homes and greenbelts, overhang, landscaping crews not picking up leaves or fallen branches!

Please don't impose seasonal restrictions. It is very hard for those of us who take care of our own yard. I use electric and minimize use to 5-10 minutes a month. Banning certain days or seasons hurts the good actors. Please educate landscaping companies and require electric.

the South Davis Safeway landscape service has a man who blows the leaves and dust onto peoples parked cars, and he blows on windy days too (which is useless).

I think this is a racist issue masquerading as an important issue as most landscapers appear to be of latinx heritage and most concerns appear to be generated by privileged white residents.

Landscapers blowing leaves and debris onto neighboring properties should be considered illegal dumping of yard waste

Please ban all types of leaf blowers within City limits. Noise, pollution, blowing leaves and debris into others' yards and vehicles, health concerns (asthma, respiratory problems), piles of leaves and debris not picked up for much of the year, and other negative consequences far outweigh any benefits of leaf blowers. Please ban them now!

Education may work, regulation will certainly upset some or most people and probably financially harm those doing the work of landscaping services, maybe try an incentive program to subsidize electric leaf blowers?

In many cases, people operating leaf blowers seem unaware about the size of the dust cloud or the direction it is going. Twice within recent memory, workers at city parks (Whaleback and Arroyo) were making a huge dark cloud of dust across an adjacent street, so this is my tax dollars at work to harm me. Even if the leaf blower operator is watching for people and pauses, we are all supposed to pretend that the dust settles instantly, but of course the air still contains the fine particles that damage lungs. We need to eliminate the implicit bias that everyone supposedly drives past the dust cloud in a car with the windows closed, which is far from true in Davis. Other cities have phased out blowers, and now it is our turn. One time a residential landscape

worker on my street was blowing one leaf around in circles in the middle of the street, so that his boss (within earshot but out of view) could hear him "working," how pitiful is that?

This is over stretching by the city to restrict the use of an effective tool to manage leaves, dust and debris, often that is a result of city owned trees. Restricting use could cripple landscape businesses. Bad for business and bad for the elderly that rely on clean sidewalks.

People who live in Davis always seem to need some issue to complain about, it is time for this issue to go away by forgetting about it. But, hey, when all the plants die from lack of water there will not be anything to blow.

Stop wasting time and money on such a trivial subject.

I have a very large lot with many mature trees and a pea- gravel driveway that is 75 yards in length. Banning leaf blowers would literally would add hours and hours to the time each week that is required to maintain the property. Electric leaf blowers are insufficiently powered to clean everything on the property. Not cleaning ash off of sideways and driveways only permits it to be tracked into a person's house and garage where its presence is even more dangerous. A leaf blower can clean shrubbery, sideways, driveways, etc. by blowing the ash onto the grass where it is washed into the soil when the sprinklers come on. Certainly some ash goes airborne, but the net effect of using blowers in this case is health-positive.

There's generally too much obsessing about trying to control nature by cleaning up after trees as soon as they have dropped a few leaves on the ground. Years back, people would wait until all the leaves had fallen off a tree and then rake them up. It was quiet, it was clean and it was even fun for kids to jump into the piles of leaves. We don't need the noise pollution and air pollution that leaf blowers cause!

Some studies have shown that leaf blowers do NOT save time and are not more efficient than rakes or brooms!!! They are definitely deleterious to the hearing and lungs of users and nearby folk.

Let's improve quality of life in Davis by strictly limiting the use of noisy, polluting leaf blowers!

I would support banning all leaf blowers. But, the most important ban would be on gas leaf blowers; these are the primary culprit for noise, pollution and dust. And, gas blowers are the ones used by the "mow, blow and go" yard service companies.

Our home yard maintenance workers routinely use gas-powered leaf blowers, but we told them to never use them at our home. We haven't missed them. Leaf blowers are terrible! Please do something! I strongly support banning gas leaf blowers on residential properties, at a minimum.

Please ban them in the City of Davis.

Not sure about availability but it seems a good alternative would be leaf suction/vacuum for cleanup - maybe almost as fast and little resulting particulate plus collected leaves would be composted

The high frequency and decibel of gas leaf blowers can be heard many properties away. Makes for a constant drone all week long, many days for hours at a time. Commercial gardeners are routinely blowing debris into streets which then gets kicked up by cars and wind making for prolonged high particulate matter well after the gardener has left.

Climate change is real! Let's do something about it rather than sweep it under the rug and ignore it. Davis is often a city of lots of talk and little action. Sad.

The city should at least stop using leaf blowers to maintain green belts in residential neighborhoods. The biggest source of leaf blower noise in my neighborhood is the crews blowing the grass in the green belt between Colusa Ave and Hampton Dr.

Leaf blowers can be heard from several blocks away. They are loud even when I am inside my house. They get dust in my eyes and lungs when I bike by. They are terrible for the environment. They put everyone who hears them in a bad mood. Quick fixes for aesthetic landscaping problems should not be prioritized over health.

Leaf blowers are the perfect example of stupidity in society. No use at all. All noise and dust.

Leaf blowers are a shameful waste of resources with an unacceptable cost to air quality, noise, and public health. We can do better.

I find leaf blower noise to be a major irritant to those working and playing at home. The dust/particulate is also an issue when biking/walking. I can't imagine it is any better for local wildlife. I find the arguments about leaf blowers supporting one's livelihood disingenuous. I have worked as a landscaper without using leaf blowers....just like all the landscapers for all the generations before gas tools were invented. Rakes and brooms work fine. Why disturb people, animals, and operator health just to save a few minutes?

I often see workers going through the motions of leaf blowing when there are no leaves or debris to blow. They blow dirt off the planting areas removing the top soil. Leaves and debris end up accumulating next to the front door. Leaf blowing is inefficient, noisy, pollutant, and bad for the soil. The noise coming from leaf blowers is deafening :!it's like living by the highway. We need to stop these devilish polluting devices.

Leaf blowers are awful. If the electric ones are a lot quieter, I'd be ok with them, but if they're not, electrical and gas need to be banned in residential areas. Many other cities are ahead of Davis on this issue, for health, aesthetic and environmental reasons.

I cannot even take a daily walk without having to turn around due to the obnoxious dust/noise I have to walk into. Just having moved to Davis, I am shocked that a city that professes to be so "green" would allow this terrible and unhealthy nuisance.

I appreciate that the City Council is taking an interest in this matter. Leaf Blowers seem anachronistic given climate change & fire dangers. We can live with some leaves & dirt & use a broom as needed. Sweeping is good exercise.

Use of electric vacuum cleaners with air filters on them might be ok if not kicking up particulates

We live on a small cul de sac, every morning we try to enjoy breakfast outside on our patio and most mornings we end up having to go inside because some lawn company on our street starts using a gas powered leaf blower - it's loud, smells, stirs up dust, and there are no leaves even to blow right now. You can't bike around town without having to go through some dust storm created by a leaf blower. I feel so bad for all the kids biking to school in the mornings. And the pollution being added to already bad air quality is really concerning. I would support a full ban on all leaf blowers but think at a minimum the gas powered ones should be replaced by electric, and that they should only be allowed on certain days, certain times (not when kids are biking to and from school) and only when there is a real need.

There should be a neighborhood schedule similar to the garbage schedule. Neighborhood A can blow on Mondays, B on Tuesdays, etc. This way all the blowing in your area is done on one day and the rest of the week is quiet and fume free.

i'm not interested in the city "advising" or "suggesting" or "phasing out," i would like all leaf blowers banned from the city.

I think they are too noisy and too illumine . Stir up particulate matter that could be addressed with brooms. I support a complete ban on all leaf blowers

Leafblowers are imposed on us by our landlords. The questions here don't address the fact that people who live in rented homes (a fair share of Davis student population) doesn't choose their landscaping situation. Taking leaves out is detrimental to soil fertility. Having uniform green laws in an arid region like Davis is a luxury and that shouldn't be the norm.

Each neighborhood have certain days to use them and not the rest of the week. The constant and u predictable disruption is awful

Noise pollution is harmful, especially during a time when so many are working from Home! Also, use of a leaf blower during wildfire season is asinine.

They should go away!

I can't believe we're still discussing this. With concerns for noise, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas emissions, we need to stop using gas powered leaf blowers. Let's be looking forward into the future.

Ban gas leaf blowers within the city limits. They are a nuisance in terms of noise and pollution. Electric leaf blowers are quieter and do not spew oil fumes directly into the atmosphere.

I believe leaf blowers should be banned altogether given the astounding level of noise pollution they create and the sheer futility of blowing leaves from one spot to another, not to mention the health hazards they represent for their operators. Ban them all!

Only electric b/c they are quieter and don't emit GHG. Also educated commercial and home owners to only clear paths and leave the leaves in the environment to the greatest extent possible for mulch, wildlife, etc.

There are loud electric blowers as well as gas. It's possible to choose powerful electrics that aren't terribly loud.

Ozone pollution also a problem.

The city is wasting time and money discussing this topic. If they chose to ban leaf blowers, then they should come clean my property, at no cost to me, to keep my yard looking nice.

Regulations will hurt minority business owners the most. Why are you picking on Mexican Americans like this? This seems racist and I will till the City to not support hurting minority like this. Your white privilege is showing.

Leaf blowers are not the issue. People need to relax and stop worrying so much. The leaf blower is used for 5 minutes and then gone.

I believe banning use of leaf blowers is discrimination. I'm disabled and blowing the leaves is much easier on me. I do not use it after hours or super early in the morning.

I'm somewhat concerned about a precedent being set if leaf blowers are banned. What's to follow?: chain saws? Shop tools? Vacuum cleaners? Pressure washers? Roto tillers? Etc? There would need to be very specific definitions concerning what could or will not be changed. For example, if enacted, what prevents a landscape maintenance company from using a polluting 2-cycle gas generator to power electric blowers to get around a proposed blower ordinance? Who will be monitoring noise and emissions levels and how will the CoD fairly charge residents for that, especially considering a large number of people who are against their use are exempt, as renters, from paying County property taxes.

one of these reasons I did not enroll my third child at peregrine south for preschool was because the landscaping crew at the apartment complex on the property next door would "leaf blow" once a week. the crew would be 6 inches from the kids and not care at all. they kicked up dirt and feces and noxious gas cloud that hung over the outdoor playground for an extended period of time. absolutely foul. plenty of cities in CA have banned leaf blowers. we can too.

I am hugely annoyed by leaf blowers every Friday morning at 7:30 am when 3 loud blowers converge near my home blowing dust, pollen, and leaves into my backyard. The City should have banned all blowers long ago, and has never given this issue sufficient attention. They are a public nuisance. Going back to using brooms will provide more landscaping jobs and better protect air quality, noise, and our quality of life.

Leaf blowers should be subject to noise level limits (measured in decibels) and only be used for removal of leaves during periods of the year when leaves present a nuisance or hazard. Leaf blowers should not be allowed year round and for all debris removal where rakes or removal by hand is possible and nearly as efficient. Because many people work from home now, leaf blowers should only be allowed to operate in mid to late afternoon and never during or in the weeks following fire where air quality is degraded and/or ashen fallout is present. All leaf blowers should be electric - either battery powered or plug-in.

Prior to moving to Davis, I lived in Washington DC, where gas leaf blowers were recently banned for noise and environmental reasons. I found it to be a major improvement in my quality of life and the measure was very popular after coming into effect.

Please phase out gas leaf blowers! Noisy, smelly, and likely bad for those who use them for work and certainly not good for the environment.

Although my lawn care person uses blowers, I would rather they not. The noise and dust are horrible.

I think the city council is filled with bafoons if this ridiculous proposal gets any more legs.

Give incentives for non 2 stroke gas use to commercial contractors. We have to clean the ash somehow during and post fire season - you don't want water used, as it gets in the run off - brooms are not sufficient. Blowers are problematic for a short period but do the work - so pick which method you are going to support cause you can't ban everything. It is ridiculous how much policing and infringement others want to force on everyone.

Please do not police how people keep their yards clean.

We should not make it even more difficult and expensive for hard-working people to earn a living in our town.

Placing additional restrictions on leaf blowers will increase landscaping costs and reduce leaf cleanup. We use an electric leaf blower to tidy up but our landscaper uses gas powered. The gas is much more effective. Additionally, for anyone who zeroscaped their lawn to conserve water, one of the only ways to clean it (if it's a rock area) is with a leaf blower. You can't rake or sweep. Our landscaper does not use a leaf blower on our lawn, only the zeroscape area

I think current policy is adequate. Until you can provide an alternative for cleaning up debris from hardscape like river rock, don't take away the leaf blowers.

I worry about the workers exposed to the fumes.

Gas blower noise is very stressful. I think use needs to be severely limited. Blowers should not be kicking up ash and dust. Use a pressure washer.

there is nothing wrong with a broom and leaf rake.

They make one area leaf free while blowing dust and leaves somewhere else.

The landscapers used on our property create clouds and clouds of dust and fumes because they will use a gas powered leafblower on walkways that are clear of debris. This seems a waste of time and money; plus it creates unnecessary noise and air pollution. The fumes seep into my living room as well. It is not only unplesent, but creates unhealthy air quality for residents, in their apartments! The use of gas powered tools accomplish nothing except what I refer to as the "Pigpen effect". Anything we can do to prohibit this source of pollution is welcome.

If gardeners and landscapers need to phase out gas blowers, they should get some stipend or incentive in the form of money to cover the cost of buying electric blowers. I think leaves are beneficial on yards as it gives cover to bugs. There is an irrational need for cleanliness when it comes to yard clean up. And I prefer to sweep or rake as it's cheaper than therapy. Not cost effective for labor rates though.

Gas leaf blowers RUIN the quality of life in Davis. They are noisy, they pollute, and they are unnecessary. They should be banned.

Any phase out of gas leaf blowers should be gradual. A lot of low income landscapers have invested a lot of money in their gas blowers, and it would be unfair to suddenly deprive them of this tool they depend on for their income.

Gas blowers have no place in a civilized society.

Please ban the use of gas blowers they are the worst for our health and the climate situation.

Moved here only months ago and very surprised that Davis, which professes to be "green" allows this obnoxious noise and air pollution.

Thank you for doing the bare minimum of requesting feedback. Please the City NEEDS to do something about this. This is a huge hit to quality of life impact in this city by allowing gas powered leaf blowers to continue being used. The noise and emissions are insane!

I use a rake and a broom in maintaining the debris on my residential property. It's quiet and effective and doesn't affect my neighbors' property by blowing my dust and debris onto their property. It also respects the peace and quiet of the neighborhood. Leaf blowers are intrusive on all levels in residential neighborhoods.

My main issue is NOISE and they often start too early in the morning spoiling a quiet peaceful morning.

So many residents have weekly yard service and these service-providers automatically use their (heavy-duty) leaf blowers at each visit, regardless of amount of yard debris. You can hear them across the neighborhood on a daily basis. It would be an improvement to our well-being to be able to have some regular no-blower days and hear more peaceful sounds (birds, etc.).

Residential use is not my concern. The amount of dust and noise is insignificant in neighborhoods. The use of blowers in downtown is my concern. Walk down 3rd street on Mondays at 7am and 8am. The amount of dust kicked up in downtown is unbelievable! More than residential dust! There are vacuum types that would be preferable to blowing! Rethink the tool. Don't blow dust and dirt! Pick it up with vacuum. This is the responsible approach. Call me at 530-400-3250

None

As much as I love Davis-topia, this craziness about the use of leaf blowers is ridiculous. If you want to ban gas-powered ones for the greenhouse emissions, fine, although know that it will impact people's livelihoods and the look of landscaping in our beloved community. But, really, stop the insanity. There is only a vocal minority who feel strongly about this issue. I am definitely not one of them.

I would really prefer to eliminate all leaf blowers, rather than just gas leaf blowers as all leaf blowers damage our hearing, our plants, animals, and put harmful dust in the air. I didn't ask for that in the answers above because I think that there would be too much negative reaction if all leaf blowers were banned. Therefore, I am asking for the banning of gas leaf blowers only. Public education along with that would be good about the damage done to soil, plants and animals and ourselves from all leaf blowers.

I don't think it is fair to outlaw. Too heavy handed.

I would at the least like to see the City encourage the contracted companies (like Coast) to NOT use leaf blowers if the wind is over 10mph. All that does is move the leaves from one side of the street to another and raise the pollen/dust levels.

This is crazy, no restrictions

The amount of particulates they kick up is unacceptable.

Reckless use, creating huge clouds of dust, which settles over neighbors' property, not to mention the agony of riding a bike or walking past this type of activity. Early morning use is also ridiculous, and mostly unnecessary.

Despite current regulations prohibiting use of blowers on days exceeding 100 AQI, neighbors landscapers routinely use blowers on those days, even though they've been told not to. Education is useless, Enforcement is impossible therefore an outright ban is the only feasible solution.

Please ban them. They are horrible. People can use a broom and a rake as has been done for thousands of years prior to their invention. The nuisance that they cause neighbors and damage to the environment is not worth any time or physical exercise savings to users.

I think you are hearing from a vocal minority on this issue that do not consider the negative impacts banning leaf blowers would have on the state of our parks/streets. I do support leave blower bans during times of high particulate matter (ex wildfire season when our air pollution is "orange")

Short of a total ban on all blowers, please restrict gas blowers - they have worse effects than electric blowers.

Too noisy

Los Gatos already outlawed GAS leaf blowers. Why not ask them about this? They gave 1 year notice so all landscape companies could change their equipment out. This has been very successful. The residents and tourists alike love it! Noise pollution is not good for business! Gas leaf blowers create serious noise pollution. They are a menace. Plus, leaves do not have to be blown away every week. Limit blowing to once a month or less. Blowing all

leaves and matter off the topsoil is also bad for trees which need leaf mulch to protect their roots. There is no need to "leaf blow" entire parking lots routinely and certainly not once a week....especially since most crews just blow the leaves off the property into vacant areas or onto the neighbors' properties. Dust pollution is also a mess. And when you scalp the dirt down (no cover of mulch or leaves) then the dust blows around even after the crews leave. The "dust bowl" effect is real. Lastly, leaf mulch conserves water. Bare soil dries out much faster than planted or mulched areas or where leaves are allowed to pile up a bit. Trees suffer when people put in rocks as groundcover. This is often done because leaf blowers blow all the bark mulch away or at least they push it around. Rocks do not get disturbed by leaf blowers; but they do not hold in moisture, replenish the soil or protect roots, either. Making money is the main driver behind the Mow and Blow maintenance model. Instead, grounds persons could use their time watering, pulling weeds, planting, tree care including "good" pruning, removing old stakes, fixing broken irrigation, mulching and doing deferred maintenance that never seems to get done. There is plenty of grounds work out there besides using an obnoxious leaf blower.

We live next to a city bike path/greenbelt. Very little is done by the city anymore. Trees are not maintained, paths get so covered by leaves that they become a hazard. We neighbors clean and maintain a good chunk of the path near us, otherwise everything would be an absolute mess. And yes we must use a leaf blower once in a while. Bottom line is little is getting done in the city to maintain greenbelts, streets, and trees. Outlawing blowers will make this problem very obvious. Training professional gardeners would help a great deal, but the city should allow private individual property owners to keep a leaf blower as most private blowers are not used nearly as often, not as powerful, and debris is kept within the property instead of blown on the street and into other neighbors property. Most gardeners are not very careful about where the debris is blown, how much gets blown in neighbors yards, and know little of the restrictions, and rules. I've had to explain to gardeners on multiple occasions about starting times, air quality restrictions, and use of multiple blowers on the same small lot. I have not witnessed this problem with property owners using their own blowers.

For some residents, using a leaf blower is probably the only way they can physically manage the leaves on their properties. That's why I think allowing electric leaf blowers might be necessary.

Too much noise; too much dust stirred up.

The elimination of all things non-electric is very short sighted. We already have a major electrical supply shortage to deal with. Get real people.

I would rather see the young people of Davis be given a chance to earn pocket money by using rakes and leaf bags like the old days. Much less noise, dust in the air and great way to keep kids out of trouble.

Stop wasting tax payers' money and time on such ridiculous issues. If you implement restrictions, people are still going to clean off their driveways and sidewalks with a garden hose. You guys are a bunch of idiots for even considering this matter.

Banning gas-powered leaf blowers should have happened decades ago. Let's quickly phase out those obnoxious noise monsters.

We have to reduce pollution of the environment by all means available to us.

I am more concerned about the traffic issues and the continued building of apartment complexes and Davis versus leaf blower's. I'm also concerned about the lack of support for the police department

I just don't like the noise of them.

Use a rake!

I would like to be able to continue to use my electric leaf blower for certain types of garden clean up tasks, such as cleaning the leaves out of my rocky dry stream bed, where raking isn't really feasible due to the uneven surface of the rocks.

We suffer from our neighbors' "mow, blow, and go" yard service. The noise and smelly exhaust, plus the dirt blown over our fence, are unacceptable and unhealthy. There was life before gas leaf blowers, wasn't there? Using rakes and brooms is good exercise. Afterwards, an occasional use of our small battery-operated blower does a quick, quiet job and creates no noise, smell, pollution, or clouds of dirt to disturb our neighbors.

I thought electric models are better but apparently not with contributing to air pollution and micro particles. I do not use one. I use a broom and enjoy it.

Leaf blowers are essential in maintaining clean and safe gardens and sidewalks. Any restrictions or bans on leaf blowers are not making Davis greener, but less green. Leaf blower bans and restrictions are an anti-gardening measures.

Rather than leaf blowers I suggest looking at the feasibility of using something that vacuums the leaves.

The system in place is good. If the air quality is poor, no leaf blowers. Otherwise, it should be permitted. If the decision is made to ban leaf blowers, there will be increased accidents on slippery leaves. The landscaping will cost more money. A lot of equipment already purchased will be wasted.

I support the phasing out of gas powered leaf blowers, for the noise and exhaust levels they create. Davis is a city of trees and open space that does require a high degree of landscape maintenance. Raking it all is not the answer. Electric leaf blowers are and they are evolving into functional and efficient machines

Best plan: ban leaf blowers entirely as they create ill will between neighbors. Second best: Electric only and must blow so no debris lands on someone else's property. It's disrespectful and unhealthy besides being noisy.

I think every property that wants to use a leaf blower should apply for a permit. There should be different types of permits. I live in a residential house at the T-joint of two streets. The entire street in front of me, blows into my yard. I would apply for a permit for some schedule of occasional use, or number of times per year I could blow. The worst situation is the "mow and blow" operations, both commercial and residential that run their blowers every week even when there are only a few leaves to gather. That needs to end.

1) I marked "slightly effective" on the outreach question because I kinda think most people who care are already aware that blowers are problematic - especially after the ban last summer. I'm worried that the holdouts are the recalcitrant type on whom logic has limited utility. 2) I'd support any degree of limitations on type of blower / type of property - anything is better than 0. But might as well dream big and say I support full phase out. 3) Might add that letting leaves stay is helpful for overwintering species of bugs -

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewiPppPV1NTwAhW8KDQIHe3pDfsQFjAKegQIBBAD&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nwf.org%2FHome%2FMagazines%2FNational-Wildlife%2F2020%2FDec-Jan%2FGardening%2FWinter-Yards&usg=AOvVaw2TRbgBdZVNsWyoqyRDjOAp>

Include concerns about health effects on those who use blowers for a living - workers based on what owner expects them to do

Gas leaf blowers are very polluting and not necessary electric blowers work just as well and are less noisy

As a senior citizen the leafblower is a valuable tool to keep my property safe and clean. If leafblower use I would be forced to use water on the sidewalks and hard scapes I am not in favor of more regulation and hope you consider these comments

I used to have a plug in electric leaf blower - that was loud. Not as loud as a gas blower, but still loud. I purchased a battery electric blower more recently and it is significantly quieter. Ban the gas blowers; keep the electric.

Talk to Robert Harless, retired owner of Sequoia Gardening. He knew how to properly purchase a use a leaf blower (after raking).

Given that leaf blowers are also used to blow leaves from roofs as well as debris from around the house not simply walkways and given that we adhere to the time of use as well as restrictions due to AQ and/or fire danger, I feel that this is sufficient. Going all electric although may sound "green" brings along problems of electricity use or battery disposal safely. I think we need to think beyond what possibly sounds good or makes us feel good. Having worked in the recycling sector of our economy, there is far more to saving energy, reducing noise, and reducing CO2 emissions than the vast majority of people even want to hear about or look into. When this blower needs replacing, we are looking at the battery operated ones now that they have longer recharge life and it appears that there is going to be a safe way to recycle the battery.

Leaf blowers cause an incredible amount of daily noise pollution that is not necessary and causes a great deal of stress living in apartment complex. My friends and colleagues also talk about the incessant loud noise from leaf blowers causing unnecessary stress which happens multiple times a week for several hours at a time.

Seasonal ban on leaf blowers to include wildfire season, days when AQI is unhealthy. Also, no leaf blowing when it's really windy — such a waste.

i am concerned that people who make a living using leaf blowers as part of their business will suffer unfairly. if they are banned during fire season then what about all the garden debris that will remain and become a fire hazard? i would appreciate having less noise in the early morning hours but i know that these businesses service several properties in a day and this restriction is prohibitive to their business model and their customers' needs.

I think the city has their hands full with visual blight. I use one at home and I am also a property manager with at least 50 properties serviced by gardeners who use them. If gardeners have to hand rake and broom clean up- they couldn't stay in business with current rates. They would have to at minimum double their charges. The impact would result in owners cancelling services - and ultimately result in neighborhood blight. As mentioned previously, the city cannot handle the current blight effectively. Restricted hours in residential areas is appropriate - not commercial. Gardeners and cleaning people need to blow in commercial areas when businesses are closed and unpopulated.

The city exempts itself from noise limits; that should be changed. The city should lead by example.

Since more and more people are foregoing doing their own yard work, there are more commercial landscapers using leaf blowers. How will you make these restrictions on commercial landscapers that travel throughout the city? Noise is a big concern. Restrict use until after 12 pm weekends.

Homeowners should be encouraged to ask their landscapers not to use leafblowers.

With the poor air quality we already have, and the health disparities for low wage workers, including landscapers, its way past time for us to ban this useless polluting activity

In #7, you didn't ask about noise. Gas powered leaf blowers can be heard from the next block over.

I literally hate blowers period !! They just blow the debris from point A to B and while that is being done the air is filthy, hard for me to breathe and the sand and gravel is blown all over our vehicles in my apartment complex. It's cause damage to electric winds because the sand and gravel gets down into the window/door panel and it scratches the window and eventually will cut the guide wire or just destroys the electric motor. This has happened to 2 vehicles of mine over the years. I refer to all blowers as " LAZY MAN BROOMS !!!

I'm concerned that people who are annoyed by leaf blowers will take the survey in greater numbers than others who don't see blowers as a problem, thereby skewing the survey results

I think the use of gas leaf blowers by yard maintenance companies yield the majority of complaints especially from the entitled Stonegate community.

It is difficult to work at home when five of your neighbors all around you who is landscapers are blowing for three consecutive hours to get all five houses done is a noise concern. Unfortunately many landscapers do not speak English and don't seem to care when you ask them to reduce the length of time blowing. I think a financial penalty for excess noise for each gas blower should be considered.

My husband and I do all our own yard work and use our electric leaf blower for short periods of time and only a couple of times a year. We have a large lot in Davis with very large, mature trees, as do all our immediate neighbors. The problem as I see it is a simple one. Lawn services are now doing a majority of our neighbors' yards. A crew of several people show up, often at times when no homeowner would be doing a yard, fire up 1 - 3 gas-powered leaf blowers and let 'em rip. The noise is intense and the dust clouds blow over our back yard fence and land on our table and chairs, or blow in the front yard and cover our cars. Some yards are scoured and only hard-packed dirt remains. It seems we are plagued at all hours of the day and throughout the week. In other neighborhoods, I've watched crews blow some of the debris into other yards or into the street. Working at home is disrupted; sleep is disrupted.

The problem has gotten worse with each passing year. We keep an incredibly neat yard without this nuisance. Even if lawn crews were only allowed to use

a blower once a month on each property, there would be a vast improvement in the quality of life in Davis. Even better if the noise started after 10:30 AM. Mostly a blower isn't necessary, and there are plenty of yard crews firing them up all the time to blow up a handful of leaves. I've been in Davis for over 40 years, and this problem only started once everyone stopped doing their own yard work. The problem has been the yard crews and their overuse of blowers, the hours they fire them up, the number they fire up, and the duration for which the "job" seems to last. When 80% of your neighbors are using crews, you've got a real problem on your hands.

People that think leaf blowers are a noise issue should not live in a populated area.

The City should not ban use on private property, but should focus on outreach and incentivize trade in of gas blowers for electric powers (through rebates - both for commercial and residential users).

Leaf blowers are an idiotic idea used by idiots, morons and vandals.

Leaf blowers completely interfere with the quiet enjoyment of my property. It is not fair to shift the cost of landscape maintenance for another persons property onto me

I think it ridiculous to restrict the use of leaf blowers. It is just another way to control and take away an individual's choice. Leaf blowers are used for a minimal amount of time.

Leaf blowers, especially the gas powered ones, have become such an industry standard that we can't find a landscaping company that would consider using an alternative. Municipal governments should pass ordinances to phase these out in order to pressure the industry to develop cost-effective alternatives.

This city has been a leader in environmental policy. Banning gas and restricting leaf blowers may seem like a drop in the bucket, but I cannot open my door with out hearing the leaf blowers for hours on Sat and Mondays. Perhaps an incentive to gardeners? Just ask those cities who have banned them, and successfully.

Have them use a damn rake and broom when it isn't windy and rainy. I do my area and they still blow the dust around even in 12 mile an hour wind!

Lawn mowers are pretty loud too.

We have many trees on our property and neighborhood. Eliminating the use of blowers would make for unkept yards, and City streets as well as increased costs for additional cleanup help. It would also significantly impact many workers (many of whom are ethnic minorities) who make a living doing landscape cleanup with leaf blowers.

The noise contamination is absolutely terrible. We need to get rid of all kinds of blowers.

clean all of the streets, one by one. and need to arrange the cars parking schedule time , when clean the street , the car need to move away. make easy to clean. Davis street so dirty.

To clarify -- I do not actually use a leaf *blower*, but rather a leaf *sucker/vacuum*, which does not result in dust or debris being blown around (leaves, etc. are deposited into a sealed container). Perhaps the City could consider recommending those types of equipment to landscapers. In any case, I do not believe it is reasonable to outlaw yard maintenance equipment. It is already burdensome enough not being able to put yard refuse in the street for pickup for the whole summer.

Use of leaf blowers is no different than once upon a time having people legally blowing cigarette/pipe/cigar smoke into our faces at work, restaurants, stores,..... With all the health concerns of many in our community, how can you possibly allow leaf blowers to further degrade our lives????!!!

The subjective ease of cleaning with leaf blowers contributes to sterility that is contrary to arboreal health and the quality of the habitat under trees and underground. The subjective ease of cleaning with leaf blowers also enables the yard waste program that both contravenes state policy on water quality but also makes the street more dangerous for people riding bikes. Currently legal yard waste leads to the expected mimicry, resulting in many illegal piles in e.g. bike lanes. While the priority "top of the pyramid" is that leaves should be left where they fall and swept to neighboring permeable areas when

they fall on hardscape, it is reasonable to also create in-situ composting facilities (see below about a related labor issue). The "green bin" should be available for anything that can't be home composted. The most important human involved in this issue is the worker who uses the equipment. They should be supported with re-training to increase their skill set in yard work, if they choose to stay in this field. They could be trained to build and maintain the aforementioned in-situ composting facilities. The main reason to transition leaf blowing is to support these people; otherwise it could be done sooner. All non-electric yard equipment (lawnmowers, chainsaws, etc) should also be phased out. Used gas blowers and everything else should not be sold to a less-enlightened community, but should instead be recycled or disposed of as cleanly as possible.

I understand that landscapers need to use blowers, would prefer that they use electric. However, I would like there to be restrictions on how many days a week one can use a blower on their property. I had a neighbor who used her blower multiple times per week and for 1-2 hours at a time, including during wind and rain, and most objectionably, during the fire season when we had smoky days in August and September last year. The noise was a nuisance, especially when we were all working from home during the pandemic. We couldn't have our windows open because of the dust blown to our side of the fence, etc. Having the leaf blower ban last year helped to curb her blower use. It would be nice to have ongoing restrictions limiting the frequency and duration of blower use in residential neighborhoods.

Leaf blowers are noisy, destructive, and dirty.

Noise and disruption of leaf blowers has become unbearable and I strongly urge outlawing them in city limits

I think that electric Leaf Blowers could be a reasonable solution if needed.

Don't mess this up like the yard waste pick up/Recology.

It takes more time to rake and sweep, but Davis property owners who can afford a gardener can afford to pay for the extra time it takes.

Especially for residences, there is no reason that gas-powered leaf blowers should continue to be allowed. They're noisy, dusty, and polluting. Thank you for considering phasing them out!

The City must not introduce additional prohibitions against leaf blowers, which are highly effective tools for landscape maintenance.

I think that restriction of leaf blowers during fire season is questionable. If leaves and other flammable are collected, doesn't help deter fires. Don't understand why street pickup has stopped during fire season...the time when it is needed, especially after wind storms.

I would be happy to give up my electric leaf blower and just sweep if the city passed limits

Thank you for looking into this!

Who is speaking for the poor gardeners who stand in the middle of these toxic clouds all day long? What argument for efficiency or cleanliness outweighs the health of our most vulnerable citizens? The job of public leaders is to protect our health. We make these decisions every day. History will laugh on leaf blowers.

Wednesday they blow debris into my neighbors yard. Thursday they blow that same debris across the street to my other neighbor. Friday they blow it from across the street back to my place. Good times! They fill up my house with fumes, every week. Please make it stop. They don't actually move any amount of debris that can't otherwise be picked up with a rake and tarp. They form piles in the streets, which block precious parking because The City is never going to come pick it up. Why don't they bag it? Kicking up ash and dust may perhaps be the worst. There are no leaves to blow from April to November, just a nasty fire season. After it rains, the leaves don't get blown away because they stick. As a result, I have slipped in crosswalks and on steps many times. Grabbing a broom or rake would actually make a safer environment. Leaf blowers absolutely contribute to urban smog and reduced enjoyment. Half of Davis rents, and therefore pay for landscaping services that bring no joy nor provide any service besides frustration. I have pictures and video to prove my points. This has long been an unfortunate part of Davis life. Thanks for any action taken!

There has to be a quieter alternative to what is used today. Given the number of apartment complexes/condos in Davis, hardly a day goes by where conversation isn't drowned out by the abominations. I don't think talking with landscapers helps all that much...during the last ban, they were still used here. They're always used...rain, wind, or shine. It's nice to see this being addressed.

If they were all run on Low instead of High the noise and debris level would fall rapidly.

They kick up unhealthy particulate matter, including rodent feces and plant allergens.

Leaf blowers should only be allowed in leaf falling season when they are used to blow leaves, not dirt/dust/debris

Most leaf blowers have a vacuum mode in addition to a blowing mode. Allowing electric leaf "blowers" to be used in the vacuum mode would address all of the issues associated with leaf blowers, but would still allow people/ businesses to use a mechanized means of cleaning their yards.

I just wish the mow and go companies would have more respect for the neighborhood and not blow all the crap over the fence to the neighbors yards and all the dust and pollen into the air and into my house.

Leaf blowers could be run at less than full power and they would be quieter.

Use not before 9 am and after 5pm

We are tired of the increased restrictions that seem to be coming more often with each passing year.

Please move with new regulations as soon as possible. My neighbor's lawn crew just last week blew all the dust and leaves over the fence in my yard. Terrible noise also!! Whatever happened to using a broom?

If the city of Davis wishes to ban gas powered leaf blowers for environmental (climate) reasons that would be acceptable if the city would also provide a significant amount of money to those who use gas powered leaf blowers to replace their equipment with electric substitutes. It is my sincere belief that leaf blowers are used heavily by landscaping businesses and therefore these owner/workers need financial support to replace their equipment if outlawed or further restricted by city edict. In addition, to not have access to ANY leaf blowing equipment would have an unwelcome income-reducing effect. The individual use of leaf blowers would also be adversely impacted since it is often only through these labor and time saving devices that many are able to maintain their property.

Stop the use of ALL Gasoline-powered lawn equipment. Allow low-speed, low-noise electric blowers only to be used by residents, and for not longer than 15 minutes at a time. No blowing at all from June through October, no matter how good the air quality is (do NOT have a ban on air quality. When good, lets KEEP it good!) Educate EVERYBODY about composting in place. We do not need to move every leaf from where it falls.

I would suggest if you ban leaf blowers my yard is going to be full of leaves in the fall. I am not going to continually rake them up, so they can just stay there....perhaps they will blow into my neighbors yard during one of the wind storms...or they will dry and be there as mulch for the summer.....

Even tho "expensive" to hire people to clean yards, physical raking promotes health, keeps air clean, and is quiet. People are lazy. We do not like blowers!

Considering that most landscapers need to make a living and they accommodate their clients accordingly, if people are going to ban leaf blowers they should be willing to pay the landscaper more for the time they lose and therefore business/money they lose because of it.

I'll give up my leaf blower when they pry it out of my cold, dead hands.

I am thrilled this is being considered! Gas leaf blowers are horrible for the environment and the people using them.

Restrictions should apply to all property types. Noise and pollution need to be reduced.

work quickly and get the job done. Not every leaf has to be chased. Some leaves can be left to compost in place. Dinner plate clean is not necessary.

use your time on more important issues like maintaining the roads and greenbelts

I highly commend the city for taking emergency action this past fall to temporarily ban the use of leaf blowers during high air pollution days, associated with wildfires. I empathize with the complexity of the issue as garden maintenance businesses will likely have a hard time powering electric devices.

However, I believe there is evidence that the electric are less guilty than the gas ones at making allergens and pollutants become airborne again - and in even smaller diameter in breaking down, making them even more dangerous still - due to their power.

This is crazy - those who make the least (lawn maintenance types) would suffer the most if blowers are restricted. The amount of work sweeping by hand would entail vs. blowers is substantial - once again, lets dump on the poor.

I don't like leaf blowers. I wish the harmful effects on the landscapers who use them had been mentioned - they are the ones that suffer the most exposure to dust and fumes, eye injury, and the economic impacts of banning them. If we can't address all the issues surrounding leaf blowers (including just how bad it is to have bare soil instead of mulch/leaves); living wage for landscapers so they can use brooms and rakes; instruction on how to maintain landscapes in a climate friendly way (mulch, use human power instead of engine power, keep our stormwater clean and on our property, then I think we need to keep them. My other idea is to regulate just how powerful leaf blowers can be. Their harmful effects are less if they aren't used at full power. Also, if the city chooses to ban gas-powered blowers, then I ask the City to coordinate with the State Air Resources Board on a swap for electric blowers, so landscapers don't have to pay for a new tool. To be clear, this is yet another social justice issue, with BIPOC folks providing the labor, and white land owners providing the complaints.

Gas powered blowers should be banned everywhere in the city. Battery technology has progressed well past the point that gas blowers, with their exhaust, GHG impacts and noise can be justified in any situation.

I don't feel like the bike path near my home is being maintained properly so we use the blower to keep it cleaned up and safe.

I see too many leaf blowers used by commercial "landscapers" to blow dust and debris from people properties onto the street instead a sweeping. This practice is a nuisance especially for pedestrians and bike riders. It is also utterly futile as the dust and debris are later blown back where it came from by passing cars. Sweeping, picking up and disposing of the dust and debris should be required instead.

Main concern - health hazard for those who use them (low-wage employees). Secondary concern that I can live with: noise. The first concern informs my interest in banning diesel blowers. I hope that drives the cost up for landscape service and that we bear that brunt as property owners. My fear is that it will lower the profit margin on landscape services to the detriment of small business and employees. I have no problem with electric leaf-blowers.

Re Noise: there is plenty of other transient noise in our lives. Leafblowers should not be singled out for restrictions. Dust: There are dust clouds formed every time a car drives down our street due in large part to the massively reduced street sweeping schedule. North winds bring dirt from farm fields regularly. Maybe you want to outlaw farms? Unfair and ridiculous to complain about dust from leafblowers. Greenhouse gasses: We are entering a new Maunder Minimum, so the earth will be getting quite a bit cooler, no matter the CO2 (which itself actually lags the warming cycles, rather than cause them). Restrictions on blowers or type serve to penalize those who will not be able to afford the subsequently more expensive landscape maintenance services, lead to increased rents as costs increase, and impose costs on those who are forced to junk their perfectly good blowers.

I'm so glad to live in a city where this issue is being studied.

They are used briefly, not in an prolonged way, easier for professional gardeners to be efficient. This is a silly concern by our residents.

some kind of program to make electric leaf blowers available to landscapers, and to make charging and extra batteries feasible. I'd gladly pay extra and store a charged battery

We want residents to clean up yards. Older residents cannot rake up all the debris. Leaf blowers save time and energy and encourage cleanup. DO NOT limit their use. Most will use them at a reasonable hour for as short a time as possible. We can't all afford Tesla's so do not outlaw gas blowers locally. Stop the city workers from abusing the use of their loud leaf blowers that they just blow all the stuff all over without ever cleaning it up and constantly blowing at my house and on my property and all over the parks and streets and bike paths
Trees drop leaves as part of their life cycles. Self-mulching. Organic matter is returned to the soil, not dumped into the air or people's cars and lungs. The pollution is appalling. Climate change, anyone? Also, the leaf blower handlers that I see typically blow leaves around onto other properties, into the streets, back onto the blown areas. Particulates of many types are blown into the air. Not just leaf bits and dirt, but oil particles, asphalt bits, possibly pathogens. Many cities have banned them. Davis is progressive in many areas, but not in this one.

Enough of Mother Government already

It is the back pack high noise leaf blowers that are the major problem in my view. The noise and dust carriers very far and they pose a hazard from fumes to the workers using them.

My neighborhood probably needs to deal with more leaves and debris than any other in town. Even so, leaf blower use is very intermittent and very brief. Please, let's not make a big deal out of this.

Anyone that opposes leaf blowers should spend their time raking to see how much time and effort it takes. If too restricted the additional cost will be passed on to the homeowner, landscapers will be there for extended periods, or they may opt to seek work outside of Davis. Leaves will fill our yards and streets.

Education (re: question 8) is important. I often see gardeners blowing dust indiscriminately into the air, where it just settles again after they've left. Also, a gradual phase-out of gas blowers, with incentives to move to electric, would help some maintenance firms with limited resources.

I strongly endorse new restrictions on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers as they spew 1/3 of the gasoline used into the atmosphere and cause a major nuisance in terms of noise and particulates that lodge in our lungs and cause or make worse respiratory diseases. It's about time that these outdated machines were relegated to the past to eliminate this source of air pollution and greenhouse gases and to protect public health.

I hope the city makes this an issue of importance. Leaf blowers are really just dirt blowers once leaves have fallen and been cleaned up. The citizens of Davis should not have to put up with the noise and air pollution that are the result of the almost daily use of leaf blowers in all city neighborhoods.

I wish blowers could be phased out in the whole county.

Electric leaf blowers can occasionally be very useful on residential properties, like when blowing debris off a roof or when a quick cleanup is required. I wouldn't want them banned altogether, although I would support restrictions. Gas-powered blowers, on the other hand, are extremely polluting, super noisy and powerful enough to kick up lots of debris. We strongly support a complete phase out of gas-powered leaf blowers within the City of Davis. How would you enforce any regulation on leaf blowers? is this just a means to generate revenues through fines instead of tackling the noise and gas emissions problem?

Raking and sweeping hurts my back. Using my electric leaf blower 6-8 times a year does not. If I were not allowed to use a blower, I would have to hire someone to take care of yard cleanup. This would be an additional expense for someone living on a fixed income, which would not be appreciated. If you ban all blowers, including electric, what are we to do about tree debris on rock paths that can't be raked or swept or even addressed with a tarp (I've tried all those—the tarp doesn't stay put, especially in the awful 3-d winds. I spent 9 hrs cleaning up tree debris after the Jan mega-wind storm.)? On my street, blower use noise is tolerable.

Electric only and only during peak leaf drop. No use in downtown commercial district during normal business hours. Encourage electric vacuums for commercial areas.

I think it would be a good idea to offer a financial benefit for buying electric blowers if the City decides to only ban gas blowers. I also think that property owners should be liable if someone breaks the ban and that property owners could provide either the electric blower or access to power. Obviously, compensation needs to allow for more time by yard services if they can no longer use leaf blowers.

City does not enforce current leaf blower restrictions, adding additional restrictions that won't be enforced is pointless. Leaf blowers are often over used or used inappropriately, but that doesn't mean they should be banned. There are far too many large landscaped areas, especially City-owned, that are already poorly maintained, removing tools with no viable options to replace them will make this worse (no, manually raking/sweeping giant parks and miles of green belt is not feasible).

Our home is surrounded by 7 other homes so we are exposed to dust and gas emissions from landscapers almost every day. Every time a blower starts we have to rush to close our windows. There is no reason to use a blower outside leaf drop season.

My family lives in Berkeley, and they indicate that, although there is a leaf blower ban there, people continue to use leaf blowers and there is no enforcement. What are thoughts as to enforcement here in Davis, should any measure to curtail or prohibit use be adopted? Also- here in Davis, it is almost a joke because it's so frequent- but when we have wind events, the leaf blowers are still at it, blowing dust and leaves and dirt up into the air where it swirls around and then. . . . comes back down. I would advocate for a measure that imposed limitations not only during fire season but also during on windy days. They're ineffective during those times. For me, noise is of prime concern. Studies show that noise causes stress and other health impairments (I'm referring to studies on the effects of the noise of snowmobiles on the health of animals that usually live in areas where the snowmobiles penetrate.) If we care about health, then noise must be considered as more than mere inconvenience.

Banning the blowing of wildfire ash seems well-supported, and providing education and incentives to residential/industrial users of gas blowers, and ideally phasing these out (or at least requiring EPA approved 4-stroke rather than 2-stroke models), would reduce NOx, CO, PM, etc emissions. However, banning electric leaf blowers during all days with lower air quality doesn't seem substantiated. During poor air quality, and within whatever legal discretion this city has, it may be more effective to incentivize, or require, reductions in other PM sources (transportation, power generation, industrial processes, wood burning, travel on unpaved roads, farming activities, etc.). I don't object to the emergency ban, and sincerely appreciate the city studying the issue, but I'd like to see it be evidence based so that's it's transparent to the community and as effective as possible.

Time and money would be best served with water conservation. Micromanaging leaf blowers is a waste of money

Leaf blowers are used with lawn mowers, hedge trimmers and other noisy devices....all at the same time.

Ban all leaf blowers now.

Large complexes are impacted the most by a ban with costs, and labor time. I do not support eliminating leaf blowers because I live in a large condo complex with mature trees and clear sidewalks are important. Homeowners in other areas of Davis can switch to electric voluntarily and not be forced to with a ban. More education for all residents is needed.

This is ridiculous. We don't live in a nanny state. I'm not "freedom at all costs" type of individual but you seem to be wasting time and money on this issue.

There are bigger community issues to be solved. Like getting the Mace Blvd redesign/rework done correctly and finished; trimming trees to keep people safe; helping the homeless so they don't need to camp in public. This leaf blower issue is a "rich folks" (or one may call a "first world"...) issue. Please drop it.

Possibly instead of a seasonal ban for wildfire season, there should be a ban based on the air quality index (e.g. no blowers if AQI > 150).

Leaf blowers are obnoxiously loud but their gas emissions are a major concern. Gas blower emissions are many times worse than a car or truck. The city should work toward phasing out gas blowers (and other 2-stroke engines) and incentivizing a switch to electric.

AS BERKELEY, CA IS A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE DAVIS AS A BLOWER FREE ZONE!

Leaf blowers help the elderly and disabled do their own yard maintenance

You should have included noise problems as an option under number 7.

With the changes in the landscapes in Davis from lawns to gravels, rock and bark the blower has become even more important tool. I would expected to see an increase in the use of high pressure water to do clean ups, if blowers use is restricted. I would be in support of blower use between 7am to 7pm M-F and reduced times on week ends. Blowers allow labors of the low end of the pay scale to make a living. The city should compensate landscaper for the loss of income from blower restrictions . I am not sure why emission question is on this survey. Is there data on blower emission in Davis vs total emission from all sources?

They should not be allowed when wind speeds are forecast to exceed a certain level

Thank you for doing this; would like Yolo County to request feedback jn same way. These need to be phased out, period.

To require landscape companies to shell out \$\$ for new equipment disgusts me. It smacks of Rich privilege! If the city purchases the equipment & places where they can charge their batteries, fine. Otherwise tell the complainers to go to therapy & mediation.

Develop more efficient and cleaner burning gas leaf blower engines to reduce emissions and carbon use. It was successful for automobiles. It will buy us time for development of longer lasting batteries for electric leaf blowers.

I think the leaf blowers are necessary. What the city can do is educate the public on the practical benefits of gas vs electrical blowers. Is electric quieter? How much would it cost my gardener to switch to electric? Is it practical to use all day for someone's lawn business? Would the City provide financial assistance for those businesses and residents to convert? Often, living in Davis, we forget about the financial hardship our regulations have on those who have lesser means.

A quiet leaf blower (I.e. quiet electric) is an essential tool for efficient home yard cleanup. Outlawing blowers is unacceptable.

Many of the gardeners could not afford to work without the use of leaf blowers.

I support going totally electric when electric blowers are a feasible alternative!

For large properties, instead of leaf blowers, use rake attachments for ride mowers.

Leaf blowers are noisy, messy and by filling the air with particles are a real health hazard.

Most people who use leaf blowers respect others, but there have been times when I'm biking and someone is using a leaf blower, and all of the material blows right in my direction.

Please do not waste money/time on issues that only a small percentage of home owners care. Be frugal with taxpayers' money and stop coming up with ways to tax property owners.

Please ban gas leaf blowers in all city at all times. LOUD, DIRTY, polluting and unneeded.

I am in favor of a complete ban on leaf blowers in Davis

Never had a major issue with leaf blowers.

NOISE affects human health and is very disturbing. It should be eliminated where ever possible including cars and motorcycles without proper mufflers.

I think electric blowers should be permitted but realize charge may not work for large landscaper. Maybe they can use muffled gas blowers at restricted times.

Leaf blowers make it much easier to clean up leaves etc. Older people and anyone with a bad back would benefit greatly from being able to use a leaf blower.

Gas leafblowers are indefensible and limiting them is one of my top priorities for the city. I would rather subsidize landscaping businesses with my taxes than allow gas leafblowers.

Wise and limited use of battery-operated leaf blowers are essential to maintain our tree-laden property and pool, to control dropped leaves as well as copious amounts of dirt from nearby fields - the goals include reducing the amount of dust my family is inhaling, and we are very careful to refrain from causing harm or disturbance to our neighbors

I think it is unfair to expect professional landscape companies to adhere to such unreasonable expectation of not using a leaf blower at all for the work they do whether on commercial or private properties. However, I would support a ban on gas leaf blower for residents that own them for personal use but allows electric leaf blower for personal use during non fire hazard seasons.

I support all restrictions but want at the least to ban all gas leaf blowers. They have no place in our town during this climate crisis. Also, leaves make good mulch around trees and bushes so this obsessive leaf removal is irrational in many instances anyway.

They are an unnecessary nuisance,

Thank you for addressing the issue with leaf blowers! People in Davis work hard to lower their GHG contributions, but many do not understand how harmful leafblowers are, how they compare to vehicle emissions, etc.

I have no problem with commercial leaf blowing because the properties are made cleaner, faster. Most workers are courteous when blowing & turn the speed down when you are going by.

Leaf blowers are a health and environmental hazard and there are other means of removing the leaves from properties. I strongly support phasing them out even though I have used one on rare occasions; I can live without it.

I find leaf blowers helpful, when cleaning the roof. The public should be encouraged to avoid the use of leaf blowers as much as possible

Enforce your current ordinances instead of creating yet another. For example, many sidewalks are blocked by shrubs and the City does not enforce the ordinance requiring property owners to keep sidewalks clear.

I can't believe how hard it is to enjoy my backyard because neighbors regularly use leaf blowers, even in the spring and summer when there are few leaves. Rakes should be used then.

Many neighbors use landscapers to gas leaf blow every week when there is no need, & at different times. Mandate use of electric ones. They are affordable & run long on 1 charge. I know because I have one--a Stihl. This is no hardship for landscapers. At least 30 California cities and towns, have total bans on gas leaf blowers. Why not Davis if it proclaims itself, as it does, so environmentally correct?

They are a noisy, polluting nuisance but they do save a lot of time and effort. I'm sure that without blowers, the price of landscape maintenance would rise significantly which would be a hardship on some households. I do my own yard work, but I'm 87 and without the occasional use of the blower, would find it difficult to do it.

Many landscape maintenance staff simply blow the leaves into the street and don't clean them up, including some downtown business properties. Such practices should be banned.

Okay, if you are really concerned about emissions and noise pollution you would adjust the Davis traffic light system. Going down Russell or Covell, it is possible to hit EVERY light. Add drivers swear to the noise pollution. Go big, not small. PS How do you plan on having commercial property clean leaves from the parking lots so they don't get sued by clients slipping on slippery muck of leaves - with broom????

Banning leaf blowers hurts the people that we employ to help us. More often than not, these are the people that are low income.

There is no way for anyone to answer question #8 without knowing what you plan to teach!

To me this is just another case of an extremely vocal minority of people trying to impose their will on the general population. If people don't like leaf blowers, don't use them. Stop trying to control everyone else's life and telling everyone else what to do just because it bothers you. It's like public speech.

Being in public you may hear or see things that offend you. (The famous "F*** the Draft" U.S. Supreme Court case.) That's life. Don't let 5% of the city decide for all 70,000 people

Climate crisis is here and severe. Outlaw all leaf blowers immediately!

Strict controls are needed because individual property owners and yard maintenance workers will not voluntarily restrict their use of leaf blowers. I have a neighbor who uses his blower no matter the time of day, whether it's a weekend, or whether air quality is good or bad.

Leaf blowers do not clean up leaves ! They just blow them onto the neighbors property!

We are surrounded by properties whose owners don't live there. Maintenance workers come five different days a week, some start before allowed hours. The racket is loud and frequent in early mornings. We can't even open our windows due to dust and noise. Workers mostly don't wear masks or eye protection.

I'm sure those who use leaf blowers will claim that it makes clean up of leaves quicker, but I see so many people using leaf blowers so ineffectively that I can't believe it's actually quicker than using a broom. At a bare minimum there should be instructions on the most efficient use of a leaf blower.

Most of us could use the leaf-raking exercise!

Thanks for the forum. I think that leaf blowers are essential to many properties. Gas or electric make noise and kick up dust. It pains me to hear people complain about leaf blowers in general. There are some specifics that could be whined about....but in general...I believe banning them is counterproductive and makes a lot of people pissed off. We own a large commercial complex downtown. Green piles used to be picked up by the city trash...that went away (frustrating). Now we are going to do away with leaf blowers? It may be a bit of a slippery slope here. What will the city mandate next? Thank you for putting this questionnaire out.

Leaf blowers do not collect the leaves: many landscape companies just blow the leaves into the street or onto the neighbor's property.

Thus, they serve no purpose.

Restrict them depending on air quality. Need to have a way to notify landscapers & the public when restrictions are in place.

Please put this issue to bed. Leave well enough alone. There are bigger issues to confront REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE and emissions. Let this go, please.

My ultra-low water yard has stone and redwood bark mulch over the entire surface of the property. No other tool except a leaf blower is capable of maintaining this (it cannot be raked). I myself have purchased a battery powered electric leaf blower, and I would encourage the city to phase out gasoline blowers in favor of battery ones, but you cannot eliminate leaf blowers completely while still maintaining properties like mine. 1505 Pacific Drive, Davis, CA 95616

If we are sincere about protecting the planet, we should be willing to make sacrifices. Regulating the use of such polluting devices in our community seems the smallest of steps we can take.

I'm glad that mow-and-blow people, who have to do so many jobs to economically survive, can use gas blowers. There use in any one spot is minimal

What is the concern with leaf blowers? Why is the City considering changes? I've heard no complaints in my neighborhood.

Rules should focus on effect, not equipment. For example, enforce noise rules. If done strictly, then quiet gas powered blowers will be built.

Leaf blowers are essential to deal with leaves and clutter in a time-effective way. To ban them will result in a less attractive community. It would be a huge mistake for the City to ban them.

If we had more frequent green waste pickup from the streets, it would far better. The green waste bins only hold so much and piles sitting in the streets for long times get spread all over and are a hazard.

Taking away my right to efficiently care for my lawn feels as I'm living under a dictator who decides what I do, when, and how. I have a rights also. A right and freedom to live here and care for my property in the means I feel that is best for my family.

My yard person would not be able to afford making changes to his equipment.

Some landscaping companies overuse them and I think that is why residents are concerned. They should be used when needed but not as excessively as they are now in order to allow the benefits and not bother some people

question 8 depends on the details of the City's "outreach/education" so I can't answer it.

Leaf blowers create fire and health hazards. We suffer from allergies and leaf blowers make it worse. We constantly find dust and dirt blown on our outdoor furniture, windows and patios. We watch the neighbors' landscaper blow debris under the fence onto our property even after we asked them not to. We support a complete ban.

Landscapers and tree services have basically told me during last year's extended wildfire smoke they don't care about the city's restrictions on blowers. I am not sure how effective this program will be without better enforcement and compliance.

I hope that the users of the leaf blowers, contract and freelance landscapers etc have a voice in this discussion.

This needs to be a law--providing educational information is not going to do anything. People love their leaf blowers. But it is at the expense of the environment, their neighbor's health and peace and quiet.

I think they are necessary for commercial and residential yard maintenance during the week. However, not permitting use on weekends would provide a nice break to the noise pollution. This might be a good compromise.

Honestly, I see where they are a necessary evil. In some cases a broom and rake is just fine. So what if it doesn't get every last speck. It is better to leave a little behind anyways.

I think leaf blowers are very convenient and help homeowners as well as landscapers to complete their jobs in an efficient manner. I only think they shouldn't start them before 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m.

blowers don't need to be regulated. pls don't over-regulate -- it'll frustrate residents and create work and divert attention from (police) enforcement

Placing temporary restrictions when air quality is poor makes sense.

Brooms made of long small sticks with whip tip on end are highly effective and have been used for centuries in Europe. Leaf blowers are a curse on the earth.

Nothing about leaf blowers but...The bike paths BADLY need maintenance. They're becoming dangerous in places.

Please do NOT waste time or energy on this. Please focus on housing, economic development, police reforms and the city's long term financial challenges.

Commercial Survey

The Commercial Survey was released at the beginning of June, and closed July 16, 2021. A link to the survey was sent out in a letter to all landscapers with a business license in Davis or Woodland (the letter was translated into Spanish and English), and a special eblast about the survey was sent out to 1854 business email addresses in Davis (43% of people opened the email and 205 people clicked on the survey link). In total, 95 survey responses were received.

Here are some highlights from the survey:

- Over 60% (59) of the responses came from companies servicing less than 10 properties.
- 95% (91) of respondents serviced Yolo County.
- Over 70% (70) reported that they employ less than 5 staff.
- Of the 64% (61) of the respondents that reported use of leaf blowers within their service:
 - 17% (17) indicated they had electric blowers
 - 33% (32) used gas-powered blowers
 - 12% (12) used both
 - 35% (34) reported that no leaf blowers were used.
- 54% (45) indicated that their company had between 1-5 gas-powered blowers and 50% (35) said that had between 1-5 electric blowers. Of these blowers, 60% (58) of the respondents indicated a newer blower stock on hand, with 61% (30) having between 3-6+ years of use left.
- 33% (32) of respondents indicated they use a leaf blower at least once a week, with less reporting every day or only seasonal use.
- For the length of use, 44% (42) of the respondents reported using leaf blowers for under an hour a day, with 24% (23) reporting use between 1-3+ hours a day.
- 63% (60) of the respondents indicated that there are certain tasks that they can only do with a leaf blower. Responses included: Tasks that require significant detail work; requirements that the work is done in a short timeframe; removing material from hard to reach areas (roofs etc.); maintaining properties of significant size; and addressing leaf-drop.
- When asked about the benefits of using leaf blowers, responses included time savings, staffing savings, less physical work, and saving water.

In the survey, Question 13 asked how significantly a ban on leaf blowers would impact their business. Responses were mixed (respondents could choose multiple options):

- That the ban would mean Minimal to Neutral impact received **25%** (24) responses.
- That the ban would mean a Significant impact received **39%** (37) responses.
- That the ban would mean a business would not be able to operate or would need to raise fees received **35%** (34) responses.
- The indication that the ban would have no impact received **23%** (22) responses.

Question 15 asked how they felt a potential ban or restrictions on gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment might affect their business. Responses to this question were pretty evenly divided among the “very concerned” ranking, with a few responding to “somewhat concerned”, and the highest response (almost half) indicating “not concerned.”

- Very Concerned about cost, difference in performance and less mobility or shorter duration of electric blowers - averaged **35%** (33) of respondents.
- Somewhat Concerned about cost, difference in performance and less mobility or shorter duration of electric blowers - averaged **15%** (14) of respondents.
- Not Concerned about cost, difference in performance and less mobility or shorter duration of electric blowers - averaged **49%** (47) of respondents.

Individual responses to questions are also included in the attached Commercial Survey Summary.

Leaf Blower Summary Data

Commercial Survey

1 Do you use leaf blowers as part of the service you provide for property/landscape maintenance?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, we use electric leaf blowers	17.89%	17
Yes, we use gas leaf blowers	33.68%	32
Yes, we use gas and electric leaf blowers	12.63%	12
No, we do not use leaf blowers	35.79%	34
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

2 How many leaf blowers do you have?

Answer Choices	0	1-5	6-10	11 or more	Total				
Gas leaf blower	43.90%	36	54.88%	45	0.00%	0	1.22%	1	82
Electric leaf blower	47.83%	33	50.72%	35	1.45%	1	0.00%	0	69
	Answered	95							
	Skipped	0							

3 How frequently do you use leaf blowers?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Every day	15.79%	15
At least once a week	33.68%	32
At least once or twice a month	9.47%	9
Only on a seasonal basis	10.53%	10
We do not use leaf blowers	30.53%	29
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

4 Please estimate how many hours a day you use leaf blowers.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 1	44.21%	42
Between 1 and 3	15.79%	15
More than 3	8.42%	8
We do not use leaf blowers	31.58%	30
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

5 How old is your stock of leaf blowers?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Needing replacement soon	0%	0
1-2 years of use left	7.4%	7
3-5 years of use left	29.5%	28
More than 6 years of use left	31.6%	30
N/A We do not use leaf blowers	31.6%	30
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

6 Do you feel that there are certain tasks that you can only do with a leaf blower?

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	36.8%	35
Yes (please explain)	63.2%	60
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

Overall, comments included the following themes:
 Tasks that require significant detail work; requirements that the work is done in a short timeframe; removing material from hard to reach areas (roofs etc.); maintaining properties of significant size; addressing leaf-drop

7 What are the benefits to your property/business of using leaf blowers instead of other alternatives? (Please check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Time	71.6%	68
Staffing	32.6%	31
Already have leaf blowers for use	31.6%	30
Other (please describe)	47.4%	45

96 Comments	Answered	95
Overall, comments included the following themes:	Skipped	0
Work is completed faster with less staff; less physical work; best for cleaning large properties; saves water		

8 How many staff are employed with your company?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 5	73.7%	70
5-15	17.9%	17
16-25	3.2%	3
More than 25	5.3%	5
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

9 How many properties does your company service? (fill in the number)

Answer Choices	Responses	
None or N/A (not a landscape company)	11.6%	11
Home maintenance only	2.1%	2
Less than 10	62.1%	59
10-50	11.6%	11
50-100	4.2%	4
More than 100	6.3%	6
"Many"	2.1%	2
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

10 Which counties below are in your service area? (Please check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yolo	95.8%	91
Sacramento	14.7%	14
Solano	9.5%	9
Napa	4.2%	4
Other	6.3%	6
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

11 Would you need to raise the cost of your services to your customers if any kind of restrictions were placed on leaf blower use?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, significantly	35.8%	34
Yes, minimally	13.7%	13
No	40.0%	38
Unsure	10.5%	10
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

12 If leaf blowers were restricted in Davis, what could you use instead of leaf blowers? (Please check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Broom(s)	46.3%	44
Rake(s)	46.3%	44
There is no replacement for leaf blowers	47.4%	45
Other (please describe)	20.0%	19

19 Comments	Answered	95
Overall, comments included the following themes:	Skipped	0
The use of water; removing trees; removing material by hand; discontinued service to Davis		

13 How significantly would a ban on leaf blowers impact your business? (Please check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Minimal impact	17.9%	17
Neutral	7.4%	7
Significant impact	39.0%	37
No impact. We do not use leaf blowers	23.2%	22
We would not be able to operate	8.4%	8
We would need to raise our fees to cover additional costs for other cleanup methods	27.4%	26

Answered 95
 Skipped 0

14 If required, could you replace gas-powered leaf blowers (if applicable) with electric ones?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	23.2%	22
No	16.8%	16
Yes, but only with some kind of incentive program	17.9%	17
We do not use gas-powered leaf blowers	42.1%	40
	Answered	95
	Skipped	0

15 How do you feel a potential ban or restrictions on gas-powered landscape maintenance equipment might affect your business? Please rank the following.

Answer Choices	Very concerned		Somewhat concerned		Not concerned	Total	
Cost of replacing equipment currently being used	35.8%	34	16.8%	16	47.4%	45	95
The difference in performance of electric alternatives	35.8%	34	11.6%	11	52.6%	50	95
Less mobility or shorter use duration of electric blowers	34.0%	32	17.0%	16	48.9%	46	94
					Answered	95	
					Skipped	0	

Leaf Blower Summary Data

Commercial Survey - Individual Responses

6 Do you feel that there are certain tasks that you can only do with a leaf blower?

Yes (please explain)

Gas blowers have much more power than electric and last way longer. We need strong power to remove grass clippings from sidewalks

Blowing and clean up's

Blowing leaves is the best and fastest way to keep the city, the Parks and our neighborhoods clean and safe

Blowing in hard to reach areas, and areas that cannot use rake also large properties where a rake is impossible.

Clean Up after mulch is installed

Most of them

Brooms don't fit in cracks and pushing a broom for three miles of bike path is not time efficient and equipment for doing the task is too expensive.

Major fall leaf and tree debris clean up

as an arborist I rely mostly on picking things up by hand and raking but the high level of cleaning that most people are keeping their property the blower is something of a necessity at the very end to finalize the clean up. also during leaf drop it is especially essential as takes and hand work are not efficient. perhaps there is an alternative to those that seem to only rely on blowers as opposed to using rakes and hands more often when necessary I do use brooms there is an appropriate use of the tool and I have considered moving to a battery powered as they are quite and less maintenance.

Seasonally a lot of leaves that would really increase expenses if had to be hand raked.

Clean leaves and debris that can't be raked

None-sidewalk debris

IT IS INEFFICIENT AND IMPRACTICAL TO SWEEP OR RAKE LARGE AMOUNTS OF DEBRIS OVER A LARGE AREA. DOING SO WOULD DRAMATICALLY INCREASE COST AND MAN POWER REQUIREMENTS

To really rid the concrete of as much dirt/dust as possible a leaf blower is necessary.

Time consuming with broom

I own two duplexes in Davis. My son does the yards and cleanups. It would greatly increase the time each week sweeping walks and drives.

Getting leaves and debris out of ground cover, rock and or bark

We are a property management company. It would be virtually impossible to sweep up leaves and debris and could create safety issues.

It is hands down the best, and most efficient tool for the task.

Removing leaves and sticks from job sites

leaves from underneath bushes and saves times

Cleaning up places quickly

It would take too much time to rake leaves, and clean patios, driveways, sidewalks and curb.

Clean my gutters and remove debris from roof

Clearing my back and front yards of leaves

It would not be financially feasible to efficiently clean commercial properties or residential properties by broom or other ways. The end result, properties will simply need to be left messy.

Removing leaves from irregular surfaces including rock scape.

Alternatives are to labor intensive and expensive

Volume of leaved

For both my home and rental property seasonal blowing of debris off the roof, garages, paths and yard would be very difficult and extremely timely without the use of a leaf blower, and in some situations, not able to complete the task without.

cleaning up our flower debris and blowing out our trucks

Removing gutter debris safely from roofs

clearing debris from areas that can't be swept

clear leaves off a large 80 unit apt. complex

Blowing off roof and hallways

Would not be practical to rake - without a blower guess just use a hose?

Although we don't use ANY blowers, gas blower is the most efficient tool to clean the leaves and will definitely use it if our business needs.

to blow fast way gas blower is better for commercial area ,gas blower makes work go faster ,the electric blower also make noise, customers will have to pay money because electric blower will take more than double time for the work to finish.

for many yards the size and shape make it both a valuable asset to use a blower as opposed to raking

clean our patio and flowerbeds easily, getting debris and leaves out of bark areas

Leaf blowers are the most efficient way to avoid hosing off large areas of hardscape.

Separating leaves from gravel or mulch, for example

It does the best job, especially for drought resistant landscape.

Cleaning

leaf and dust

Clearing roof drains

Sweeping would take way too long

Leaves

Blowing leaves off a flat roof

Corners, and large areas

rocks and wood chips

We have pavement and driveways that need to be cleaned from debris and its like yards of space

Get leaves out of nooks and crannies

You appears to have confused land surveying with landscape maintenance. We don't use leaf blowers in our survey business...

Following windy events

blow leaves

Cleaning low water landscaping like mulch and rock areas

LOTS OF TREES HERE IN DAVIS.

time

When trying to clear the parking lot it helps get around cars and cleans up with less effort

7 What are the benefits to your property/business of using leaf blowers instead of other alternatives? (Please check all that apply)

Other (please describe)

If I don't use leaf blowers, I would not be able to run my business anymore less staff, saving money, and getting work done faster.

We don't use leaf blowers.

Efficiency

I do not know of any alternatives

Easier on the body.

Cleaner than other

Would be cost prohibitive to try and clean most commercial as well as residential properties without the use of leaf blowers

Safety other forms of cleaning do not do as well a job removing debris and do not dry surfaces out as well. It could create slit and trip hazzards

With labor costs rising fast, efficiency matters more than ever before.

don't use

Less physical work

Much cleaner

It is the only efficient way to keep properties clean of leaves, debris, dust, etc.

Efficiency

Blowing sand off the walkways

Do not use leaf blowers

cost

What you can do in an hour with a leaf blower would take several hours and additional labor to equal the job with other non motorized tools.

None, leaf blowers are the worst

Don't use leaf blowers.

Cleaning debris from gutters safely from roofs

Cost. A ban will result in the landscapers raising rates and our raising tenants rents. No one here at Clearwater is companying about leaf blowers.

none

Everybody expects clean jobs and only leaf blowers make it really clean.

But not use often now. Save a little time but get air quality bad and more dust over to a lots of things.

N/A

Leaf blowers are LOUD and bad for business and community living

Drought resistant landscape requires a leaf blower.

N/A

Saves water when using leaf blower instead of hosing off

We do not use leaf blowers

None

No benefits: sound is a problem

NA

no benefit

NONE

We don't use leaf blowers.

Don't use them

We don't like leaf blowers and hope that they can be outlawed from use in Davis.

None. Leaf blowers are a detriment to the enjoyment of our properties.

CURB APPEAL.

dont use them

N/A

I don't use them and would never use them. I hate leaf blowers!

7 What are the benefits to your property/business of using leaf blowers instead of other alternatives? (Please check all that apply)

Other (please describe)

None of the above we would pull all service out of Davis include weed abatement that we provide for Davis Fire Department and Davis Public Works which we have provide for over 20 years.

water

IT IS HARD TO RETAIN EMPLOYEES IN THIS INDUSTRY. SWITCHING TO BROOMS AND RAKES WOULD MAKE THE JOB MORE PHYSICALLY TAXING AND EMPLOYEES WOULD QUIT.

We would start systematically removing trees.

Water to wash away the dust.

Other methods require too much time and therefore cost and will not do as good of a job. This survey is poorly done and is written for gardeners or employers .

THIS BAN IS A GREAT IDEA I HATE LEAF BLOWERS THEY ARE TERRIBLE, I do massage and when others use them it is disruptive for my business

lawn mowers also collect leaves on lawns.

Electric leaf blower

hose would be the substitute

N/A

Hose

By hand...

Metal snakes to clear roof drains

Water

NA

industrial fan

We do not use leaf blowers.

Leaf blowers cause terrible dust/debris to enter our property - from the use of leaf blowers on adjacent properties. It is awful.

Report on Updating/Strengthening Leaf-Blower Ordinance

City of Davis Natural Resources Commission

DRAFT

Introduction

Two-cycle, gasoline-powered leaf blowers were introduced in the United States in the 1970s. Blowers—including two-cycle gas blowers, four-cycle gas blowers, corded electric blowers, and cordless (battery-powered) electric blowers—have since become ubiquitous in gardening and landscaping. Yet blower use is controversial. Advocates note that blowers are an efficient, low-cost means of removing leaves and other debris from lawns, plant beds, walkways, and roads. Advocates further note that manual methods of debris removal (e.g., raking and sweeping) are much more time- and labor-intensive than blowing. Finally, advocates contend that while authorities may reasonably limit blower use on public property, individuals have a right to use the maintenance equipment of their choice on their own private property.

Opponents believe that the adverse impacts of blowers outweigh their benefits. Opponents argue the noise, dust and debris, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated by gas-powered blowers present clear negative externalities that government has a right and responsibility to address. Opposition to blowers has led more than 100 cities in at least 15 U.S. states to curtail blower use—including by strictly limiting when, for what purposes, and what models of blowers may be used; by banning gas blowers (but allowing electric blowers); or by banning blowers altogether.

In Davis, use of gas and electric blowers is subject to mild time-of-use and noise restrictions but is generally permitted on all public and private property. The nature of these restrictions have become a topic of heated public debate. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) has observed—via public comments delivered both orally and in writing, discussion on the community forum NextDoor, and anecdotally—many Davis residents express both clear support for and clear opposition to continued blower use within the City.

In response to these comments, and pursuant to Goal 3 (“Pursue Environmental Sustainability”) and Goal 5 (“Ensure a Safe, Healthy, Equitable Community”) set by the Davis City Council,¹ the NRC has prepared the report contained herein. The report proceeds as follows. Section 1 summarizes arguments for and against blower use. Section 2 describes what other U.S. communities have done to regulate blowers. Section 3 outlines options for regulating blower use in Davis. Section 4 presents the NRC’s recommendation based on information presented in Sections 1–3. In brief, we recommend **(1) phasing in a ban on the sale and use of gas leaf blowers within City limits, and (2) allowing continued use of electric leaf blowers under more stringent restrictions.**

¹ <http://documents.cityofdavis.org/Media/Default/Documents/PDF/CityCouncil/CouncilMeetings/Agendas/20190521/05J-Council-Goals-2019-2020.pdf>

1. Arguments for and against blower use

1.1 Arguments for blower use

The most vocal proponents of blower use are landscape professionals and equipment manufacturers. A 2016 position statement from the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) presents the following arguments in favor of (gas and electric) blower use.^{2,3}

- Blowers are efficient and unique tools for cleaning up small debris (e.g., leaves, grass, fertilizer granules) from lawn and landscape sites. Blowers perform functions that no other tool can handle effectively, such as cleaning areas covered by rock, gravel, bark, or mulch.
- Blowers save time and resources. According to the NALP, it takes “at least five times as long to clean a typical landscape site with a broom and rake than it does with a power leaf blower.” The NALP also points out that without blowers, people may turn to hoses as a method for rapidly clearing debris from an area. This is an important consideration for drought-stressed places like California.
- Blowers save money. The NALP states “that landscape costs (and therefore charges) would increase from 20 to 40 percent if operators must perform the same functions without a leaf blower.”
- Restricting blower use could increase reliance on unlicensed companies. Blower restrictions are rarely a top enforcement priority for local law enforcement. As such, the NALP argues that “unlicensed operators would flaunt a ban [or strict restrictions] on leaf blowers if given the chance, and consequently, they would be able to underbid...[licensed companies] contracts for lawn and landscape maintenance. Legitimate lawn and landscape contractors could go out of business and their employees would lose [sic] jobs that pay well.”
- Blowers can be used responsibly. Newer blower models are quieter than older models. All blowers can be used in ways that reduce adverse impacts. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) provides a list of operating recommendations for blowers (Appendix III).
- Electric blowers are imperfect substitutes for gas blowers. Cord-powered electric blowers are powerful enough to substitute for gas blowers for many big jobs, but are also limited in range. Battery-powered electric blowers are more portable but less powerful and offer limited runtime.⁴ Moreover, the most powerful electric blowers are as noisy as similarly powerful gas blowers, and noise from electric

² <https://villagegreennj.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/leafblowers-position-paper-3.pdf>

³ See also a [webpage](#) maintained by the California Landscape Contractors Association and 2018 [testimony](#) delivered by the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute to the Washington, D.C. City Council.

⁴ <https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/leaf-blowers/buying-guide/index.htm>

blowers is compounded by the noise produced by a generator if electrical outlets aren't available.

- Emissions impacts of blowers are overstated and are out of regulatory scope for municipalities. The NALP concedes that gas-powered blowers can produce high levels of harmful emissions. However, the NALP points out that “[a]ctual emissions from leaf blowers are few because of the equipment’s intermittent use. For example, one year of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from cars compares to 21 years of emissions from portable lawn and garden projects.” The NALP also contends that because air-pollution issues are being addressed by regional, state, and federal entities, municipalities should not regulate blowers on emissions grounds.

1.2 Arguments against blower use

Numerous medical associations,⁵ government agencies,⁶ and local stakeholder organizations raised concern about leaf blowers directly and/or the adverse effects that leaf blowers can have. Concerns are generally related to one of three topics: (1) noise, (2) airborne dust and debris, and (3) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

1.2.1 Noise

The effects of sound on the ear are determined by sound characteristics such as duration, intensity, and pitch. Long-duration, high-intensity sounds are most damaging to hearing.⁷ A 1999 report⁸ on leaf blowers prepared by the Orange County Grand Jury is unequivocal on the harmful effects of blower noise. Per the report:

"The average blower generates noise that measures 65 to 75 dbA or more at 50 feet, and even louder at close range. Leaf blowers are often used fewer than 50 feet from non-consenting people. Neighboring homes may be occupied by home workers, retirees, day sleepers, children and the ill or disabled. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends general outdoor noise levels of 55 dBA or less, and 45 dBA or less for sleeping. Thus, a 65-decibel leaf blower would be 100 times too loud for healthful sleep. Blower noise can, and probably does, impair the user’s hearing. A blower generates upward of 95 decibels of noise at the operator’s ear...There is an increased risk of hearing damage and deafness from repeated exposure to noise above 75 dBA. Deafness caused by noise is irreversible."

The report further notes that “[n]oise interferes with communications, sleep, and work...degrades quality of life by impairing social interaction...[and] reduces work

⁵ Including the [American Public Health Association](#), the [American Lung Association](#), and [Harvard Medical School](#).

⁶ Including the [California Air Resources Board](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and the [Environmental Protection Agency](#).

⁷ https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hearing_loss/what_noises_cause_hearing_loss.html

⁸ <http://www.ocgrandjury.org/pdfs/leafblow.pdf>

accuracy and creates stressful levels of frustration and aggravation.” While the Orange County report is now two decades old, its findings on noise are still relevant given that the current Davis Municipal Code permits blower noise louder than the risk thresholds identified in the report (see Section 3).

The *type* of noise produced by blowers also matters. A January 2020 survey⁹ conducted by *National Geographic* found that blower noise was ranked as the 3rd most annoying noise by respondents. Blower noise ranked as less annoying than “buzzing insects” and “barking dogs” but more annoying than “open-mouthed chewing”, “car alarms”, “people singing really badly”, “entitled people screaming”, “knuckles cracking”, and “loud neighbors”. Certain blowers produce high-pitched whining tones that may be perceived as more annoying than other noises of similar loudness.¹⁰

Electric blowers are typically quieter than gas blowers, though not always.¹¹ Certain manufacturers, such as Echo,¹² have also optimized blower design to eliminate the whining noise of blowers that is perceived as particularly irritating.

1.2.2 Fugitive dust

Gas and electric blowers alike function by blasting air at high velocities (typically 150–280 MPH; hurricane wind speed is >117 MPH) to move leaves and other target debris from place to place.¹³ An unintended effect can be to kick up dust containing PM2.5 and PM10 particles. PM10 particles can migrate up to 30 miles and stay in the air for hours; PM2.5 particles can migrate hundreds of miles and stay in the air for days or weeks. Exposure to such particulate matter can exacerbate health conditions including asthma, respiratory and cardiac distress, chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), and other lung diseases.¹⁴ There is also evidence suggesting that exposure to excessive levels of particulate matter exposure can contribute to clinically observable levels of anxiety.¹⁵

The health effects of exposure to PM2.5 and PM10 particles should not be dismissed. As the American Lung Association observes:¹⁶

“...short-term exposure to particle pollution can kill...Premature deaths from breathing these particles can occur on the very day that particle levels are high, or within one to two months afterward. Particle pollution does not just make people die

⁹ <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2020/01/the-science-of-annoyance/>

¹⁰ <https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/news/2010/06/inside-consumer-reports-test-labs-for-leaf-blowers-sound-pressure-and-sound-quality-determine-how-annoying-the-noise-can-be/index.htm>

¹¹ <https://www.sears.com/articles/lawn-garden/leaf-blowers/electric-vs-gas-leaf-blower.html>

¹² <https://reactual.com/home-and-garden/quietest-leaf-blower-2017.html>

¹³ <https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/msprog/mailouts/msc0005/msc0005.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/isa/recordisplay.cfm?deid=347534#tab-3>

¹⁵ <https://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h1111>

¹⁶ <https://www.lung.org/assets/documents/healthy-air/state-of-the-air/sota-2019-full.pdf>

a few days earlier than they might otherwise—these are deaths that would not have occurred so early if the air were cleaner. Even low levels of particles can be deadly."

Reliable data on the volume and composition of blower-generated dust are scarce. A 2000 report from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) concluded that "PM10 emissions impacts from dust suspended by leaf blowers are small, but probably significant." CARB did not offer a similarly definitive statement regarding PM2.5 emissions, but provided modeling results indicating that such emissions are likely non-zero. CARB also noted that while "substances such as fecal material, fertilizers, fungal spores, pesticides, herbicides, pollen, and other biological substances have been alleged to make up the dust resuspended by leaf blower usage", little information on the composition of blower-generated dust is available. CARB did observe that such substances have been detected in paved road dust resuspended by passing traffic, and that blowers would likely be as effective as automobiles at resuspending paved road dust. A 2006 study by researchers at UC Riverside in collaboration with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District found that gas and electric blowers alike generate PM2.5 and PM10 when used on a variety of surfaces (especially concrete, asphalt, and packed dirt). PM2.5 and PM10 emissions from sweeping with a push broom were comparably high on a concrete surface (though far fewer tests were performed using a broom than were performed using blowers), but lower on asphalt. PM2.5 and PM10 emissions from raking were essentially zero.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that blower-generated dust is a nuisance for many Davis residents. Comments on the neighborhood forum NextDoor cite blower dust as a problem. Residents have delivered comment at the NRC's monthly meetings noting the adverse impacts of particulate matter from leaf blowers. On an individual basis, multiple NRC members have heard additional complaints about blower-generated dust.

1.2.3 Exhaust emissions

All gas blowers emit a variety of compounds that can be harmful to human and environmental health. The small, two-stroke engines that power the majority of gas blowers are characterized by especially high and harmful emissions.¹⁷ Per the 2000 CARB report [emphasis added]:

"Typical two-stroke designs feed more of the fuel/oil mixture than is necessary into the combustion chamber...the incoming fuel enters the combustion chamber as the exhaust is leaving. This timing overlap of intake and exhaust port opening can result in as much as 30% of the fuel/oil mixture being exhausted unburned. Thus, exhaust emissions consist of both unburned fuel and products of incomplete combustion.

¹⁷ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236970011_Physical_Chemical_Characterization_of_emissions_from_2-Stroke_motorcycles_Comparison_with_4-stroke_engines/link/02e7e51a867fe38fcb000000/download

The major pollutants from a two-stroke engine are, therefore, oil-based particulates, a mixture of hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide.”

According to CARB, operating the best-selling (two-stroke) commercial gas leaf blower for one hour emits smog-forming pollution comparable to driving a 2016 Toyota Camry about 1,100 miles.¹⁸ A 2015 study conducted in collaboration with the EPA confirmed that gas blowers are an important source of volatile organic compounds (VOCs; i.e., hydrocarbons) and criteria pollutants (i.e., carbon monoxide (CO) and fine particulate matter). Gas blowers also emit small amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a greenhouse gas.

Hydrocarbon emissions from gas blowers include toxic air contaminants such as benzene, 1,3-butadiene, acetaldehyde, and formaldehyde. Each of these contaminants is a known or probable human carcinogen.¹⁹ Hydrocarbon emissions can also combine with nitrogen oxide emissions from other sources to produce atmospheric ozone, thereby contributing to the greenhouse effect and climate change. Exposure to carbon monoxide can cause short-term symptoms including headache, nausea and vomiting, dizziness, and difficulty breathing. Long-term exposure has been linked to miscarriage, fetal damage, seizures, coma, and heart failure.²⁰ The health effects of exposure to particulate matter are discussed above.

Some gas blower models are powered by four-stroke engines (i.e., the same type of engine used in cars). These engines achieve complete combustion of fuel and therefore emit less air pollution than two-stroke engines, but are also larger and more expensive.²¹ Electric blowers do not directly release exhaust emissions.

1.3 Other environmental considerations

The following environmental considerations are also relevant to a comprehensive assessment of leaf-blower impacts.

- **Stormwater impacts.** The U.S. Geological Survey reports that removal of leaf litter from street surfaces can decrease nutrient pollution from stormwater runoff into local water bodies.²² However, this benefit is only realized if leaf litter is fully removed (i.e., collected and properly disposed of via composting or other green-waste stream). Blowers may increase nutrient pollution if blower use makes it easy to clear a lawn by blowing leaves into the street—a practice that can clog

¹⁸ <http://www.vcapcd.org/pubs/Rules/CleanAirFund/CA-Air-Resources-Board-garden-equipment-fact-sheet.pdf>

¹⁹ https://afdc.energy.gov/vehicles/emissions_pollutants.html

²⁰ <https://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/chemicals-and-contaminants/carbon-monoxide>

²¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/how-bad-for-the-environment-are-gas-powered-leaf-blowers/2013/09/16/8eed7b9a-18bb-11e3-a628-7e6dde8f889d_story.html

²² https://www.usgs.gov/centers/umid-water/science/using-leaf-collection-and-street-cleaning-reduce-nutrients-urban?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

storm drains as well. In other words, *removing* leaves from streets and storm drains mitigates stormwater impacts. Blowers can help in this regard. But blowers also make it easier to simply *relocate* leaves from one place to another, a practice that may actually make stormwater impacts worse.

- **Transportation impacts.** It is plausible that the air-quality impacts of blower use may make walking, biking, and other alternatives to car-based travel less attractive. We were unable to identify any studies that rigorously examined impacts of blower use on transportation.
- **Equity impacts.** No group of people has greater exposure to the adverse impacts of leaf blowers than the landscapers and groundskeepers who use blowers on a regular basis. Given that these workers are disproportionately low-income and Hispanic,²³ environmental-justice concerns may arise when workers have no direct control over what equipment they use—e.g., if they work for a company that directs them to use gas-powered blowers because gas-powered blowers are cheaper. Stricter blower regulations may help alleviate such concerns.

²³ <https://datausa.io/profile/soc/grounds-maintenance-workers#demographics>.

2. What other jurisdictions have done

More than 100 cities in at least 15 states (plus Washington, DC) have passed laws restricting or banning the use of leaf blowers. About two-thirds of these cities are located in California. The large majority of cities with leaf-blower regulations—including Davis—simply limit what times of day or year blowers can be used, and/or the maximum decibel levels that blowers can emit. Other cities ban gas-powered blowers but permit electric blowers, while a small number ban blowers altogether. A list of cities that limit or ban leaf blowers is contained in Appendix IV, and a summary table is below.²⁴

Leaf-blower regulation in the United States				
	Complete gas blower ban	Seasonal gas blower ban	Noise and/or time of day restrictions	Complete gas and electric blower ban
Number of identified cities with each policy	33	9	87	5

Cities typically impose small fines—on the order of several hundred dollars—for each violation of a leaf-blower law. In Palm Springs, offenders must pay \$100 for a first violation, \$200 for a second, and \$500 for a third. In Encinitas, violators first receive a warning notice. After the warning notice, violators receive a fine of \$100 for the first violation, \$200 for the second violation, and \$1,000 for each violation thereafter.²⁵ Santa Monica imposes a \$500 fine for each offense.²⁶ In Washington, D.C., violations are subject to fines not to exceed \$500.²⁷

Local government agencies have offered incentives to ease the impacts of blower bans. The South Coast Air Quality Management District provides district residents with “a rebate of up to \$250 with the purchase of a cordless, battery-electric lawn mower”, provided that an “operable, gasoline powered lawn mower” is scrapped in exchange. The District also finances an additional 25% discount on the purchase of “commercial electric leaf blowers, string and hedge trimmers, lawn mowers and chainsaws” to eligible participants, including “commercial gardeners and landscapers, local governments, school districts, colleges, and non-profits.” The District prioritizes funding for the commercial discount to environmental justice or disadvantaged communities,

²⁴ We were not able to identify any comprehensive trackers of leaf-blower laws in the United States. Data in the summary table on this page and in the Appendix comes from a list maintained by HD Supply Facilities Maintenance (https://hdsupplysolutions.com/s/leaf_blower_noise_regulation). This list, while informative, is likely incomplete. In the course of preparing this report, we came across multiple municipalities with leaf-blower laws that were not included in the HD Supply list. Some articles suggest that the number of cities that ban or restrict leaf blowers totals more than 400.

²⁵ <https://encinitasca.gov/Portals/0/City%20Documents/Documents/City%20Manager/Leaf%20Blower%20Ordinance/ATTACHMENT%201%20EXHIBIT%201%20-%20CHAPTER%2011.28%20-%20Leaf%20Blower.pdf?ver=2020-03-13-170053-570>

²⁶ <https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/local/2019/07/23/despite-rise-gas-leaf-blower-complaints-few-citations-issued/1806497001/>

²⁷ <http://chairmanmendelson.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/B22-234-Leaf-Blower-Regulation-Amendment-Act-of-2018-CIRCULATION-PACKET.pdf>

and also requires that participants scrap “an equivalent operable gasoline or diesel piece of lawn or garden equipment” to qualify for the discount. Encinitas, a city approximately the same size as Davis, accompanied its ban on gas blowers with a city-funded rebate program that allows residents and business owners to turn in gas blowers in exchange for credit on new electric blowers.²⁸

The push to phase out gas blowers is gaining traction at the state level as well. Illinois lawmakers recently introduced²⁹ legislation that would ban the sale and use of gas blowers statewide. A proposed statewide ban on the use of two-cycle gas blowers in Oregon died in the legislature last year, but Oregon lawmakers have indicated openness to reconsidering such a ban in the future.³⁰ CARB has already begun ratcheting down allowable emissions for gas-powered lawn equipment, with an eye towards ultimately ending the sale of such equipment.³¹

²⁸ <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/encinitas-leaf-blower-ban-goes-into-effect/2233563/>

²⁹ <https://newschannel20.com/news/local/gas-powered-leaf-blowers-may-be-a-thing-of-the-past-in-illinois>

³⁰ <https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/2019/06/leaf-blower-ban-though-dead-generates-plenty-of-debate-at-capitol.html>

³¹ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/California-s-latest-pollution-push-Banning-14951305.php#>

3. Options for regulating leaf-blower use in Davis

The NRC has identified four regulatory options the City could pursue with regard to leaf blower use in Davis.

3.1. Option 1: Take no additional action

The City could choose to leave existing blower restrictions in place, without taking additional action. Option 1 **would not impose any burden on stakeholders**, but would also **do nothing to address complaints** of adverse blower impacts in Davis.

Per Section 24.02.040(b) of the Davis Municipal Code, the City currently permits the use of both gas and electric leaf blowers between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Mondays through Fridays, and between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. Blower use is subject to the following noise restrictions:

- (1) No individual blower may produce a noise level exceeding 83 dBA at a distance of 25 feet.
- (2) No individual powered blower may produce a noise level exceeding 70 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. On a single-family residential property, this restriction does not apply if a blower is operated for less than 10 minutes per occurrence.
- (3) The noise level at any point outside of the property plane may not exceed 86 dBA.
- (4) No powered blower may be operated within a 100-foot radius of another blower simultaneously.

3.2 Option 2: Implement more stringent use restrictions on all blowers

The City could choose to implement more stringent use restrictions on gas and electric blowers, without fully banning either. **Option 2 could mitigate—but not eliminate—the biggest problems with blower use:** noise, airborne dust and debris, and exhaust emissions. This option would impose a **small financial burden** on stakeholders who would need to purchase new blower models to achieve compliance. Option 2 would also impose **small to moderate additional burdens** on stakeholders depending on the stringency of the restrictions (e.g., the narrower the time windows that blowers are permitted, the greater the burden on those who rely on blowers for various tasks). Enforcing certain use restrictions (e.g., noise restrictions) would likely be challenging, whereas enforcement of other use restrictions (e.g., prohibiting blower use on weekends and holidays) would be easier.

3.2.1 Restrictions on noise

More stringent use restrictions would be most effective at addressing noise concerns. Multiple municipalities (e.g., Atherton³² and San Clemente³³) mandate that no individual blower may produce a noise level exceeding 65 dBA at a distance of 50 feet: i.e., five dBA less than permitted under the current Davis Municipal Code. Because the decibel scale is logarithmic, decreasing a noise by five dBA equates to approximately halving the sound energy contained in that noise. Most human speech falls around 60 dBA, with louder speech falling around 65 dBA. Establishing a 65 dBA noise limit would put blower noise in the range that people typically hear inside a crowded room.

Other municipalities also limit the times of day that blowers may be used to a narrower window than is permitted under the current Davis Municipal Code. Atherton, for instance, limits blower use to between 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM Mondays through Fridays, 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM on Saturday, and 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Sunday. Comments expressed by Davis residents (e.g., on NextDoor) note that blower use in the early morning is particularly disruptive. Limiting blower use to between the hours of 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Mondays through Fridays and between the hours of 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays would help address this concern. The City could also consider limiting blower use to certain days and/or seasons (i.e., the fall and winter) so that blower noise is less of a constant problem.

3.2.2 Restrictions on airborne dust and debris

All blowers will by nature generate some amount of airborne dust and debris. As CARB observes, blowers are “designed to move relatively large materials, which requires enough force to also blow up dust particles.”³⁴ Limitations on blower use are therefore more likely to mitigate dust and debris than limitations on blower design. For instance, the City could:

- Prohibit blower use on weekends and holidays (when people are more likely to be recreating outside).
- Prohibit blower use within a certain radius of playgrounds and other high-traffic public spaces.
- Develop and promote codes of conduct for responsible blower operation.

³² <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/6230/Item-21>

³³ <https://www.san-clemente.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=53287>

³⁴ <https://ww3.arb.ca.gov/msprog/mailouts/msc0005/msc0005.pdf>

3.2.3 Restrictions on exhaust emissions

If the City continues to allow both gas and electric blowers, it could still consider banning gas blowers powered by two-stroke engines but permitting those powered by four-stroke engines. As noted in Section 1.2, four-stroke blowers are heavier than two-stroke blowers but considerably more efficient and environmentally friendly.

Limiting the times of year during which blowers may be operated would limit the amount of GHGs that blowers produce annually. Limiting the times of day or week during which blowers may be operated will likely be a less effective strategy, as operators may simply concentrate blower use into a narrower window.

3.3 Option 3: Phase out/ban only gas blowers

The City could phase out gas blowers entirely while permitting electric blowers. **This approach would eliminate blower exhaust emissions and would mitigate blower-related noise** (since, as stated in Section 1, electric blowers are quieter on average than gas blowers). **This approach would have less of an effect on blower-related dust and debris.** The City could address the dust and debris problem—and further mitigate blower-related noise—by coupling a gas blower ban with additional use restrictions (i.e., Option 2).

Option 3 is **likely to impose a financial burden** on stakeholders who would have to purchase new electric blowers to substitute for gas blowers. The financial burden could be mitigated through a city-funded rebate program. This option is also **likely to impose a moderate additional burden on commercial and city landscapers.** Cord-powered electric blowers are powerful enough to substitute for gas blowers for many big jobs, but are also limited in range. Battery-powered electric blowers are more portable but less powerful and offer limited runtime.³⁵ Enforcement would be relatively easy, as it is relatively easy to distinguish between gas-powered and electric blowers.

Other jurisdictions provide examples of how and at what pace to feasibly phase out gas blowers. In Washington, D.C., a resolution to ban gas blowers was passed in early December 2018 and goes into effect on January 1, 2022.³⁶ Such a long phase-out timeline is likely unnecessary for a small jurisdiction like Davis, but is useful as an upper bound. In Encinitas, a ban on gas-powered blowers was passed in August 2019. The ban went into effect for city operations in September 2019, for businesses in December 2019, and for residents in January 2020. This relatively quick timeline was facilitated by a city-funded rebate program (see Section 2.) that allowed residents and business

³⁵ <https://www.consumerreports.org/cro/leaf-blowers/buying-guide/index.htm>

³⁶ <https://dcist.com/story/18/12/04/d-c-council-strikes-death-blow-to-gas-powered-leaf-blowers/>

owners to turn in gas-powered blowers in exchange for credit on new electric blowers.³⁷ If the City were to offer a similar rebate program, phasing out gas blowers on a ~6-month timeline would likely be possible. However, the City would be well advised to (1) further assess blower use in Davis and (2) solicit stakeholder feedback before setting a phase-out timeline.

3.4 Option 4: Phase out/ban all blowers

The City could phase out both gas and electric blowers entirely. Option 4 **would eliminate all adverse blower impacts. Enforcement would also be relatively easy**, given that the enforcement question would be binary (i.e., “is someone using a leaf blower or not?”). However, Option 4 may **impose considerable burdens on stakeholders**. As discussed in Section 1.1, raking and sweeping takes considerably more time—and hence requires considerably more in labor costs—than blowing. Raking and sweeping may also be an imperfect substitute for blowing in certain circumstances.

As noted in Section 2, few communities have banned blowers altogether. Those that have (e.g., Laguna Beach, Del Mar) did so in the early 1990s, before high-performance electric blowers or low-noise gas-powered blowers were commercially available. The City would hence be largely on its own when it came to determining an appropriate timeline for enacting a complete blower ban, and the importance of engaging stakeholders on setting a timeline would be amplified. If the City were to proceed with a complete blower ban, it should consider making exceptions to the ban under special circumstances, such as for emergency property maintenance and certain public works projects.³⁸ The City should also accompany a blower ban with educational campaigns that decrease consumer demand for leaf removal for aesthetic reasons.

³⁷ <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/encinitas-leaf-blower-ban-goes-into-effect/2233563/>

³⁸ http://qcode.us/codes/lagunabeach/view.php?topic=7-7_25-7_25_070&frames=on

4. NRC recommendations

Based on the information presented above, the NRC recommends that the City of Davis **(1) phase in a ban on the sale and use of gas leaf blowers within City limits, and (2) allow continued use of electric leaf blowers under more stringent restrictions.** The rationale for each of these recommendations is presented below. Appendix XX contains draft language for updating the relevant section of the Davis Municipal Code based on these recommendations.

4.1 *Recommendation 1: Ban gas blowers*

The evidence of the adverse human and environmental effects of blower exhaust emissions is compelling. The NRC can envision scenarios in which these adverse effects are outweighed by the labor and cost savings that powerful gas blowers enable. For instance, we understand the value of gas blowers for landscaping large properties where few passersby are present and where blower operators are equipped with adequate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Such is not the case in Davis, where blowers are used primarily for relatively small properties and are frequently operated near public walkways, parks, playgrounds, and other public spaces. Permitting continued use of gas blowers in Davis imposes intermittent—but very real—safety and health risks on users of these spaces. We also note that availability of safe and healthy public spaces is especially important for lower income and otherwise disadvantaged persons who may lack access to private recreation and transportation alternatives. Permitting continued use of gas blowers in Davis therefore runs counter to Goal 5 (“Ensure a Safe, Healthy, Equitable Community”) set by the Davis City Council.

Gas blowers also contribute to climate change, both through direct emission of greenhouse gases such as CO₂ and through emission of hydrocarbons that can combine with nitrogen oxides from other sources to form atmospheric ozone. We acknowledge that the contributions of gas blowers within Davis comprise a relatively small share of the City’s overall carbon footprint. But given that high-quality emission-free electric blowers are commercially available, and that the City has committed to taking “maximum efforts to implement carbon reduction actions”³⁹, the City can and should move to cut the amount of GHG emissions from blowers in Davis from “small” to “zero”. Such action would also be consistent with Goal 3 (“Pursue Environmental Sustainability”) set by the Davis City Council.

Per Section 1.2, we understand that electric blowers are not a perfect substitute for gas blowers. Indeed, it is because of the substantial time and cost savings that blowers

³⁹ <https://www.cooldavis.org/2019/05/15/climate-emergency-resolution-city-of-davis-adopted-march-5-2019/>

provide that the NRC is stopping short of recommending a ban on gas and electric blowers altogether. But we do not believe the need for gas blowers in Davis outweighs their adverse effects. Blowers are mostly used in Davis for small projects (where battery-powered electric blowers would suffice) and/or near buildings (where exterior electrical outlets are likely to be available to support more powerful corded electric blowers). We believe it is feasible to use a combination of electric blowers and manual methods for the limited number of larger projects where electric blowers alone are not enough.

We also recognize that replacing gas blowers with electric blowers may impose a financial burden on homeowners, commercial landscapers, and other blower users. **We therefore recommend that the City explore the possibility of a city-funded rebate program, in which gas blowers can be exchanged for comparable electric blowers at below-market cost.** Such a program could be modeled on the programs already in place in cities like Encinitas and regions like the South Coast Air Quality Management District (Section 2).

If such a rebate program was established, we believe it would be reasonable for the City to phase in a gas blower ban over six months. Otherwise, we recommend extending the phase-in period to a year. We additionally recommend enforcing the ban with an increasingly stringent fine scheme identical to the scheme used in Encinitas: a warning for a first violation, a \$100 fine for a second violation, a \$200 fine for a third violation, and a \$1,000 fine for each violation thereafter. However, we believe that City staff should engage stakeholders (i.e., through roundtable discussions and/or public fora) for feedback before finalizing phase-in timeline and penalties.

4.2 Recommendation 2: Establish more stringent use restrictions

Per Section 3, a gas blower ban would eliminate blower exhaust emissions and mitigate blower noise, but would have less of an effect on blower-related dust and debris. To address this issue, and to further mitigate blower noise, we recommend that the City increase the stringency of blower use restrictions.

At a minimum, we recommend:

- (1) lowering the 70 dBA at 50 feet noise limit established in Section 24.02.040(b)(2) of the Davis Municipal Code to 65 dBA, and
- (2) narrowing the windows allowed for blower operation established in Section 24.02.040(b) of the Davis Municipal Code to between the hours of 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Mondays through Fridays and between the hours of 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays.

These restrictions are in line with restrictions in many other California jurisdictions but still provide plenty of freedom for reasonable blower use.

We also urge the City to consider banning blower use altogether during summer months, i.e., May through September. This is for several reasons:

- Few leaves fall during the summer, hence need for blowers is less urgent.
- More people recreate outside during the summer, hence adverse impacts of blowers are experienced by greater numbers.
- Little to no rain falls during the summer to moisten soil and wash away debris, hence blowers are more likely to kick up dust.

We believe that increasing the stringency of noise and time-of-day restrictions can and should be done as quickly as possible while still giving reasonable time for stakeholders to learn about the updated regulations and make adjustments. A ~3-month implementation timeframe seems appropriate, though we again recommend engaging with stakeholders before timeline finalization. We recommend implementing a seasonal ban beginning in 2021, in order to give stakeholders sufficient time to prepare.

APPENDICES

Appendix I. Draft language for updating the Davis Municipal Code

Use of leaf blowers within Davis is governed by Section 24.02.040(b) of the Davis Municipal Code. We recommend updating the code as follows (updates shown in red):

(b) Construction and landscape maintenance equipment. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, between the hours of ~~7:00~~ 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays, and between the hours of ~~8:00~~ 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, construction, alteration, repair or maintenance activities which are authorized by valid city permit or business license, or carried out by employees of contractors of the city shall be allowed if they meet at least one of the following noise limitations:

(1) No individual piece of equipment shall produce a noise level exceeding eighty-three dBA at a distance of twenty-five feet. If the device is housed within a structure on the property, the measurement shall be made outside the structure at a distance as close to twenty feet from the equipment as possible.

(2) The noise level at any point outside of the property plane of the project shall not exceed eighty-six dBA.

(3) The provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall not be applicable to impact tools and equipment; provided, that such impact tools and equipment shall have intake and exhaust mufflers recommended by manufacturers thereof and approved by the director of public works as best accomplishing maximum noise attenuation, and that pavement breakers and jackhammers shall also be equipped with acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds recommended by the manufacturers thereof and approved by the director of public works as best accomplishing maximum noise attenuation. In the absence of manufacturer's recommendations, the director of public works may prescribe such means of accomplishing maximum noise attenuation as he or she may determine to be in the public interest.

Construction projects located more than two hundred feet from existing homes may request a special use permit to begin work at 6:00 a.m. on weekdays from June 15th until September 1st. No percussion type tools (such as ramsets or jackhammers) can be used before 7:00 a.m. The permit shall be revoked if any noise complaint is received by the police department.

(4) No individual powered blower shall produce a noise level exceeding ~~seventy~~ sixty-five dBA measured at a distance of fifty feet.

- (5) No powered blower shall be operated within one hundred feet radius of another powered blower simultaneously.
 - (6) On single-family residential property, the seventy dBA at fifty feet restriction shall not apply if operated for less than ten minutes per occurrence.
- (c) Prohibition of gas-powered blowers.
- (1) The use or operation of any powered blower running on a combustion or gasoline engine shall be prohibited.
 - (2) All City Facilities, City-managed concessions, City-sponsored or co-sponsored events, City permitted events and all franchisees, City Contractors, and vendors doing business with the City shall be prohibited from using or operating any powered blower running on a combustion or gasoline engine.
 - (3) Powered blowers running on line current (electricity) or by battery may be used in the City subject to the provisions of Section 24.02.040(b) of this Code.
- (d) Seasonal prohibition of powered blowers. The use or operation of any powered blower from May 1 until September 30 of any year shall be generally prohibited. Operators may apply for a special use permit to use a powered blower during this time, subject to the provisions of Sections 24.02.040(b) and (c) of this Code.

Appendix II. Partial list of cities that limit or ban leaf blowers

Partial list of cities that limit or ban leaf blowers					
State	City	Complete gas blower ban	Seasonal gas blower ban	Noise and/or time of day restrictions	Complete gas and electric blower ban
CA	Albany			✓	
CA	Alhambra			✓	
CA	Arcadia			✓	
CA	Artesia			✓	
CA	Belvedere	✓			
CA	Berkeley	✓			
CA	Beverly Hills	✓			
CA	Burbank			✓	
CA	Burlingame			✓	
CA	Calexico			✓	
CA	Capitola			✓	
CA	Carmel	✓			
CA	Cerritos			✓	
CA	Claremont	✓			
CA	Corona Del Mar			✓	
CA	Costa Mesa			✓	
CA	Culver City			✓	
CA	Cypress			✓	

CA	Dana Point			✓	
CA	Davis			✓	
CA	Del Mar				✓
CA	Downey			✓	
CA	El Segundo			✓	
CA	Emeryville			✓	
CA	Foster City			✓	
CA	Fountain Valley			✓	
CA	Gardena			✓	
CA	Glendale			✓	
CA	Hawaiian Gardens			✓	
CA	Hermosa Beach				✓
CA	Huntington Beach			✓	
CA	Indian Wells	✓			
CA	Indio			✓	
CA	Irvine			✓	
CA	La Canada Flintridge			✓	
CA	Laguna Beach				✓
CA	Lawndale	✓			
CA	Lomita			✓	
CA	Long Beach			✓	

CA	Los Altos	✓			
CA	Los Angeles			✓	
CA	Los Gatos	✓			
CA	Malibu	✓			
CA	Manhattan Beach				✓
CA	Manteca			✓	
CA	Mill Valley	✓			
CA	Monrovia			✓	
CA	Monterey Park			✓	
CA	Newport Beach	✓			
CA	North Hempstead			✓	
CA	Norwalk			✓	
CA	Ojai	✓			
CA	Orange			✓	
CA	Orinda			✓	
CA	Palm Desert			✓	
CA	Palm Springs	✓			
CA	Palo Alto	✓			
CA	Palos Verdes Estates			✓	
CA	Pasadena			✓	
CA	Piedmont	✓			

CA	Portola Valley			✓	
CA	Redondo Beach			✓	
CA	Richmond			✓	
CA	Rohnert Park			✓	
CA	Rolling Hills Estates			✓	
CA	Sacramento			✓	
CA	San Anselmo			✓	
CA	San Diego			✓	
CA	San Dimas			✓	
CA	San Fernando			✓	
CA	San Marino			✓	
CA	Santa Barbara	✓			
CA	Santa Clara			✓	
CA	Santa Fe Springs			✓	
CA	Santa Monica				✓
CA	Saratoga			✓	
CA	Sebastopol			✓	
CA	Sierra Madre			✓	
CA	Solana Beach	✓			
CA	Sonoma			✓	
CA	St. Helena			✓	

CA	Sunnyvale			✓	
CA	Tiburon	✓			
CA	West Hollywood	✓			
CO	Aspen			✓	
CO	Carbondale			✓	
CO	Westminster			✓	
CT	Greenwich			✓	
CT	Ridgefield			✓	
Washington, DC		✓			
FL	Palm Beach			✓	
IL	Arlington		✓		
IL	Evanston		✓		
IL	Glencoe		✓		
IL	Highland Park		✓		
IL	Lincolnwood		✓		
IL	Wilmette		✓		
IL	Winnetka		✓		
MD	Montgomery			✓	
MA	Brookline		✓		
MA	Cambridge			✓	
MA	Longport			✓	

MI	Blackman Township			✓	
MI	Cassopolis			✓	
MI	Kalamazoo			✓	
MI	Oakland			✓	
MI	Richland			✓	
MI	Roseville			✓	
NH	Portsmouth			✓	
NJ	Princeton			✓	
NJ	Township of Montclair		✓		
NY	Ardsley			✓	
NY	Atlantic Beach			✓	
NY	Beacon			✓	
NY	Bronxville	✓			
NY	Dobbs Ferry	✓			
NY	Flower Hill			✓	
NY	Great Neck Estates			✓	
NY	Greenberg	✓			
NY	Huntington	✓			
NY	Larchmont			✓	
NY	New Rochelle	✓			
NY	Oyster Bay	✓			

NY	Russell Gardens			✓	
NY	Sleepy Hollow	✓			
NY	Tarrytown	✓			
NY	Thomaston Village	✓			
NY	Village of Tuckahoe	✓			
NY	White Planes	✓			
NY	Yonkers	✓			
NC	Chapel Hill			✓	
OR	Portland			✓	
TX	Houston			✓	
WA	Seattle			✓	

Appendix III. ANSI guidelines for leaf blower operation

- Operate power equipment only at reasonable hours--not early in the morning or late at night when people might be disturbed. Comply with times listed in local ordinances.
- To reduce sound levels, limit the number of pieces of equipment used at any one time.
- Operate blowers at the lowest possible engine speed to do the job.
- Use rakes and brooms to loosen debris before blowing.
- In dusty conditions, slightly dampen surfaces or use mister attachment when water is available.
- Conserve water by using blowers instead of hoses for many lawn and garden applications, including areas such as gutters, screens, patios, grills, porches, and gardens.
- Avoid blowing debris towards people, pets, open windows, or cars when using unit.
- Use the full blower nozzle extension when blowing.
- After using blowers and other equipment, CLEAN UP! Dispose of debris in trash receptacles.