

Additional Information – Input from Residents

Survey Comments By Question

Question 1 – 262 Comments

We use it sparingly and use it to vacuum and breakdown leaves to reduce the amount.

My leaf blower is electric and now very loud.

Multiple leaf blowers used on our 15,000sq ft property

It is electric

I have 3 giant trees in a yard that is otherwise garden. Leaves could not be cleared without a leaf blower.

I want them to be able to clear leaves etc. We are in an incredibly leafy house and need this for our play space and everything I use an electric blower

A leaf blower is no louder than a lawn mower

I have a one time per year clean up only.

It is certified certified at 70dBA. Gas powered. Should this ban be approved I would need to sell the blowers I legally purchased I use it as well as my landscaper. Couldn't maintain my property otherwise at my age, 82 years old .

Yes, my landscaper uses leaf blowers. They do a very good job. My property would be very difficult to do without the help of leaf I am older and it would be too hard to collect all my leaves by hand.

Landscapers work on a lot of houses, and if you make it difficult for them to get rid of the leaves quickly, it takes more time and essential tool

Uses in plants and trees. Blows light snow.

Vital for the gardeners to use this. And can be used in office hours I would not wake up anyone poor disturb dinner

I think the cleanup of our yard would take much longer, be less efficient and more expensive without the leaf blowers.

it is an electric leaf blower

It is electric,plug-in.

I have a battery powered leave blower. I use various landscapers, but of course they have leaf blowers. Good ones.

We also use a rake. Our leaf blower is electric.

A leaf blower is the only way to adequately clean a property.

Since the leaf blower law came into effect it has been more difficult for them to do a thorough job cleaning the leaves and debris

total service is less than 15 minutes. blowers are quieter than older blowers.

He & his people use standard gas blowers efficiently & quickly per regulations.

I use an electric blower

I limit leaf blower use by landscaper

I am a homeowner, not a criminal. If you want to hold homeowners accountable for their landscapers operating leaf blowers outside It is electric, quiet, and I use it specifically to get leaves out of planting where raking by hand is too disruptive if the planting medium.

I own/reside in condo on Pleasant St, the landscaping company we hire uses a leaf blower

This appears to be the best way to clear out the big oak leaves from garden beds and lawn.

I have one, but use it sparingly because it is a disturbance to my neighbors.

Electric blower occasionally

Electric leaf blowers are quieter and better for the environment .

My leaf blower is electric

complies with current regulations

An electric leaf blower which is quieter
we could not otherwise do the work

Without use of the leaf blower, my rate would certainly increase a lot. Banning leaf blower use in private residences but not in town And I don't have a problem with it

Electric.... quieter than gas blower.

Our building is right along Beacon St with very large town-owned trees on both sides of Beacon St. In Fall we have a flurry of leaves! It is necessary to clean up after the winter, the fall leaves, the spring pollens and after storms, a good part of the year. Perhaps My landscaper adheres to the Brookline time restrictions for usage of leaf blowers.

My landscaper uses electric blower that is quiet, and within town limit. I am satisfied with the way leaf blowers are used except for I should be allowed to use the leaf blower on my property.

my previous residence in Brookline used leaf blowers

I did my own leaf blowing up until 4yrs ago.

I plan on procuring one next season.

I want my landscaper to use a leaf blower. My property looks better and he is able to finish the job a lot quicker. we collect 200 bags of leaves each fall. we can't get this done without a leaf blower.

When I owned my home, which had a very large, sloping back yard, I hired a landscaper to remove leaves in spring and late fall.

I use to have a landscaper and the landscaper DID use a leaf blower

1) we personally use an electric leaf blower-- and we buy our electricity from local non-fossil sources. 2) we've asked our landscaper Electric leaf blower

I don't care if others use it

I have back problems and cannot rake any longer. I would also pay a small fortune to employ a landscaper to rake the property.

Have electric blower and use very occasionally

Maintenance co. uses gas; I periodically use electric

Absolutely necessary given the number of trees on or near our property

I rarely use it, but own one to use when I need to. I have an electric leaf blower.

personal or landscaper varies by year

I use an electric leaf blower

They are extremely helpful in getting difficult work done quickly!

I can't afford a landscaping service. Nor can I afford to spend several weekend days raking leaves from my yard.

Additional leaf I occasionally use an electric leaf blower in the summer.

I also use a leaf blower

I've considered getting one for limited use in hard to reach spots in my yard.

Not a problem for us. Very useful. Brief time used.

Used to until it broke down and we went back to a rake!

I cannot imagine the cost/inconvenience of further restrictions.

Need it for my driveway

I very rarely use an electric powered leaf blower

My leaf blower is electric only.

used mostly to remove leaves that fall from Town-owned trees onto our front lawn & sidewalk

The folks who clean our gutters once a year use one.

Often used when completely unnecessary. It would be quicker to sweep small amounts. Not to mention quieter.

The leaf blower is a time saver and enables the landscaper to do a very thorough job with the clean up.

I use an electric blower, not gas

I have an electric leaf blower. It's very very quiet.

Electric leaf blower

A small electric leaf blower

Does not disturb my family

has been inspected by town

Our landscaper needs to be able to use leaf blowers to maintain our communal property in a condo association. Without the use of leaf blower used only twice a year--spring and fall cleanups Without this my back injuries would prevent me from being able to do leaf pick-up in the fall. Raking is extremely straining. Additionally, My landscaper uses low-decibel/emissions leaf blowers. It's a very big condo property.. I wish they wouldn't use it so much but banning it would cause problems. electric, not that noisy

An electric leaf blower which we use once or twice in the Fall

We are long time Town Citizens do not understand why all this effort is put into a seldom used equipment I personally have one that I use every so often and our maintenance crew use one regularly. It is a very small price to it's fine with me. Very efficient. I live in a next to a very leafy park and the wind blows the leaves onto my property. Abuts Longwood I can't imagine not being able to use a blower--this is the most ridiculous "tree hugging" kind of discussion, and I am ashamed how do you do up kee at Fisher Hill Estates without a leaf blower I am not adverse to the use of a leaf blower

Leaf blowers are necessary for residents who are either physically unable to or do not have the time to rake their leaves by hand.

It costs money to remove leaves for tax payers, businesses, schools, parks, etc. The proposed ban will reduce taxpayer income, We have a landscaper doing regular maintenance at our house. Occasionally we use a leaf blower to clean our deck as the street Maybe twice a year and during the weekday.

My leaf blower is electric

It would be difficult to maintain my property without a leaf blower. Also, the amount of time used is quite brief. leaf blower cuts labor time/costs, hence saves me money.

To keep our property neat, a LB is a necessity.

A quiet electric one

It is electric and quiet compared to gas leaf blowers. Also I use it as a final cleaning versus daily or weekly.

We have an electric leaf blower.

I will continue to use a leaf blower.

We own an electric leaf blower

We have an electronic leaf blower but use it very sporadically.

Twice a year.

A relative once a fall brings a leaf blower to gather my leaves.

But only occasionally and under the decibel limit. I would say only for Spring and Fall cleanup.

We will not be able to afford the landscaper if they need to remove leaves by hand!

I have an electric I use in the summer to clean off tree droppings .

I couldn't get my leaves without a leaf blower.

Would be hardship if prohibited.&

Only once a year for a total of about 10 hours spread over two days

And it would take a LOT longer if we couldn't use one!

Our cleaning contractor also sometimes uses a leaf blower to blow our walkways.

From zero to no more than 2 times/year only, depending on my health --and I'm usually home year-round when the landscapers They use only during months allowed

We do not have the time, energy or desire to perform this function.

I used to use an electric leaf blower but switched to raking and sweeping.

The leaf blower is essential for taking care of our property since we have many large, old trees.

I strictly adhere to the town bylaws and confine my use to times when I am not likely to bother my neighbors

The blower is certified by the town and is only used during approved times.

Big old trees in my property produce a huge amount of leaves.

I have a battery powered electric leaf blower that is much quieter than the gas leaf blowers.

It would be impossible to maintain my property without a leaf blower

I use it to vacuum leaves

This past year my landscaper followed the town's new rules and my property was not as well maintained despite their best efforts Once a year cleanup in the fall - dreadfully noisy

With a 2/3 acre heavily wooded lot, a rake is inadequate.

I use an electric leaf blower.

I use a gas mower but never a leaf blower.

It is small and powered by electricity via extension cord

I also personally have a leaf blower i use on occasion

I do have an electric one, I just haven't used it yet

Using a rake would take up hours and hours of my weekends in the fall.

We have an half acre lot with 3 beech trees that generate tons of leaves in the fall.

dont ban leafblowers

After several years attempting to rake the leaves myself, I hired someone to do it. As a result, the leaves are cleaned up and taken Sometimes our neighbors's landscaper kindly blows our leaves.

I, and my home landscaper, use leaf blowers withing the mandated hours of day, the mandated months of the year and adherence Our lot is mostly ground cover, and ground cover cannot be manually raked. So without a leaf blower, we may be left with no practical I use an electric leaf blower, not gas

Wear ear plugs and leave leaf blowers alone.

We own many large trees and it's far too costly and time consuming (the same thing) to do it any other way.

I don't live there but I certainly benefit from being able to use a leaf blower to help my brother.

We use an electric one.

Noise from leaf blower is not offensive, and job is finished quickly.

Electric, NOT gas powered. I believe the difference between the two is significant.

To Much noise, use a rake instead.

I have a 9,000 sq ft. property that I clean with rakes and brooms and it looks great

I don't like the fact the landscaper uses a leaf blower

I find it just as fast to rake as to blow the leaves, and I have a fairly large lawn

I would be happy to ask them not to, even if it means less effective clean-up.

We rake leaves

I use a rake.

Would prefer they did not use a leaf blower

We do not use leaf blowers out of consideration to our neighbors and the environment.

I use a rake and fill over 45 bags of leaves a year. I am very happy DPW picks up the yard waste.

I use a rake and I would gladly pay extra to have a landscaper use a rake.

The noise is invasive and prolonged and interrupts my work at home. I'd like to see them banned year around throughout the I use a rake to clear leaves (and we have many big trees) from my property.

We choose not to use a leaf blower because of the noise to neighbors, the disruption to wildlife/birds, and the extra pollution.

It bothers me a lot, the noise and the dust. Often it is used without need.

The wind will blow any grass clippings away anyways.

I would never own one; I HATE them.

I believe they should be banned entirely. They are terrible polluters both from the type of engine they use and from the clouds I have asked him to stop.

They normally use one, but if I'm working from home, I ask them to not use it.

I always rake my own leaves. It's good exercise and environmental friendly.

I absolutely hate it - the noise pollution and the air pollution are horrid.

I use a rake. Good exercise. Quiet. Green.

We hate the noise, and have told our landscaper we would prefer to pay them to spend more time raking by hand. We are a "No-I quit using one because it made noise

I hate the noise of all of them

I would be happy to let them know it is not permitted if a ban is passed

We do our own raking with rakes

I loathe and detest leaf blowers. The ruin the fall. They are far too noisy and could be muffled I'm sure.

I would not subject my family and neighbors to the noise.

I hired a landscaper who would only work without using a leaf blower or power mower. Two years later and it is going great!

They use year round--to blow leaves/fall, spring summer/grass clippings, winter/snow off the walkway. All very annoying!!

I hate leaf blowers = they are daily, and I can not even talk on the phone they are so loud

They are overused and way too loud!

i don't have a maintenance company or gardener. does brookline about renters?

Electric Black & Decker which can blow or suck up leaves for mulching. The below answers relate to my machine.

i never want a leaf blower to be used in our condo grounds.

I'm surrounded by properties (including a McMansion next door) whose landscaping services used gas leaf blowers all summer The following argues strongly against leaf blowers: It concerns the parasite (Center for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc>. I see landscapers using 4 or 5 leafblowers at a time

I will be asking them not to, after reading about pollution they cause!

Professional landscaper 22 years, NEVER used.

We hate it but have had little influence of its use. The landscapers will use a blower to blow a single leaf!

Leaf blowers are noisy, energy consuming, and it is unclear why blowing leaves onto a neighbor's property or into the street is leaves are compost and only need to be removed from sidewalks

Don't like leaf blowers

I can't find landscapers who don't though I try.

I don't let anyone use a leaf blower on my property.

Either I rake myself or I hire a neighborhood teen. Bagging is more of a chore.

I prefer the exercise and relative quiet of using a rake.

We require hand raking

I specifically use a co. that will not use leaf blowers.

I rake and bag my leaves.

They are noisy and dirty

We have a landscaper only for spring and fall cleanups. His team nearly always uses rakes. This time, one of the men had an electric detest them

I rake, old school, and place between 90 and 120 bags on the street for pick up each year

A rake works just fine!

I hate the sound! We live between Emerson Park and the park across from OLS. In the summer and fall, when windows are open, I find them insanely annoying -- noisy, intrusive, nonstop, environmentally unconscionable.

We have a ton of trees and RAKE.

HATE IT

Leaf blowers cause both air and noise pollution. I choose to protect the environment and respect my neighbors.

We rake our leaves.

Can't stand the painful noise.

I hate the noise!

I do not approve of its use

They're noisy and annoying. I wish raking would be the norm.

I rake my yard.

I understand it takes me much longer but it's much more peaceful and considerate.

And those in the garden level units complain about the gas fumes, everyone else is disturbed by the noise

We use a rake and broom. Doesn't take long, good exercise, good for the environment

Primarily use rake

I find leaf blowers to be obnoxiously noisy and air polluting. Raking is healthier for everybody.

This assumes everyone has a landscaper. Some of us actually mow our own grass and have the leaves (not grass) raked a couple We were on vacation out of the country and just got back and saw this survey. Can u still include our response?

the maintenance co. of our bldg uses one, but i have nothing to do with it!

But in walking and biking around the town, I encounter them from time to time.

Not sure but I think they do.
I am a renter.
We have a very small back yard.
Most residents in my neighborhood have landscapers using leaf blowers. Also, the Town does so in a park close to our residence.
and I do not have a landscaper.
I think they do, but I'm not sure
Even my own landscaper's leaf blower is unbearably loud.
WE RENT, NOT OWN
Raking is fine with me. Good exercise too.
I use a rake. Good exercise. Quiet. Green. Can I make another comment? We have a bigger problem with our neighbor using his raking is communal and neighborly
We have a 1/2 acre lot that abuts the Walnut Hill Cemetery, which use leaf blowers all day long.

Question 2 – 64 Comments

Use a rake instead.
119-137 Freeman Street
2 family
2 family
2--family
2-family
2-family
2-family house
2-family house, rent first floor
2-unit building
26units with a large courtyard
3 family building.
a condo in a 4 family house
Also a Condo owner
Association of 8 homes
Condo in a two-family house
Every house around me uses landscapers, and every landscaper uses leaf blowers.
Half of a two family.
house owned as a condo
House until 2014
Houses are close in our Coolidge Corner neighborhood
I am a Trustee and have authority to tell landscaper not to use leaf-blowers.
I hate leaf blowers = they are daily, and I can not even talk on the phone they are so loud
I have brick terraces that do not rake easily nor quickly.
I have a substantial garden in which I do a great deal of work.
I have many old trees...
I have no problems with leaf blowers
I live in a three apartment house, one of which is occupied by the landlord, who takes meticulous care of the property.
I maintain my own grounds using rakes.
I'm on first floor, with garden in front and back, and alley yard access down on side.
It's a two unit condo. The two units get along well, and we make decisions together. One of the decisions is whom to hire for large lot, precinct one
lot is about 7,000 sq. ft.

many trees, fairly large yard. We rake.
my home is a condo in a three family house
Na

Our lot size is just over 5000 sq ft, but we do have several large maple trees overhanging our back yard.
Own two family house; rent half.
Owned and lived in since 1978.
Please see comment #1

previous residence condo complex in Coolidge Corner
Rental
see above

Small acreage but lots of trees, particularly on the public tree line, which I take care of.
9 units. Not a large property; nevertheless a leafblower.
CDC site re: parasite leaf blowers could make airborne: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html>
multi-family

Small house with very little land.
Small yard. Landscaper also does roof repair and snow removal.
Surrounded by large properties that use leaf blowers. These are residential properties and the use is for several hours at a time.
The town has an SOS shovel our snow program. It could organize an ROL rake our leaves program.

Three Family

Two family

Two-family

two-family, large yard

very small yard and landscaped area.

We have lots of leaves; we rake and bag them by hand.

We live in a two family house.

Workers who use leaf blowers end up pushing dust and leaves from the property they're cleaning onto the street and others' yards!!!!

We are a 3-unit condominium & we use a rake

We live in a single family home in South Brookline. It is a quiet residential street. We are both retired, but virtually everyone else We live in a three-decker with a small yard which collects many leaves.

We own a multi-family house

without the use of leaf blowers my condominium complex could not be cleared of leaves , both efficiently and cost effective.

Question 4 – 264 Comments

. . . and leaf-blowers are so loud that I can't hear the radio.

2-3 hours weekdays, but more of the time on weekends

3 hours weekdays, 8 hours weekends

4 to 6 hrs., when well. Much more when not. --and I'm usually home year-round when the landscapers come. I have not found 8-10 on weekend , under 2 weekday

Above answer applies to weekdays only.

Above answer relates to weekdays.

Above is only for work days. At home the entire weekend!

all day 3-4 days/week. Other adult works at home.

All day on weekends

All day some days, few hours others

all day, I work at home

Although I realize many people are not home during working hours, our experience is that there is almost

continuous leaf blower And if somebody is blowing leaves, I know it won't last long. Nobody has that large of a yard in my area. If their yard is larger, And my husband until 10 -- frequent blower noise from apt buildings nearby!

Annoying to hear landscapers using leaf blowers seven days a week starting at 8:00 am and waking up the neighbors. Weekends annoying when you are working from home and when you would like to sleep in.

Applies to weekdays

As a professor, I often work at home on non-teaching days. The noise on leaf blowing days is a great distraction from my work. Assume you're asking about weekdays; answer is average

Assuming you're asking about weekdays

Average. Depends on the day.

Before I sold house but blower noise at 8am Sun. was a negative!

Between me and my wife, this amount to time.

Both of us work partly from home

Brilliant question. For many residents who work outside the home, they are not there to hear any noise. Not the silence such a But my child is home with his nanny and is young enough to need an afternoon nap.

Children and nanny home most of the day

Depends on if I am working from home

Depends on my commitments for the day

depends on the day

Depends on the day

Depends on the day as I have a variable schedule

Depends on the day, I work on a contract basis so it varies. But more so on weekends.

depends on the day, sometimes all day, others not

Depends on the day.

do business work from home, kids home in the afternoon doing homework

During the summer, I am home more - I'm a teacher.

during the summer, prime leaf season, I am home for more than four hours a day

During the week 0. Weekends less than 5

during the week days

Another member of the household is home much of that time and works from home. I used to work from home and leafblowers as mentioned above, the noise is a bummer when i'm trying to work

Being in the medical field, I occasionally work overnights, requiring me to sleep during the day at home. Leaf blowers, high schoolers, CDC site re: parasite leaf blowers could make airborne:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html>

During the week I'm not at home, on weekends it might be 2-4 hours at home between those hours

During the week; weekends it is 24 hours per day

during the week. Weekends I'm home

Even if home much less having two LOUD leaf blowers being used within 15 feet of my open breakfast room window at 8 AM, Except for a couple of afternoons a week, I'm home all day.

except on weekends

Extreme leaf blower noise from the condos on St. Paul & Francis St. unpleasant at best. St. makes going outside Full day and night

Gas leaf blowers are very disruptive.

home during those hours only on weekend

Home office

home office

Household member also works from home

I am a stay at home mom

I am a stay at home mom

I am a stay at home mom. There is more noise caused by cars, sirens, large trucks, etc than by leaf blowers. Are you also going I am a stay at home mother.

I am an artist and work in my home.
I am at home with small children who often try to nap through the noise of leaf blowers from multiple directions at the same time
I am home 2 days/week Mon-Fri.
I am in and out all day. Retired.
I am not bothered by the brief, necessary noise
I am not home during these hours on weekdays, but I am on weekends, when I often hear leaf blowers.
I am retired
I am retired.
I am there all the time on the weekends
I and an increasing number of residents work from home
I arrive home between 5:30 and 6pm.
I assume you mean during the work week....
I hate leaf blower noise during that time
I hate leaf blowers = they are daily, and I can not even talk on the phone they are so loud
I have a home office
I have a home office.
i have brown water from my tap and my neighbors are loud as hell from 6ish am to 8am why do i care about leaf blowers bothering I just retired so I am home.
I live at home
I often work at home
I often work at home from my computer.
I often work from home, and in summer and fall I am outdoors and so leaf blowers are a major annoyance.
I understand that leaf blowers are noisy, but the benefits of their use far outweigh the annoyance of the noise and the limited pollution.
I work at home
I work at home
I work at home
I work at home 3 weekdays out of 5
During the week. I assume we're not talking weekends herer. Can I make another comment? We have a bigger problem with our except one day a week i'm home most of the day
I generally work from home most days until about 1:45 and then need to be onsite at work.
I work at home and find leaf blowers disturbing
I work at home so I am usually here.
I work at home, and witness on a regular basis the misuse of leaf blowers.
I work at home.
I work at home.
I work from a home office.
I work from home
I work from home
I work from home
I work from home
I work from home
I work from home 3 days a week
I work from home 3 days/week
I work from home and my husband works nights so is often sleeping during the morning.
I work from home and therefore am home M-F from 8-6:00.
I work from home and yes, hear the noise..its fine.
I work from home every day.
I work from home two days a week.
I work from home, and leaf blowing can really ruin a conference call for me.

I work from home.

I work from home.

I work from home.

I work from home. When the town workers or my neighbors use blowers, it is often over within a short amount of time. Not a nuisance I work from my computer, on the road, at home, various hours

I work from my home office

I work out of the house 3 out of 5 business days

I work out of the house so am very aware of our neighbor's leaf blower usage.

I work partially from home

I work. So I am not home. Weekends I am

I'm home

If I worked from home I would be concerned about noise.

It depends on the day, from 2 to 8 hours.

It does get pretty noisy and working gets distracted by the noise

it is not noise which is of concern for us

It varies by day of week - I work out of the house 3-4 days a week. But I am home for more hours on weekends.

It varies by day.

It varies by day. I am out of the house on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, but there on Monday and Friday.

It varies by the day and the season.

It varies by the day of the week because I work from home

it varies, but I am retired

It varies. I'm retired.

I work at home, and often with open windows. Leafblowers are a huge annoyance; they are frightfully loud.

I work at home, so am attuned to the sound of neighboring leafblowers

I work from home. Btw, the blowers blow all year long in S. Brookline, the landscapers I have addressed simply curse back at me. I work fulltime

I workome. from h

In and out most days. I'm a realtor

It's those of us who are home during the day — including sick family members — who bear the brunt of this noise.

Leaf blower noise can be awful as multiple companies work their way up the street

leaf blower noise does not bother us

leaf blowers not a problem

leaf blowing in our neighborhood can continuously exceed 8 hours in the spring and fall

Leaf blowing ruins the quiet enjoyment of my home

Longer on weekends

Lots of noise in the neighborhood.... construction and B U loudspeakers on weekends.

M-F presumably?

Monday - Friday

Monday - Friday but am home weekends these hours

Monday-Friday I'm at home less than 2 hrs/day. Home all day on weekends

Morning leaf blowing on weekends is a particularly bad problem.

My hours vary from day to day. Average I am home from 4-6 hrs . Although someday so I could be gone all day.

My hours vary. My son's hours are greater.

My husband is, I am at work

my husband works from home

My husband works from home.

My office is located in my home.

My schedule varies, so some days I'm at home all day and others I'm only home for a couple of hours between 8 and 6.

My spouse and I both work at home

My wife and I are in and out all day.

My wife and I are retired and are at home most of the day.

My wife is at home

My wife is at home (in and out)

my wife is home all day

My wife is home. I am at work.

My wife works from home so she is there a lot and we are both home on weekends.

Na

Not home during the week, but spend much time during weekend. My two young children though nap during this time frame.

On Sunday we are typically home many of those hours

On the weekend only

on week days

On weekdays

On weekdays

On weekdays. Longer on weekends

On weekends

On weekends I am often home during much of the leaf blower time

On weekends only. I work full time out of the house.

One of us works from home.

only home during those hours in weekends

only on the weekends

mon - Fri

monday-friday; i'm home for more hours on weekends

Most homeowners in my neighborhood use power equipment for landscaping all seasons including leaf blowers, lawn mowers, Must do yardwork Sundays when days grow short

on weeked s8-10 hours

other family members

present more on the weekends

randomly at home through the week

Restrict use of blowers to 10 AM to 3 PM if needed. NOT THE ENTIRE DAY!

Retired

Retired

Retired

Retired

School teacher, home in the afternoon.

see above. Very intrusive--not just from our company but from those cleaning up and down the block

Some days I may be out most of the day.

Some days I work from home

Some days work from home all day

Someone from our household is usually home

someone is usually at home most of the day

Sometimes 2 hours, sometimes all day. Varies due to my work.

sometimes more, sometimes less

stay-at-home mom so in and out

The "work from home" person who can't tolerate noise should just suck it up and get over it.

The din is horrible during the fall, but even worse is the flying debris and animal waste, which get in one's lungs.

The leaf blowers are noisy and smelly.

The noise pollution is also awful. The disadvantages of these nasty machines FAR OUTWEIGH the savings in work time.

The Town Building & Highway Contractors generate more noise!

The use is only short term and saves hours of work

This is a confusing question. Is this during the week, on the weekend? I don't think you should use the results here to make any This is an average. I sometimes work from home, or am gone for the week on business

This is for weekdays

This is the answer for weekends. During the week I work and am not at home between 8am and 6pm

This is weekdays, on weekends I am present 6-8 hours.

This varies from day to day.

This varies widely by day of the week. Some days the answer would be 0; others it would be all day.

Three days a week I am not home in that range. Two days a week I am there 2-4 hours a day.

Two adults live in the household, and both of us work at least part time at home every day.

Two of us reside at our home. One us works from home.

Variable depending on day of week and work schedule

Variable schedule. Sometimes zero hours and sometimes all day.

Varies

varies -- work at home some days

Varies by day

Varies by day, but i work at home at least three times a week

Varies considerably; this is an average

Varies everyday. I often work from home during the day.

varies from 1 to 10 hours depending on day of week and whether working at home

Varies from day to day

thenoise level is outrageous from theleaf blowers!!

This is for weekdays. Weekends are variavble.

This is private information, not a great question incase this leaks out to others you may not want to have this information.

Varies some days I'm home longer

varies with day and time of year

Varies, seasonal, 0 to 12

varies, sometimes 0.

We are home quite a bit on weekends and find leaf blowers terribly noisy and smelly

We are the only people home on our street during the day. The few minutes of leaf blower noise do not bother us at all.

We both work from home and HATE being interrupted by leaf blowers.

We work from home

Weekdays.

weekdays. Often home on weekends.

weekends and work-from-home days I'm home 8-10 hours

Weekends excluded. Yard work performed by landscaper on weekends.

Weekends only.

Weekends or weekdays?

weekends should definitely be outlawed.

work at home a lot

work at home some days

work from a home office

work from home

work from home

Work from home

Work from home

Work from home 1-3 days per week

Work from home twice a week, variable days.

You forgot weekends when I am home

You missed specifying which days.

You should have specified weekdays/weekend. It's very different.

young children.

We have noticed in our neighborhood that there is a large building where gardeners work on Sunday mornings EARLY blowing Weekends only, not at home Mon to Friday

Question 5 – 271 Comments

The benefits of blowers massively outweigh the downsides. I agree there should be a rule against blowing debris on to neighbors' There are so many other factors that contribute to the impacts listed above and I think that leaf blowers are a very small part of this also doesn't make sense to me

We do not blow debris on neighbor's property. I only worry about the leaf blower breathing in fumes.

We have in place noise restrictions

Assuming used during reasonable hours

considerate and careful use by myself and neighbors = no problem

I am far more concerned about the emissions from vehicular traffic in my neighborhood than I am about the intermittent use of I believe that the existing restrictions sufficiently protect residents from the above health, noise & air quality issues. Residents themselves I believe the current restrictions are both measured and sufficient.

I do not see them as a problem

I have allergies all year, due to pollutants. Absolutely no additional problems with leaf blowers, much less a problem than precipitation I just don't see this a big problem. Cars and traffic are worse.

I think properties that use leaf blowers responsibly end up keeping surrounding areas neater than those who rake (or don't rake, I used to think this was sort of a ridiculous article but I work at home and the noise in the fall is just crazy. I'm a city person and I'm not opposed to leaf blowers, but I agree that there should be some restrictions.

if done early in the morning or on week ends

If the blowers are considerate this is seldom a problem for me

IK use my blower carefully, help my neighbors with their cleanup, AND also help the town to clean up from all the town trees, school Leaf blowers are used out doors. So too are cars, lawn mowers and other gas using machines...

Machines are getting better not as noisy don't smoke like they use to

Misuse not an issue where I live.

More issues with overall air quality. We do live a city so noise and pollution from cars, construction,etc. is to be expected.

Most landscapers do blow leaves into the street before they clean them up. I don't think professional landscapers leave them in Most neighbors keep leaf blowing use to a minimum and do not blow debris of neighboring properties. Perhaps quieter machines my company does NOT blow debris off my property

My neighbor uses a blower less advanced than those used by the landscaper I employ and for longer. It is noisier. Contractors My neighbors landscapers don't usually blow things onto my property - they sometimes help blow things off my property :)

My neighbors' landscaping services use leaf blowers. They are loud, but usually quick, and they do work during the day.

noise vs speed trade-off is worth it

Noise? Most of the landscapers are completed in less than 15 minutes. The noise complaint is overblown by one particular neighbor our company is very careful about use.

Our landscaper takes great care to not blow leaves onto neighboring properties.

Our landscapers are pretty efficient when they come. They mow the lawn, trim the hedge or work in plant beds and blow away Our neighbor employs a lawn service where the workers have head lamps and run leaf blowers & lawnmowers as late as 11:00p. Our neighbors and we use same landscape company so all leaves are cleaned up

almost simultaneously. The neighbors who don't This is an urban town. There is no difference btw the noise of a building contractor, passing police vehicles and ambulances, heavy I am much more concerned by the sound of the ventilation fan behind the Unified Arts Building that wakes my neighbors and I I believe we can tolerate the noise issue if hours of permissible use are limited to 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

I do not see any "misuse". I do not believe there is any health or air quality impact and the sound is certainly not a problem. I honestly don't think that the noise is that intrusive, as I have other things on my mind and rarely notice. As a person concerned If air quality is the issue, the opponents of the gas leaf blowers may want to consider banning cars in Brookline.

If landscapers and others used them properly (i.e. not to blow debris all over the place) I would be more sympathetic to use for more residents need leaf blowers. Worried about Lyme Disease in fall on unkept properties

Neighbor's landscaper use a ride-on mower on a tiny piece of lawn to blow and mow, and also use gas blowers year round against

The impact on health is avoiding injury

The job needs to be done. Most of these leaves land on the town sidewalk and street. But we pay for it.

The leaf blowers don't disturb me.

The leaf blows are used responsibly in my neighborhood and don't pose a problem.

The worst is blowing leaves onto the berm so that the curbs are hidden.

there are electric blowers

there are no impacts.

These are the necessary evils of living in an urban environment. Current regulation seems reasonable. Reasonable restrictions We use a small electric blower. Neighbors with commercial companies use very loud blowers and blow debris into the street and we view as a necessary evil

As long as it isn't too early I think its a necessary nuisance.

For larger properties, there is no choice, but to use leaf blowers. Also, on larger properties, there is no noise impact to neighbors, Machines were invented for a reason - but they must be used properly - this is like banning guns because people misuse them Mine is electric

Mold and leafs vs No leafs

They make earplugs . my health is not affected.

Using this to bring up the quality of life issue of fire pits in people's yards. The smell of smoke infiltrating our home just when we We Have electric version

We have an electric leaf blower because it is quieter and does not have negative air quality or health impacts.

The noise does not bother me more than other noise (snow blowers, etc). To me, it's all 'white noise'. I don't know enough about All are important, however I do not believe there is any impact for the brief amount of time they are used here.

Badly worded question: it's not that they are not important (of course health is important) it's that I don't believe they have an because I witness abuse of blowers of leaves and snow-there are no teeth in the rule. Neighbors who sweep leaves into the street Contractor does job quickly & efficiently with minimal impacts on all of the above, including the health of his workers for whom For these reasons, I use the blower selectively and minimally, but find it invaluable. (Like a snow blower, in that way)

I believe that the impact of leaf blowers with respect to noise/air quality/health is relatively insignificant when compared to other I don't believe air quality and health are impacted by current use.

I have no problem with leaf blower noise, etc.

I have not experienced this

I have not had any problems with leaf blower use personally.

I think noise is the biggest issue for most people. While I have no personal investment in this issue, I think it's crazy that people I've never seen anyone blow debris on neighboring properties

I've never seen debris blown onto neighboring properties.

If debris is not collected via a leaf blower, it will likely end up on neighboring properties anyway when it is blown by the wind!

If I believed leaf blowers reduced air quality, I'd say it's very important. But I don't believe that they do.

impact of health is on the workers more than on me
impacts not fully proven; we follow all requirements

It has a negligible affect on noise, air or health. People that are complaining probably do not have landscapers. Landscape companies that work in our neighborhood do not blow leaves onto neighboring properties. Leaf blower use in my neighborhood has been very responsible. I think the key is making sure the neighbors report anyone that leaf blowers has no effect on health. raking leafs give more dust for those who have an allergy

That LB impact health, air quality is absurd....the gas lines that aren't repaired are the real health issue. The amount of noise to which people are exposed is of short duration, and not particularly loud--particularly when you realize the issue of leaf blowers has not been a problem for us in the 28 years we have lived lived on BabcockStreet

There are many other worse sources of noise in Brookline. Same for air quality. My landscaper's workers do not blow debris onto There are so many more sources of air pollution to worry about - ie Route 9 traffic, the Turnpike, the train tracks, motorcycles on I use electric so the air quality is less impactful

We live in a very urban section of Massachusetts. Neighbors need to learn how to deal with their neighbors directly in an urban What is the difference between air quality with leaf blowers, law mowers, and cars? When there are pro crews on our street, they are considerate of pedestrians.

Who is complaining about this!!!

yes there is noise but necessary for economy of scale

They are a terrible nuisance on our street. They blow a lot of debris and dust around that cannot and is not cleaned up.

Blowing leaves into streets, clogging drains

I especially value peace and quiet.

I hate leaf blowers = they are daily, and I can not even talk on the phone they are so loud

Leaf blowers are a public nuisance y

Misuse: Blowing leaves and other debris onto my property and into the street for the Town to clean up.

Next-door neighbor sometimes blows leaves onto my property

They are often used instead of a broom. This raises lots of dust.

Those 2 bore motors are notorious for low level ozone as well.

unneded burning of fossil fuels and creation of carbon emissions

Use a rake instead, hire more people.

Very disturbing

I dislike the noise of leaf blower's but they are a necessary evil in cleaning up large amounts of leaves.

Air quality for my children is the top concern, given the densely trafficked area we already live in, with limited wide open space

all of the above.

All of these are major problems.

All the debris winds up in the street and then winds up back in all their neighbors yards, and of course the owners are blissfully Also concerned about the health impacts on landscape laborers also healthier to rake

Also too much use of gasoline to power these leaf blowers.

As a biker, I'm a little concerned about debris landing in bike lanes

Aside from the noise, the debris and fumes from leaf blowers cause my Asthma to kick into over drive. I was at a park this fall when At least one of my neighbors sometimes blows leaves into the street, where they can clog sewers.

Back neighbor used to blow leaves onto my property.

blowing debris into the street and not cleaning it up is bad

Blowing debris is a consistent issue.

Blowing leaves & debris into the street is also a concern.

Can't stand the noise.

Check on the noise and hazards of allergens being pushed around.

climate change - should be no leaf blowers

Dirt is flying over everything

Dirt comes up through our 2nd floor windows; air quality is poor. I have asthma and multiple allergies. It is a serious public and do not use leaf blowers, there is no advantage to them!

dust often rises to second and even third floor of our building

For 25 minutes the condo landscapers walk around 3 sides of my first floor unit, filling my condo with diesel fumes (which make For all the reasons listed above, leaf blowers are a menace to the community. All of us older than 40 raked and swept our property From my windows I see workers failing to use masks to protect themselves, and continuing to blow a cloud of debris as pedestrians get rid of leaf blowers!

CDC site re: parasite leaf blowers could make airborne: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html>

I have watched gardeners blow my neighbors leaves all over everyone else's property.

Leaf blowers are by far the most common emitters of noise pollution in Brookline. They increase stress and cortisol levels and . . . onto neighboring properties and out into the street which the town of Brookline has to clean up.

Hard to avoid the fumes when out walking in fall

Have had problems with landscaper blowing debris on our yard!!

health and air quality mostly affects the operators

Health aspects are not well understood. Worse than the intolerable noise

health concern is from the noise

Health is a vague category - do you mean the negative impact on one's health of a leaf blower, or positive impact from using a Heath means not just dust but even more important peace of mind. The blood pressure rises as soon as you hear the truck pull Houses are close together in my neighborhood. Leaf blower noise can easily travel two blocks.

How is health different from air quality?

I also worry about the poor people who have to blow leaves all day every day. Can't be good for them.

i am home most days and listen constantly to leaf blowers in neighborhood

I am surrounded by neighbors who all use gas blowers, or their landscapers do. In season, there are blowers going every day, sometimes I can't stress enough how disruptive they are. We cannot enjoy our front yard at all in the fall. The noise is incessant.

I cannot get my work done when leaf-blowers are being used here or nearby. I use the phone a lot for work, and the noise prevents I do find it hard to believe that the noise levels of most landscaper blowers conform to the allowed decibel levels - the large wheeled I do not like the noise or misuse of them

I don't believe blowers are used to such an extent that their impact on any of the above is significant

I don't believe that leaf blowers are a significant impact on any of these except potentially noise during hours that most people I find the noise very annoying.

I hate leaf blowers! We have very small yards on my street, so there is no good reason why anyone should have one. It takes little I have hearing condition "tinnitus" where loud noises are unpleasant.

I have seen residence rake leaves into street and leave them.

I see leaf blowers being misused constantly.

I see our maintenance guy blowing the stuff onto the next door. Not to mention all the negative effects to me, directly above.

I think they are so annoying - I hate the small particles that blow in the air

I vote to ban them. They are a public nuisance.

I walk and must dodge leaf blower debris in the air constantly

I work from home and need to take calls several times a day. Even if I close all of the windows, I am bombarded with noise and I work out of my home. The noise from various landscapers at surrounding houses sometimes forces me to go to the library to If the noise issue cannot be resolved, I don't want leaf blowers used in residential areas.

Impossible to over state the effect of the incessant noise.

In our condo complex the most annoying misuse is that debris is blown into our windows. If we don't know they're coming, or It's also a waste of natural resources, as they require gasoline or other type of fuel.

leaf blower use in park across the street sometimes generates huge clouds of dust that irritate my family's respiratory systems

Leaf blowers are an imposition on the outdoors. Their impact is not worth any advantages they offer. I have raked and/or composted leaf blowers are HORRIBLE in terms of green house gas emissions. what happened to using a rake? we go to the gym to get exercise Leaf blowers are noisy, the gas ones pollute, and they are often misused when not restricted.

Leaf blowers are too loud and they are used too often.

Leaf blowers have a huge negative impact on the quality of life for me and my family. I am surrounded by four neighbors who Leaf blowers in parking lots particularly objectionable.

Living in a densely populated area w/ small lawns, the noise is horrible because someone always seems to have a blower going.

I am not a fan. Usually those using leafblowers just st my vet the leaves to their neighbor. Get a rake!

I have allergies and these are greatly exacerbated by leaf blowers which kick up molds and pollens. On some days, due to this, I have small children, one with asthma and one with noise sensitivity. They can't go outside while blowers are in use. Which during I have tinnitus - the leafblower noise seriously affects my hearing.

I walk to work down Beacon Street and often have to wait for leafblowers to stop or walk in the street to avoid being soiled by I've seen people chasing down one little leaf!

misuse also includes disregard to people who are in vicinity/on sidewalk and to parked or passing cars.

Noise & air quality are issues for gas leaf blowers, not electric

Noise disrupts sleep, gas engines pollute, both reduce health.

noise that leaf blowers make causes extreme anxiety for my child with autism, to the point that we avoid certain houses/places raking- and bagging leaves is a health benefit!

the noise is catastrophic

The noise is disruptive.

These devices are unnecessary nuisances that disrupt the peace and tranquility of our neighborhoods and degrade the environment When I ride my bicycle, leaf blowers are very dangerous to my sight

Our neighborhood has small yards--so not long blowing. Labor does not blow into other yards/or goes over and clears leaves some noise is part of human progress

They are an environmental and neighborhood nuisance.

they are yucky in every respect

they generally merely move leaves from one place to another with disastrous long term negative impacts

This happens all the time. Dust is blown up in the air, and also often landscapers start working very early in the mornings, on weekends Urban soil contains at least some of the following allergens: mold, mildew and cedar.

Additionally, lead is in soil around older buildings. Very concerned about particulate matter

Very much dislike the use of leaf blowers for all the above reasons.

When neighbors use blowers, I can smell the gas.

i have a special needs child with difficulty sleeping and these upset what sleep he may get during the day If using gas powered blower.

My across the street neighbor has a habit of blowing debris in front of his yard towards mine

My neighbor blows the garbage from her yard into my yard. Her yard is only 500 square feet and could be raked in minutes.

Noise is always a potential issue, however I do not feel that there are any air quality issues or misuse in my neighborhood.

Noise is only an issue early in the morning, esp. weekends!

Noise would be an issue on weekends or early morning/night.

Often leaf blowing companies do not respect pedestrians or bicyclists going by and continue blowing at them.

That is really unacceptable.

One of the best parts of winter is how quiet it is because the leaf blowers are finally silent

Remove nutrients from soil and environmentally irresponsible on all counts.

services also blow leaves and debris into streets

Some people blow leaves into the street

THE AWFUL NOISE AND MACHINE SMELL OF LEAF BLOWERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS FOR US THE SINGLE WORST THING The incessant noise is very stressful.

the noise and smell are intolerable

The noise and stink are intolerable.

The noise can indeed be aggravating. I believe the air quality issue is exaggerated.

The noise from leaf blowers is very irritating to me while I am working at home. I hear them all day long.

The noise from our neighborhood 's leaf blowers could literally " blow your mind' to such an intense headache !

The noise is constant and the misuse - using when ban is in effect, blowing into parks, sidewalks, streets, neighbors/my yard are The noise is obnoxious and the fumes and blowing dust are a health hazard.

Irsves blown onto our property by neighbor

Pellegrine Landscape is the worst. Loud loud loud. Careless about abutters. Even after talking to him, nothing changes!!!!

they are amazing loud (longwood manor on longwood ave), and give off surprisingly powerful fumes.

Dirt and dust blowing in my children's eyes and lungs (asthma problems) while they walk to school and home is awful. The lawns I have severe asthma and being able to exercise and enjoy being outdoors during the seasons blowers are in use, e.g., on the Muddy My daughter has autism and the sound of leaf blowers terrifies her, it makes it difficult to get her outside the house in spring and so called professionals blowing debris on to street; NO enforcement of regs.

The noise is twice a year and debris does NOT go on neighboring properties.

The only time it bothers me is when idiots try to blow wet leaves. Doesn't work and goes on forever.

the reason I use a service is an allergic reaction to doing it myself

There is no good time to hear a 2-stroke engine.

these are non issues considering efficiency in completing task

Why is leave blowing allowed at all? Why not leaf vacuuming? Inevitably, the debris is blown into an adjacent yard and/or the My helpers are very careful and conscious of all of the above

Not sure what is meant by "health". That seemed to me to be a catch-all that includes noise and air pollution.

What about carbon See my above comment.

I have not observed our landscaping company blowing debris on to neighboring properties. Air quality and dust blowing in my I would assume air quality is not adversely affected since the plant matter settles

Lead paint dust is everywhere in this very old and crowded area.

Misuse such as abusing property lines could apply to any maintenance activities, not just leaf blowers.

I assume standards for air quality apply to leaf blowers.

You appear to be discussing gas powered leaf blowers but did not really specify.

Company does not blow debris elsewhere

Does 'neighboring properties' include into the town streets?

For us, the noise is the worst aspect. But also have to contend with leaves that get blown on our property.

Health and air quality?

This is speaking personally

we each must cultivate our own 'garden' space

How can the Town use enormous leaf blowing machinery and assume the above questions are not relative ?!

Absurd

I suggest short term use from 9:00 AM to 4:00PM

I think noise is a problem when multiple blowers are deployed at once; gasoline-powered blowers also do not seem to be good I would be willing to pay the town to pick up leaves blown or raked on the sidewalk on certain dates.

Misuse is too many blowers at the same time, users tend to group together, increasing the impacts above.

just put time constraints around leaf blowing and actually fine people.

Leaf vacuums work better.

Would like to restrict until after 9 am

Limit start and stop times, and not on Sundays.

My biggest concern is the hours of allowable usage, they should not go beyond 5pm.

What bothers me is noise from leaf blowers before 8 am and on weekends

The noise throughout the neighborhood, all going at once often very early in the a.m. & one house, Sat. after 6p is awful!

Only one neighbor, a business uses leafblowers sometimes.

The mansion next door is now 4 ft above my land (before knockdown we were level). Workers gave no choice but to deface my the wind blows leaves.too.

Happens all the time, every time, that we have debris blown onto our yard. Even when we are outside watching them or doing This is highly dependant on electrical vs. gas and if they turn it off when not used.

Question 6 – 276 Comments

There are seasonal, hours and decibel level restrictions

A neighbor called the police on our landscaper. This poor old guy had to stand there and listen to the officer sheepishly "warn" Absurd

And I don't like those restrictions

And I don't understand why they can use them as late as 8pm?

And I remind those who don't follow the current restrictions of their error.

And they are ridiculous!! Get a life, or move somewhere else!!

As far as I can tell, there aren't any. In my neighborhood, Pill Hill, they seem to be on all the time, totally ruining the outdoors

At least don't weaken them.

aware there are strict ions, not sure what they are

BROOM,RAKE and shovel

But I don't really understand them well. I don't know the various models of leaf blowers etc.

But landscapers (at least those that service my neighbors) do not seem to be.

But only vaguely, since I don't use one. In fact, the only way I knew about these restrictions was I overheard people bickering. But the companies IGNORE THE RULES because ZERO enforcement

But the number to call for violations seems to be a well kept secret, and I am unwilling to call the police.

But there aren't enough restrictions.

But we find that many landscapers openly flaunt current restrictions.

do not approve a ban

Do not seem to make any difference. In our area you hear the leaf blowers all day long during the spring, summer and fall.

Does not seem clear, thought through, or enforceable.

during daylight hours

Enforcement is always a problem. An outright ban is easier to enforce.

find it a bit much

Get rid of this so far to the Left...

Have struggled with our landscaper about observing the 8am start time!!

However, it seems that there is ongoing misuse. The leaf blowers used in Clark park are very close to our house.

Our neighbors I am aware of the law and of its insufficient enforcement

I am aware of the noise restrictions, but they are never enforced and as far as I can tell, NEVER followed either.

I am aware that there are some, but I don't know the details. The parks dept seems to use them so they must be allowed!

I am aware that there are time of day and sound volume restrictions, but I don't know the details.

I am not in the least bit favor of expanding the allowable times of use. There already is widespread abuse of the bylaws as they I am, but no one else seems to or they just don't care.

I believe both private and public land is tidier because of leaf-blowers. Many people don't rake their leaves, because unlike snow, I called the police when leaf blowing happening before 8AM----no help there since leaf blowers had already left. Did not matter I didn't know there was a restriction. It is very very VERY noisy when they

are used. We are surrounded by commercial property I didn't know there were any. I've seen them used in public places such as parks and schools even when scores of children are I do not think they are effective or enforced by police. I am not sure it is not a health department issue anyway.

I do not use them.

I don't believe in the current restriction

I don't know the details

I don't know the specifics, other than maybe you can't use a leaf blower too early.

I feel trapped. I will not call the police b/c the one time I did, I felt like I committed a crime. I have approached my neighbors to but honestly, does anyone enforce or even pay attention

But it seems that the Brookline Police are not enforcing. When I have called to complain, they are extremely apathetic. Why have CDC site re: parasite leaf blowers could make airborne:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html>

Do not like that they are not enforced . Neighbors landscapers are adamant that they have the right to use. Need hotline so citizens I called police about one particularly loud blower. They told me to talk to the guy myself, i.e., no enforcement.

I have emailed neighbors on our listserve to remind them about Brookline's by-law on leaf blowers. Many were relieved that this

I have no way of knowing whether the decibel restriction is enforced. I think there are some blowers that subjectively sound a lot I know there are hours of use restrictions, but not aware of other restrictions.

I know there are restrictions, but don't really know the specifics.

i know there are some, but I still see them everywhere..

I know there are some, but I'm not clear what they are.

I think all workman should be considerate!!my neighbor is doing construction they start at 7:30 banging away

I think it is overstepping and cause more problems than it solves

I think no blowing between Nov.-Mar. (better understanding by end of survey)

I think that some of our neighbors do not comply with the time restrictions

I think that the restriction are not very strict and are generally not observed

I think the restrictions justified by health concerns are absurd.

I think the time windows for use are adequate.

i think there is a ban but it does not seem enforced

I think there is a time and noise level restriction but don't know what they are

I think they are inappropriate

I think they are ridiculous

I think this ban is ridiculous! why not ban street basketball or lawn mowing with a gas powered lawn mower?

I thought they needed to have new lower volume blowers but no one is using them

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A GENERAL BAN ON WEEKENDS

I'm a courteous neighbor and never make noise early in the morning anyhow.

I'm aware (because my landscaper has told me) that there are times during the year when they cannot use leaf blowers -- and also I'm aware that restrictions exist but I don't know what they are.

I'm aware that they exist but not certain of the details

I'm not aware of it. Sorry for my ignorance. I hope the policy restricts on the hours the leaf blowers can be used, but not rule them I've heard about them but am not clear on the current status.

In my building, the trustees instruct the landscaping company that provides leaf blowing services to IGNORE THE LAW which restricts Inadequate and not very well enforced.

It seems like what we need is enforcement is first. 100% compliance with what existence.

It was never made aware to me by any correspondence

It would be helpful if this was provided in the email sent to residents

It's very confusing -- the dates, the different kinds of blowers. I called once to complain re next door. The woman who answered just ban them all

Just ban them!!

just that it is allowed seasonal

like to see them expanded year round

Making people aware of the current rules should be enough to improve the situation. Any further benefits from an outright ban More or less.

Most people aren't aware

Much too lax.

My blower is registered with the town and meets noise requirements.

my company abides by the rules

Na

I know for a fact that the current restrictions are often ignored by many landscapers/leafblower guys in my neighborhood.

I think the Town of Brookline should think hard before they pass these petty regulations. It is getup absurd. stop sweating the small I used my iPhone and measured .>90 dB peak while neighbor's landscapers used blowers more than 100 ft away, but I did not If people/landscapers cannot use rakes and brooms. they certainly should not be hired to work saturday or sunday mornings Leaf Blowers are awesome tools. And what the F^&#! The people of Brookline need to lighten up. Soon we won't be able to make moderately aware of the current restrictions

My landscaper charges extra and wont use it sometimes when it is needed.

No one obeys them.

not enough restriction!

not exactly. My impression is that they are only for gas powered?

not strong enough

Not strong enough.

Not supposed to be before 8 am but that is difficult to enforce it seems.

Not sure anyone enforces anything.

Not sure this is enforced

Ordinance appears no enforced by town otherwise, crews wouldn't do it

Our landscaper has incurred extra cost to purchase electric blowers/portable generators. Electric blowers not as powerful, thus our landscaper obeys current restrictions

Please post and enforce them.

Rarely observed by lawn services

reasonable. I would like to see weekend and holiday hours further restrict the use of leaf blowers to 9 or 10 am. restricted hours?

Restrictions based on time of year are enough. Total ban would be onerous. Total ban EXCLUDING town employees would be Restrictions should change to 10:00 am after people have gone to work and when landscape trucks can park without interfering Restrictions???? Unfortunately, often landscape contractors ignore them. I've witnessed many house painters who use electric sanders, Restrictive enough already.

Ridiculous

Ridiculous. Unfair for landscapers and elderly people like myself to have the peace of mind that my walkways are safe to walk on.

somewhat

Somewhat - they are confusing

Somewhat. Time limits and noise limits

Sort of. I believe some are allowed with lower power and higher power ones are not.

Thank you for having them in place.

the current regulations, with the addition of the "emergency" provision that would allow their use out of season, seem sensible.

The regulations aren't very strong.

The restrictions are unnecessary. Leaf blower use should be allowed year round, 12 months.

There already are restrictions on noise level and hours they can be used. This is enough.

There are insufficient and skewed to wealthy residents who employ landscapers who employ low-wage workers.

There are lots of violations.

These are not enforced in my neighborhood

These restrictions just concentrate all the damage in a short period of time but they do NOT address the question of pollution!!!!

They are acceptable

they are completely insufficient.

they are inadequate

They are not enforced

They are not enforced

They are ridiculous, embarrassing and elitist. These landscapers are trying to put food on the table. They don't have time they are sufficient

They aren't stringent enough.

They need to be more stringent, are not adequately enforced as is. A fine on offending landscapers could be used to cover the They should be banned outright, ensuring that manufacturers will come up with a quiet, self-contained blower, similar to a vacuum They should extend to the Town's and large landowners too too

Times of use of machine

Not really enforceable.

They are arbitrary. We live near Downe Field and the town employs numerous blowers simultaneously for hours at a time. With They seem to never be enforced. I have noted leaf blowers 100+ feet away and outside of my house, while I am inside with doors

Too restrictive.

Vaguely

vaguely.....

Whatever current restrictions are, they do not prevent me from being subjected to lengthy, unavoidable noise in my own home.

Would support Warrant Article 11 which would allow the use of leaf blowers in restricted times if we had significant storm damage.

Yes but they never seem to be enforced.

Yes, allowed 5 months per year...far too much.

Yes, but users of leaf blowers do not adhere to the restrictions and the town doesn't enforce the rules.

Yes, except I can never remember the dates of when it is OK or not to use. Don't know how to tell if blowers meet noise requirements.

Yes, the noise level restriction is not effective. It's not enforced and often there are multiple leaf blowers and lawn mowers being Yes, and I have had to send the town by-laws to my condo mgt company, and have talked to the landscaper many times.

Question 7 – 249 Comments

Even if the rules are followed the amount of noise and blowing debris would still be unacceptable.

A few neighbors consistently use blowers on Sundays and off season. Education would be important.

Actual misuse is part of the problem, not perceived misuse. Landscapers will always turn a blind eye to the rules because of their Again, is there enforcement?

Again, this does not seem like a big problem, relative to other issues in our town.

Although some people don't know, I think most just think they won't get caught. I have reported misuse and basically been told Always a problem, we shouldn't use them at all.

And enforcement

And enforcement mechanisms

And there should be fines for misuse AND a number to call when it is happening. We've had to call the police which is a waste Another biased framing of the question. I know the author/committee are volunteers but was anyone with survey design experience At this point, the landscapers know. They choose to ignore the rules.

Better education is necessary, but not sufficient in mitigating abuse
Business owners seek to get around restrictions. They should know, but I doubt they will comply unless the Town strictly enforces But ineffective. People will use/misuse them anyway, as they continue to do.
But it must be followed up by sanctioning abusers.
But it's far more effective to ban leaf-blowers year-round.
But people will still misuse them, now willingly, instead of just ignorantly.
But the laws need to be enforced too.
But the rules also need to be enforced.
But we also need enforcement.
Citations and tickets should be consistently issued.
Current regulations routinely ignored by landscapers
Do not know what you mean by perceived misuse of leaf blowers.
does not address the problems involved in using leaf blowers
Don't know
Don't let a few bad apples nor noisy neighbors cloud your opinion of leaf blowers. Judge the leaf blowers by yourselves. Do you Don't waist you time
Educate before misuse the towns authority...
educating all the parties never hurts
Education - not more "laws" is extremely important!
Education and enforcement of rules!
Education is always important, but perception is individualistic and difficult to overcome
Education is frequently the best answer.
Education is important in every aspect of life.
Education is important. Homeowners need to be fined for non-compliance. It's the only thing that will make a difference.
Education is much less effective than vigorous enforcement.
Education is not the issue. It is impossible to enforce noise levels and hours. Only an outright ban can be effectively enforced.
Education is useless for people who do not care about other people. Only an outright ban will solve the problem.
Education needs to be coupled with better enforcement
Education never hurt anyone.
Education of leaf blower users is unlikely to affect the *perceived* misuse of leaf blowers, though it should be useful in reducing "Misuse" is nothing but contrived propaganda, a manufactured issued. Landscapers are businessmen, they don't want problems. As witness that I do not know what the current restrictions are. Whatever they are, the Town frrequently begins blowing in our CDC site re: parasite leaf blowers could make airborne: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html>
Clear and concise guidelines should be clearly outlined on the brookline web site.
education is important but i dont see this as a priority issue
Education without incentives is worthless
enforced by significant fines
Enforcement of existing restrictions is also important
Enforcement of restrictions is as important as education
Enforcement would be the most effective measure.
Enforcement would be the way to go.
Even the educated may not follow the rules
Everyone has to know the rules, so education is important
Exactly who is perceiving what???This is very unclear. Do you mean people on both sides of the issue are misinformed?
Fines and enforcement key. Maybe a list of approved landscapers equipment.
Fines on offenders will be MOST important
For the most part I believe that since most landscapers don't live in town, they are not considerate of the amount

of noise and Gas blowers on private property should be banned

Hard to contact many landscapers

Hard to say...may be a waste of money

have spoken with landscapers about the town regulations, especially noise levels and use out of designated periods, and they continue Home users have small machines. They are insignificant. Landscapers will ignore rules unless there is stringent enforcement.

How do you plan to "educate landscapers"? Does the town plan to hold mandatory seminars. LOL.

I believe most landscapers are well aware of the by-laws and do not limit their use esp. in the off season because of the low probability I believe some of the problem is a communication in that some of the landscapers in my neighborhood don't speak/understand? I do not know what "received misuse of leaf blowers" means. Leaf blowers are a public menace.

I do not perceive problem

I do not think misuse is prevalent

I don't believe that contractors will care much unless there is enforcement and most towns don't have the staff to enforce or don't I don't care about the noise or hours of use. I care about the dirty polluting exhaust.

I don't exactly understand this question.

I don't like leaf blowers, even when they're only used during the specified hours and seasons.

I don't perceive any misuse and it doesn't bother me at all.

I don't think landscapers are attempting to comply

I don't think most of the people using them care.

I don't think this will be effective. I would like to see the behavior change, but I don't believe they will listen or change.

I don't understand what the problem is. Tempest in a teapot.

I doubt people will pay attention. They still can't recycle properly.

I guess many owners don't know.

I have no idea

I have no idea what the restrictions are

I have significant doubts that education will influence most landscapers

I have spoken to two landscapers who had no idea of the 8 am rule, didn't believe me, and ignored me.

I only know about myself -- and not what motivates others.

education trainings must be mandated; consider town-run trainings that are scheduled monthly with nominal fee paid by the trainees' education will not change mymine. get rid of them and stop lobbying this issue!1

Enforcement of regs would be very educative.

I do not think education would make someone realize they should not blow their leaves onto another's property rather than remove I don't agree with statement "perceived misuse of leaf blowers...is part of...problem" Most landscapers here know what to do and I don't believe there is significant misuse of leafblowers. Most of the landscapers I've used are aware of the restrictions and abide I don't know how bad misuse is. I've watched our landscapers and they do not misuse. They are Brookline-based. If people missed, I don't see mis-use of any significance

I think a lot of them already know the rules. I don't have a lot of confidence that they will follow new ones. They come and try I think an education plan could be very helpful.

I think enforcement is necessary, not education.

I think it is important for home users to know the time limits on their use.

I think many in town are aware of this issue.

I think many know the rules but aren't interested in abiding by them & know they can get away with it

I think more important than education would be to have follow-up investigations and spot inspections to enforce the laws. If people I think most landscapers know.

I think most people are aware of the regulations, and most people follow them. Unfortunately, the small minority that doesn't makes I think people want to do the right thing and may simply not know the existing guidance.

I think to some degree the people who don't want them are not going to be easily budged.

i think we should use a system similar to Cambridge which makes sure all leaf blowers in the town have been

certified by the town I think you also need to educate homeowners about the limits so they can seek enforcement.

I wonder what sort of misuse has been going on...!

I would like to believe education would make the difference, but I am not convinced this will do anything to change the practices. I'm not sure if education alone will help

I've seen people using gas-powered leaf blowers on Sunday morning on Beacon Street in December.

If folks pay attention

If homeowners and landscapers haven't bothered to know current regulations, additional education is unlikely to help.

If leaf blowers are "allowed" -- under any circumstances -- people will simply use them. Keep in mind, it's usually outside-contracted. If people were aware of the existing policies this would not be an issue, but unless someone proactively looks these up they would. If restrictions are not enforced, education alone will not deter abusers. Leaf blowers should be banned completely from use in residential areas, we have to educate landscapers and residents of that.

It all depends upon how the town intends to do this education however. If it is not well presented and adhered to, any sort of education hasn't worked well so far.

It is important but that is different from whether or not it will be effective.

It is important that landscapers know the time restrictions. They are always broken in my neighborhood.

It is important, but I fear not very effective.

It is not "perceived misuse". They are often misused by being used out of season when they are restricted and they blow onto it. It might help but I think strict enforcement and quick police response would help more.

It seems that unless people get ticketed for misuse then information won't do much good.

It should be very important, but the fact of the matter is employees of landscaping companies often don't speak or understand English

It won't help the noise and smell from gas-powered ones.

It's an environmental issue as much as a noise issue.

It's important to educate about existing laws.

It's not perceived - there is blatant, willful flouting of the rules. I know - I operate a gardening business

Just get them to not blow leaves at people nearby. They need to look around while blowing and stop for pedestrians or bikes. Just keep the ban.

Keep the rules simple.

Landscapers are coming up with ways to get around the restrictions -- like fake stickers on the leaf blowers. More education is I think an open dialogue amongst all interested parties would be helpful for this issue.

I think enforcement is most important. There should be a hot line that people can call for repeat offenders

I think it will help a lot. A lot of people in town -- including one neighbor who uses a very noisy electric leaf blower for hours on it. I think this issue is not important (I am against banning leaf blowers and do not think they are misused).

Important but I don't know how it could or would be enforced. Related issue. Garbage cans are left out after pick up in excess of incentives are too great to get substantial change. Enforcement of regulations is key, but I doubt the town has the staff to enforce. Landscape companies are the ones who this primarily affects. Generally...they do not reside in Brookline. All of these companies

landscapers are committed to leaf blowers

Landscapers are skillful in efficient use of leaf blowers. Occasional users such as home owners are not.

Landscapers don't know or follow the regulations.

Landscapers who refuse to abide by the town hall restriction should be fined.

Landscapers will ignore regulations

Leading question again..assuming misuse is perceived and not actual. Education of the by-laws is very important.

Along with stricter leaf blowers operated legally still produce far too much noise

Leaf blowing landscaper IGNORE the rules - they know them - the power of the blower is too intoxicating for them to not use at. Making people aware of the current rules should be enough to improve the situation. Any further benefits from an outright ban managers of condo buildings & landscapers need education

Maybe for homeowners but landscapers are professional
Maybe some misuse leaf blowers, blowing leaves on neighbors property or overusing them. We don't.
Misuse will continue and the same job can be done manually
more important would be additional restrictions
Most companies are already in compliance and existing restrictions are enough
most impacts in my area are from town maintenance of park
Much more important than further regulation
My guess is that most of the problem involves a few landscapers
My landscaper knows already. He charges more and refuses to do some cleanups
not a problem on our block
Not just education, but better supervision
Not sure they will take any notice
offenders respond to punishment not education
Only an absolute prohibition and heavy fines will put a stop to this.
Our landscaper would be willing to do anything necessary to continue the use of leaf blowers.
Our landscapers use their blowers very quickly and efficiently and I believe, do not misuse them in any way.
Pamphlets delivered to homes and posted in high traffic public spaces could be effective means of outreach
People don't care about nuanced rules. You have to make it a simple complete ban.
People will ignore it if not enforced
Personal blowers are quiet enough and commercial companies don't care about noise
Please instruct everyone about how bad grass lawns are--weak ecosystems, bad for water use, drive out native
plants, etc. No lawns, Remove the current restrictions. Let everyone use leaf blowers
Leaf blowers should not be allowed in the town of Brookline.
Make contractors register before don't landscape in Brookline as it is the cheaper vendors that use worst
equipment
Many big landscaping companies not based in Brookline. Don't seem to care much.
most are not brookline residents so won't get the education.
Most landscape crews I encounter using leafblowers off-season claim ignorance of the law or negative impacts.
Most landscaping companies in our neighborhood don't really care what the leaf blower restrictions are. many of
the operators My guess is that those who do not follow the ordinance do so because there is no fine
(enforcement) rather than out of ignorance
My gut instinct is that this is, to a large extent, a misperception but if it's true, it's very important to educate
people
My neighbor who hires his landscapers on the side (illegally) does not care that his workers come on Saturday
mornings. He would not everyone is educatable but it is worth the effort
Or maybe moderately important, but in my experience, people are pretty selfish and Brookline people lead the
pack in that characteristic. Perceived is the key. This is a minority of vocal complainers. I don't observe much abuse
of the regs.
Plus active enforcement of regs (unlike unshoveled sidewalks)
Professional landscapers don't really care. If they can't use their leaf blowers, they may choose not to work in
Brookline. What
RESTRICTIONS ARE MORE IMPORTANT
scofflaw landscapers know but don't care about restrictions
See comment above regarding abuse of property lines. This could happen with a rake, a shovel, or by hand. Leaf
blowers has See my comment under question 1
Skeptical about the effectiveness of education given the lax enforcement
So often I see landscapers blowing debris into the street and leaving it there
So-called landscapers are not interested in following rules and often don't speak English.
some people will continue to object even if use is proper use
Still I do not think it will help especially if there are exemptions.
Strict enforcement, addressing landscape companies AND offending households may get some results.

Unfortunately, it requires The "professional" landscapers essentially do what they want to do.

The landscapers know they can get away with it. I am guessing they provide discounted services to police officers.

The landscapers should be involved in planning the restrictions.

The misuse in my previous neighborhood was a fact, not perceived.

The people using the equipment are aware of the nuisance of blowing debris, but they are often insufficiently concerned.

The problem is that there is a perceived problem there is not a major problem. The current bylaw just increased costs and reduces The problem lies in the town members who are complaining about leaf blowing. Maybe they should get a leaf blower and get There is a complete disregard for hour restrictions for leaf blowers currently there is no enforcement of worker safety and they still use power

There is no misuse. The busy bodies and people who think they are the leaf blower police need to find a real job and mind their There seem to be many landscapers unaware of the restrictions. The homeowner must also be educated.

these questions were written by a someone with a very specific agenda of banning gas powered leaf blowers. I assume the person(These types of things are cultural based - an education campaign may be useful, but only if targeted and part of local media. Regulations They are aware and a small group of residents are hypersensitive

They don't care

they don't care. they need to be fined

They know restrictions, but often ignore them.

they know the rules; they break them and hope for the best

they must stop blowing for pedestrians & cyclists

they should be banned

This includes town-hired contractors. We live near town hall/pubic safety, and the noise in the fall is relentless, all day, at a time This is a "leading" question. Inappropriate

This is a biased question. These guys know. There is nothing "perceived" about it. And 99% problem is landscapers not homeowners. This is a loaded question; who says misuse is perceived, and not real?

This is a minor issue for a few people

This is NOT a problem. Every one of my neighbors has leaf blowers used by landscapers. NEVER HAS BEEN A PROBLEM!

This is not about education, which would be a silly non-solution. We need stringent regulations which are effectively enforced.

This issue has become a too polarized. I doubt additional information will appease either side.

This should include moving wet heavy leaves by rakes.

those with money don't give a shit how they impact anyone. they already know everything and you can't tell them what to do.

Trying to be optimistic...

The landscapers many Brookline residents depend upon use gas powered blowers. The blowers are critical to their business. They The perceivers of "abuse" are more of a problem than the perceived abuse.

The professional companies that service our neighborhood (Coolidge Corner area) have been told time and again about the regs The restrictions are so limited, that they might as well not be there. And nobody is going to get fined for starting 20 minutes or these maintance men need to work in the day time. You could solve the problem by cutting down all of the trees. How stupid.

they probably will not listen or care. most of those using leaf blowers do not live in Brookline or care about us.

There was a landscaper

Unfortunately, the town does not do an adequate job of informing homeowners and landscapers of the restrictions, nor of enforcing Unless strict enforcement is in place and fines are routinely levied against violators, education isn't important.

Unless this is enforced it won't matter

unless you impose fines and enforce, education will be laughed at

Use a rake instead, hire more people.

Users of leaf blowers should respect others and act to reduce their impact, especially blown dust and debris around people and violators often falsely claim they are unaware of the restrictions. Penalties for the property owners would be far more effective

Violators will continue to violate unless fined

we must all get comfortable getting our hands dirty

What is misuse? Seems to me people are more intent on criminalizing maintenance because of their politics than they are sympathetic Why don't we just ban trees and solve the problem altogether

You're misdirecting your information.

Your kidding, right? who is going to do the educating.

Who enforces? Police need education I've been mocked for calling about huge piles of leaves being left on street for hours, and Wrong Assumption, Survey questions are skewed.

Question 8 – 471 Comments

Eliminate noise, blowers are often used too early in am.

I just don't see how we will get the leaves cleaned up effectively without these tools

1. They make the air very toxic to surrounding area & have to close windows. 2. noise is very disruptive; means you have to close A few bad eggs shouldn't reflect badly on responsible landscapers.

A large enough number of residents require help and busier areas of the Town require sidewalks to be cleaned faster and more A noisy stinky nuisance.

Absolutely not

absolutely not absolute

Absolutely not.

Absolutely not. It is not practical to clean the volume of leaves without leaf blowers in this day and age.

Absolutely not. It would increase the cost of clean-ups etc. Our taxes have just gone up and we are expecting another possible absolutely not. this is overreaching on the part of town government. enforcing it would be a poor use of my tax dollars. there should Absolutely not...and battery operated blowers are almost useless and use energy for battery charging to boot

Actually, they scatter dust into the neighbors' yards, and the decibel level is intolerable. Also the Town's workmen who groom again, for a long time I was not in favor of a ban but I'm starting to lean in favor of such a ban, the noise is terrible, it MUST be Air and noise pollution and a mess in the streets

air pollution, noise pollution

Air quality and noise

Airborne particles health concerns.

All of the above objections to them. Also insufficient enforcement

allow electric/battery with very low noise/pollution

Allow our yard to look nice.

An electric works fine for me on my small lot, it would not for a park or a large property.

are all leaf blowers gas powered, equally bad?

Are there quiet, electric options? If so, then yes. If not, landscapers may have to charge more if it'll take them longer.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? THIS IS COMPLETELY INSANE AND UNFAIR!

as long as the town uses them, the residents should be allowed to as well.

As noted above, gas blowers are more powerful thus cutting time/expense and yielding better results.

As stated above, landscapers charge by time. The more you slow them down, the more they cost. It's already expensive enough As stated above: I can no longer rake my leaves and we have a lot of trees, making paying for someone to rake a financial burden

As the owner of corner-property 2-family near a public park I spend over over 6K per year on gardening/snow plowing. The additional Assuming appropriate alternative equipment was available

Avoid noise and pollution

Avoidable noise pollution

Ban them completely. They are polluting in many ways.

Because leaves gotta get moved and many people have tons of leaves.

Because no one wants to rake

Because side walks should be clear all year.

make my property mainanience expensive and difficultt

(1) Electric blowers are just as loud as the quieter, permitted gasoline powered. See Consumer Reports 2015. (2)

Electric blowers (a) Some people use leaf-blowers to clear their properties, but everyone around them pays the

price of their cleanup; (b) Those A ban on all gas leaf blowers is mis-directed and ill-advised. I own a small

handheld gas blower that is far quieter than the electric Absolutely not! Brookline is a lovely city; without the

ability to clean up our properties with the use of leaf blowers, we would compromise All properties, owners need

to choice what best suyits their situation

At least aa restrictive ban for all the mentioned reasons.

Beals Street has a lot of leaves. Leaf blowers are necessary.

because the nuisance and pollution is greater than the benefit

But, I think this isn't practical. Maybe educating the blower users to be more respectful isn't practical either but

that would solve certainly like the half of the year ban. if it is reasonable why not full year

Cleanup of leaves is faster and more efficient. Using blowers must be done with respect for noise and neighbors.

climate change primarily, noise pollution secondarily, health benefits of light physical activity (raking and

sweeping) thirdly

Complete bans don't leave room for exceptions that might be reasonable and worthy, so in general I don't favor them.

cost of leaf removal and lack of alternative. Does the city want to do it all?

Cost. If you can't see the benefits of a leaf blower than you're a fool.

Costs of ban outweigh the benefits

could be that large institutions like schools find it more economical to use them but for residential

neighborhoods rakes will do. Current by-law addresses problem. See #4 above.

Current restrictions are sufficient.

Decline in quality of life and air quality.

Depends on the area

Dirty, unhealthy, and ineffective compared to leaf vacuums.

don't ban them in Autumn when we need them most!

don't care. won't be able to afford to love here much longer. was born here, grew up here, returned here after 15

yrs, work a full Draconian and completely unfair to those who legally purchased a blower and follow the current town guidelines.

Elderly folks find it hard to rake and expensive to have landscapers

Electric blowers are now a good alternative and are better for noise and the environment.

Electric is quieter and better for the environment.

Electric or low emission blowers are a viable option and should not be banned even if loud.

Emission harm overshadows any possible benefit

Environmental concerns are important, including noise pollution.

environmental health - use of available energy hands or electric

Even a summer ban is questionable since electric and gas blowers are limited to the same noise level

Excessive control over a problem that is being managed

Expense if must do manually

Feel the ban is not acceptable. The sidewalks would be full of debris making them a safety hazard. The persons

suggesting this Firstly, it's going to impact hours required on large properties.. and secondly, we are being too 'big-brother'..

Fixing a problem that doesn't exist

fossil fuel use

gas and noise is toxic.

Gas is polluting. The noise is terrible. Raking is great exercise!

Gas powered leaf blowers are very polluting, air and noise. The technology must be improved before use to make them less polluting Gas-powered blowers generate too much noise for this dense, residential town.

Gas-powered leaf blowers are an unfair imposition on everyone, and on our environment. Please get rid of them!

Gas-powered leaf blowers cause air and noise pollution. For or community's health, they should be banned.

hate the noise; seems excessive use of fuel, and fumes are noxious

Have to find a way to reduce. But if homeowners want to use once in a while it's not a big deal. They are not the prime offenders.

health noise environment

High value on peace and quiet.

higher cost for owners (some on fixed incomes) to clear leaves, more falls on slippery sidewalks where leaves are left, poor appearance Cleanliness and cost issues

Depends on frequency, usage, etc. I've seen debris just blown into the street, to make it somebody else's problem, which is not Drakonian solution to the problem

Gas-powered are noisier than electric. Leaf blowers are basically a gasoline-powered rake or broom. It's not sustainable and it's

this is an extreme ban and I'm not for it

homeowners can use electric leaf blowers, landscapers can use rakes!

How work gets done using legally bought equipment on their property is their business.

HUGE BURDEN ON LARGE MULTIFAMILY COMPLEXES

I am in favor if there is a reasonable alternative. It is very unlikely that services will go back to raking.

i am so tired of the constant noise

I believe in the current law

I believe that a year round ban would be detrimental and make keeping a clean yard and streets cost prohibitive

I believe that is an extreme response to a problem that can be solved by sensible restrictions and subsequent enforcement of those I believe that the current regulations are sufficient, and that it's a matter of education and then residents reporting anyone who I believe that with reasonable time and season restrictions they should be allowed. I think the effort to ban them is extremely misplaced.

I believe this would hurt the owners of moderately large properties.

I cannot do normal activities in my own home when neighbors use these extremely noisy devices.

I cannot stand the sound of leaf blowers.

I don't believe in the banning of a tool used that makes a job easier, what is next? ban gas powered cars?

I don't believe such strong regulation is warranted. We don't ban cigarettes and they're much worse.

I don't like the noise but wonder if they are efficient and leave a safer street after cleanup.

I don't like them but during foliage season they might be a good idea.

I don't like them but I don't think this is a place for legislation. They do make cleaning ivy doable and cleaning gutters safer. And I don't need idiots controlling my life.

I don't see the point. Reasonable hours meters noise pollution. As for air pollution, there are greater contributors (cars, planes, I don't think leaf blowers can be singled out for noise and air pollution. Are lawn mowers and snow blowers next?

I don't want any leaf blowers on the weekend, and think blowers should be limited fro 9-5 on weekdays at a low decibel level.

I favor limited use

I favor this, but only on properties under 1/2 an acre. Larger commercial, public, and private properties are too big to deal with I found the information on the problems specifically with the gas-powered blowers compelling, but am not yet persuaded that I hate leaf blowers = they are daily, and I can not even talk on the phone they are so loud

I hate the both the noise and the pollution. I find the exemption of town services to be a huge part of the problem. The air at my I have a large property & the leaf blower speeds up leaf removal.

I have a small yard and do not need or want a leaf blower. But some of my neighbors with equally small yards do use leaf blowers I have also read that electric blowers have more noise issues

i have given you all my reasons,

I just don't see it as an issue. Noise is not bad.

I live in basement unit and have no problem with leaf blowers that go right by my windows. It is only temporary and the place I often see several men armed with leaf blowers chasing a handful of leaves. And usually these fellows could use the exercise of I see no benefit--only noise and air pollution, extra work for me. The time and money wasted in using the blowers could be better I see no Reason for micromanaging my property w many trees and when cleanup is needed on my property I need to have it done.

I see no reason to do this and find it excessive legislation and an overreach by government.

I think it would help reduce the misuse

I think it's more important to enforce the time they can be used.

I can see they would be very useful on larger plots of land, but not on small plots that are typical of densely populated areas of I cannot the momentum that has carried this proposal this far. I did not live here when the current restrictions came into effect I don't think that gas powered LBs are a problem.

I don't know the importance of this device, but I know it can be annoying. Once, I was going to work by biking and a leaf-blower I hate them but feel there are some small legitimate uses of them. Would favour further restrictions, and if still misused, a total I have worked as a landscaper, so I know what the work entails.I clean my yard (9,000 sq. ft.)every week with a rake and broom I personally use a gas powered kenaf blower year round to move leaves and also to move fluffy snow

I think some people need it. Restrictions would be better than a complete ban.

I think that is over reach and excessive

I think that the use should be restricted, but not totally banned.

I think that there is a very small but vocal handful of people who are opposed to the blowers and that it's not a major issue for I think the original time frame in the existing bylaws is a reasonable compromise as long as there is strict enforcement and consequences I think there should be times, such as 2 Saturdays per year, between 9 am and 6 pm, when leaf blowing should be allowed. Otherwise, I think this is absolutely ridiculous.

I think this is an issue of cost/benefits. The costs of gas-powered leaf-blowers is far outweighed by the benefits of gas-powered I think this is frivolous issue driven by a small number of people who personally called BPD more than 200 times with complaints. I think this whole thing is stupid, there are enough restrictions

I think we can get the same results without them as we did in the past

I understand they are necessary to the landscape business, which is not a high margin business and on larger properties.

I use electric. Much easier on my arms vs. a rake

I walk a lot and they are dangerous to me.

I will sell my house and move out of the community if something like this ever happens.

I wish, but not practical. What would it cost the Town to maintain it's public & open spaces with a work corps armed with rakes I would be happy if the current restrictions were observed — and enforced.

I would be in favor of limiting the hours of use.

I would give an exemption for the town and large properties

I would imagine some would be needed for parks .

I would support the ban, but it would be contingent of effective and usable alternatives

I would very much want to be able to report illegal use, easily and quickly. If I knew that I can call the town and stop this right away I'm for a warm-weather ban, but permit them for 4-6 weeks after winter (late March to end of April) and again in November

I'm not sure of practical alternatives to leaf blowers for large areas like parks

I'm very concerned about how costly it would be if leaf blowers were banned.

I've stated them earlier. I think leaf blowers are not only obnoxiously noisy, they are also polluting our air in ways we might not if efforts are not made to enforce current regulation and including large landowners, i am in favor of banning the gas-powered

If electric leaf blowers are of equal utility, would prefer to avoid gas smell.

If electric ones are an option, then I would favor a ban on gas ones.

If gas-powered leaf blowers cannot be used, I know first hand that the electric machines do not have as much

power and especially If gas-powered machinery is an issue, will residents also find issues with small snow plows? If there is a ban, it would not be fair to create exemptions.

If there were very limited times, such as 2-4 pm for a month or two in fall only, which were clearly understood and followed I would be unable to restrict times and enforcement then I'm for it but I do understand the time and money factor involved for home owners.

If you have a year round ban you should have it at parks, fields, golf course and cemeteries that abut town residences. What if you impose this on residents it should be 100% imposed on all. That would mean even the public works teams clearing leaves Improved quality of life (peace, fresh air, exercise in raking or income for teens!)

In favor of a ban if noise/emissions limits aren't practically enforceable

In short, leaf blowers are terrible for our quality of life -- and I find none of the reasons given for them convincing. On a small scale, inclined to a ban, I do hate the noise of them

Income for mow & blow folks. In favor of electric, although noisy too

I think it's not an across the board answer to this problem. From the standpoint of noise, certain neighborhoods have issues, others I think the environmental concerns over gas powered leaf blowers are overblown, given the contribution they make to pollution I use electric.

I would be in favor of easing or no restrictions, despite the fact that I am home all day and hear the noise from my own landscaper I'd rather have them banned or severely reduced, than have the status quo, or broader usage, but I understand that they can be If the town would pick up the leaves from taking that would've ideal. I spend fifty dollars a year on bags and would happily pay inefficient and will add cost

Is there a big difference between the gas exhaust from cars/large trucks/commercial vehicles/lawn mowers/snow blowers and leaf It certainly would remove the gray area.

It doesn't bother me besides the noise level early in the morning- even 8am can be noisy for people working/sleeping.

It is an invasion of my rights as a home owner to have a ban.

It is irrational and counterproductive.

It is the only way to control it, otherwise it is a hit and run, they are gone and no one does anything. Truly, ban them or just stop It seems kind of silly to me. Would we ban lawnmowers if we had more larger yards? What about snow blowers. People have It should depend on the neighborhood - large vs small lots

It will cost a fortune.

It will enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood and lead to alternative solutions.

It would be a disaster

It would make the job of landscapers pretty difficult. There may be some restrictions and air filters that could be utilized to improve It's as necessary as snow removal for the reasons previously stated.

It's not necessary. Problem has been greatly exaggerated. The nature of our condo (not large but lots of nooks) means that leaf It's the only enforceable approach. Why live in such a great place and then allow it to be ruined by such loud noise several months It's use is very important and people should abide the laws

Its part of American Lifestyle. Sounds of good weather.

Just enforce current ban. Eliminate all loud gas lawn tools.

Just follow the guidelines - there is no problem

Landscapers don't behave. They use multiple blowers, blow debris on the streets, ignore seasonal ban dates, etc. Large properties may need them to get the job done within budget

Leaf blowers are handy, and I don't see why a law should single out one type of power tool. Traffic causes much more noise, health Leaf blowers are important labor-saving devices that do not cause greater problems than those of other, not-banned things, such Leaf blowers get the job of leaf and pollen removal (plus from gutters) done quickly and efficiently. No doubt a ban would wind Leaf blowers have become a necessary evil leaf blowers may be noisy but not any more than lawnmowers, snow blowers, cars, construction work, etc. And the time used is Leaf blowing is not a year long activity. It only occurs once a season in the fall.

Leaf blowers are not needed.

Let's spend our time and money on more important issues. This whole attempt at more regulation is

embarrassing and a waste Like I mentioned above, leaf blowers are a very small part of a bigger issue...an issue that is beyond our control in many ways. Limited use should be allowed.

loud noise which upsets my autistic child, debris in child's face from leaf blower which creates anxiety

Manual cleanup is impractical and costly. Makes no sense to totally ban.

Mine is electric

Is there no other alternative? Is a quieter and less polluting leaf blower? There must be a better way

It would make Brookline a far nicer place to reside.

Labor cost, speed of leaf removal, efficiency

landscapers will stop working in Brookline or their fees will go sky high, impacting us as homeowners

Leaf blowers allow landscapers and contractors to efficiently (cost-wise and time-wise) clean and clear debris.

They also have a Leaf blowers are noisy and create air pollution, which is especially problematic for those of us who suffer from allergies and asthma. leafblowers are an unnecessary contributor to climate change

Leafblowers are anti social on tow grounds: First they are major pollutants and this seems to be entirely contrary to Brookline's Living in Brookline since '87, my experiences? Effective enforcement is... not so good.

many of us prefer services of landscape contractors and they need to work without rules, not total limits. Other Brookline activities Many other towns and cities across America have successfully banned leaf blowers. Brookline should also.

Modest environmental benefits (mainly noise) do not outweigh great usefulness of the devices.

More limited hours would be reasonable

More study needed.

My yard is so small there's really no need to use a blower, but landscapers do it anyway. However, for much larger properties blowers Na

Need more information on what the regulations are.

no benefits; annoying; waste of resources

No reason to use leaf blowers. We pay enough for our landscaper to use manual labor.

no, but they could only be used in peak leaf-falling time of year

no, this is not a good idea.

noise and air pollution

Noise and air pollution.

Noise and air quality impacts are unacceptable

NOISE and POLLUTION

Noise and pollution are severe; quieter non-gas powered blowers would be preferable

Noise and pollution outweigh convenience

Noise and pollution. Its unbearable as one company after another fills the day with maddening noise

Noise is a huge problem, but leaf removal is also important. What alternatives to leaf blowers are there, besides rakes?

Noise is my primary concern. I feel the problem could be addressed by better enforcement and changes to hours/decibels rather Noise level. Air quality. Health!

Noise pollution is a real problem and climate change is something we must all address.

Noise pollution, ecological reasons

noise, debris

Noise, environmentally unsound, dangerous to operators, totally unnecessary.

Noise, pollution

Noise, pollution, and damage to other plants

Noise, pollution, harm to users

Noise, smell

Noise!!! Smell, Dust into open windows...I have an autistic son, and even with windows closed the noise is extremely frightening Noise. And many landscapers and homeowners blow leaves into the streets for the Town to pick up.

Noise. Use of a fossil fuel that pollutes. Nothing wrong with raking your leaves.

Noisy and polluting.

Noisy and smelly and not necessary

noisy, polluting

Noisy, smelly, a nuisance.

not practical

Not realistic. Using leaf blowers 2-3 times a year is reasonable.

Not realistic/not financially viable and poses dangers if clean up is neglected.

Not stupid

Not sure about viability of electric leaf blowers for larger spaces

Most of us live close enough to the city that we should be able to handle some noise. there are better ways to devote resources My son has asthma. Leafblowers force him to stay indoors

No matter what the law is in Brookline, people will abuse and not follow the law.

Noise, pollution, air Bourne toxins.

Noise. Also when I have to walk by them on the sidewalk (eg. the path by Pond ave) I get leaf debris all over my clothes in my Not feasible unless reasonable alternative is found

Not necessary. Only Brookline would implement such crap

Not until the technology for non-gas powered blowers is widely available, affordable and effective

October, November with limited hours reasonable

Oh, please.

One can also commonly see landscapers use the blows without ear protection which is going to hurt them too over time

One leaf blower negatively affects concentration and increase stress level and therefore health of many individuals subjected to One stops, another starts up, all day long.

Only on private property, not for street cleaning - which is once a year I think. These homes and their landscapers could use electric Other weather conditions are far more problematic to my health than leaf blowers.

Our lot is on three levels that are steeply raked in places, making them difficult, in fact dangerous, to rake. We have ground cover Our lots are very small. Leaf blowers are NOT necessary!

Over reach...whats next? a baby crying?

Part year bans confusing. Do it all the way or not at all! Rakes do a better job

Peace and quiet is more important than a spotless tidy lawn.

People can rake; you could have special one-time permits for really huge or storm-related cleanups

People need tools to clean their yards. People make noise when they renovate homes, saw and hammer things, dig up driveways People should be able to use them; they save a lot of time and money

People want to enjoy outdoors year round

perhaps a month in spring and fall for full clean up

pollution

Pollution and noise are a concern to us. I wish there were a ban on early morning usage.

Pollution. Fossil fuel use.

Prefer a strong ban with limited exceptions.

Probably 'no' but if there are truly substantial health/air quality issues (beyond what's expected with, for example, car use, I'd be Removing leaves with a blower ensures a significant amount of leaves are able to be removed. I have a strong concern that manual Reputable vendors already adhere or exceed the guidelines and do not cause issue

Require electric blowers.

Restricted use should be allowed.

Restrictions already in place keep noise and pollution in check

Ridiculous idea!

Ridiculous. There are so many other more important issues we face as a town with our growing school population and the insistent Safety, appearance, cost.

Seasonal use should be allowed as we get tons of leaf from the Mall. There should be exemption for homeowners who live near See above - they're a terrible nuisance and health risk.

See above comment. Time of year restrictions are enough. Total ban is unreasonable and Town employees know

this. If town See above: noise, air quality, health, misuse

See above. People can deal with a little noise.

See above. We are not persuaded that there is any objectively measurable benefit to using these machines.

see all comments above: noise up and down the block, dust, debris shifted from one spot to another

See prior comment: Blowing puts debris in adjacent neighbors' yards and/or the street. It doesn't get rid of it. WTF?

seems like an infringement of individual's rights

seems like perhaps there could be a short season for the educated use of air blowers

seems to black and white to have a total ban

ok during certain times of day only

ok to ban in North brookline, but south brookline may be a problem.

probably would result in me taking down some heavy leaf-producing trees

Overly punitive. Leaf blowers are a useful tool.

See answers above, eg. health and quality of life.

seriously?

Single family homes with large lots may reasonably need and use them without significant disturbance to neighbors

Small business (and I suspect town workers) need them.

Task of cleaning up leaves on property would become formidably difficult, let alone prohibitively expensive, if clean up must be terrible for the environment is my number one concern.

That seems a bit extreme and unnecessary at this point.

That would be ideal for me, but I am also understanding of some of their advantages on major cleanups. I think they should be That would be silly. (My blower's electric, BTW.)

The advantages of using leaf blowers responsibly outweigh the disadvantages immensely.

the alternatives are costly and inefficient

The are noisy, smelly, and obnoxious and don't do anything that can't be done with a rake.

The associated problems are trivial.

The benefits in terms of noise reduction, pollution reduction, increased exercise and greater consideration for neighbors far outweigh The condo where I live has such a small amount of land that we don't need any motorized equipment to remove the leaves.

The increased cost outweighs the cons. I might suggest that a compromise would be that when gas-based leaf blowing will occur, The landscape companies simply ignore current restrictions. A ban will solve this problem.

The landscapers annoy but it's more a question of number of leaf blowers in use rather than volume of a single one

The legislation has to be clear and simple. Ban it.

The negative impacts on our quality of life and environment outweigh any benefit, and are not cost-justified.

The noise and air pollution is offensive yet I recognize that the blowers are common and popular.

The noise and fumes are damaging and unnecessary. If contractors want to use leaf blowers instead of rakes, let them get electric The noise and pollution, particularly the dust and bits of excrement.

The noise drives me crazy

The noise is audible for a city block, and most of the time during some seasons someone nearby is using them.

Landscapers have The noise is terrible, yards do not need to be spotlessly cleaned.

The noise level is more important than the source of power. If gas-powered leaf blowers are louder than the alternatives and cannot the noise pollution that makes weekday occupation of my apartment almost intolerable.

The noise ruins everything nearby - making outdoor areas very unpleasant. The environmental impacts are also awful.

The only reason for using a leaf blower would be to extricate leaves from a patch of ground cover like pachysandra. Rakes do the The restrictions have not worked -- so ban.

The spring and fall clean ups without the blowers would not happen

The town needs to use them in the parks, they work quickly and have the park ready for use.

The undesirable effects of noise, pollution, and foul smell far outweigh any benefits.

The usefulness and efficiency outweigh the short-term noise and other impacts.
Their negative impacts of noise and air pollution greatly outweigh any benefits.
Their use needs to be limited in early morning hours especially on the weekends.

There are many solutions prior to this severe action

There are much more important issues in town to resolve.

There is a constant sound of leaf blowing all fall and spring

so many to list: safety & health benefits, reduced costs, burden on elderly, hypocrisy of Govt & large land owners use

That would be wonderful, but if there needs to be a middle ground, I wonder if each neighborhood could designate some quiet That's ridiculous!

The following argues strongly against leaf blowers: It concerns the parasite (Center for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc>. The maximum decibel limit should be monitored. But, who will do that thankless job?

The noise pollution and environmental impacts of typical two-stroke leaf blowers are well-documented. For example, that the type the way it is currently written is fair (besides my request to further restrict though start time on weekends and holidays). but again...There are public spaces where it may be ok but, BEST PRACTICE leaves are mowed on site and left. Golf course not possible, all

There is a reason why we have leaf blowers. They are efficient and better than rakes.

there is no adequate justification for a year round ban; the current restrictions are sufficient

There is no need for additional bans. Additional education and reminders would be much more effective

There is no real problem with leaf blowers

There is simply no need for them.

There really aren't great working alternatives. If we want our town to stay looking great with folks taking pride in the upkeep of There should be a complete ban on any leaf blower use evenings, holidays and weekends

There should be limitations on the number of blowers in use at private residences. No more than 2 at a time should be in operation.

There should be no restrictions on their use.

There would be a complete mess. Impossible to get appropriate cleanup. Increase of allergies with leaves lying around.

They are a blight on the neighborhood. We have gotten along fine for centuries without them.

They are a very useful tool. Noise is the problem not the leaf blowers.

They are dirty and unnecessary.

They are loud and obnoxious. The dust they raise is disgusting and just lingers

They are needed for good cleanup

They are not currently much of a problem for us but appreciate that other people feel a greater impact.

They are serious polluters: noise, dust and gas emissions.

They are the only decent way to clean ground-cover beds. Also they are easy to use and fast. There are reasonably quiet machines They are unnecessary and create noise, pollution and flying debris.

they are very loud. especially when more than one operates at the same time.

They definitely improve efficiency and reduce cost. Too extreme to ban altogether

They don't pose a problem to the community where I live.

They generate dangerous dust and fumes, and allow landscapers to spread dirt and leaves, rather than containing them.

They pollute the air and ground with gas leakage and fumes; the noise destroys others' ability to be outside without having to They're noisy and smelly and they increase our carbon footprint.

Things have changed. Would be very hard to find workers willing to do major leaf clean up without a blower.

That said, it could This is a red herring. The current dates would be OK if enforced.

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME

This is absurd. It is like asking a farmer in Iowa to return to oxen, rather than use a motorized tractor

This is an unreasonable and unrealistic restriction on laborers ability to get their work done swiftly and efficiently!

This is not realistic and will significantly impact residents ability to hire landscapers to clear up their yards

This is not reasonable

This is NUTS!

This issue is a waste of time and energy! Get back to more important issues, please.....

This proposal is absurd. What's next banning gas lawn mowers? Banning gas snow blowers? Should we be required to do everything This question is for an extreme option. I am interested in realistic regulation where the equipment would be a nuisance; that's Too many negatives; people can rake!

Too much noise, bad for the environment and a waste. Use a rake or compost or just leave at least some of the leaves!

There is a need for them and landscapers should be able to use them. The decibel limit should be enforced they are a terrible externality

They are noisy and pollute. When they are operating nearby, I feel like I am under siege in my home. The major benefit is convenience

They are way too noisy -and esp not great if come on different days and times in the area. I guess if they came in all at once in This a problem mainly in North Brookline. I'm in south Brookline and there is only a minor problem.

This approach to cleaning up leaves hurts the environment and has become a noise blight to neighborhoods.

Pressure to avoid This is like banning snowplows which clear the streets at night or telling people they can't use a snowblower to clear their driveway. Tired of restrictions and bans on everything in Brookline.

Too noisy and completely random as to the time of day. Several blowers may occur during many time slots.

Too restrictive to landscapers.

Unless for health, I don't support the reasons for the ban

Unnecessary noise.

unrealistic

Unrealistic, burdensome. I am in favor of reasonable efforts to promote more environmentally friendly gas motors (if these exist? Unreasonable to ban them. Just limit the hours, not before 8am any day. Never on Sundays.

Use a rake instead, hire more people.

Use leaf blower to keep drive and gutters clean. In addition it saves me money to be able to use it myself

Used appropriately they are not a problem

Used properly along with raking leaf blowers do a great job.

Vehemently NO,

Very large properties might be allowed limited use.

Viable alternatives exist

want to make sure that landscapers can do a thorough job and quickly and efficiently

Was t aware this was a problem

Wasteful and superfluous, gas blowers should be banned.

We about a business that has consistently used leaf blowers to clean their property over the years, causing noise pollution and - We can learn to live without them, in peace.

We have enough other negative health related reasons not to use one!

We live in the city. Noise is inevitable. People should be able to take care of their property. Even a large yard is probably done We need them

We need these for cleanup and cost savings for landscapers and the town.

we should use noise not the technology as the basis of control.

We use leaf blowers exclusively in our final fall cleanup, where the lawnmower and simple raking are inadequate to get the last We want trees in summer and the leaf issue is the price we pay. we should shut up and let the workers take care of the leaves in Which are the alternatives? In which ways are they better?

While I understand the negative impact of gas leaf blowers, I also understand their important utility for some individuals, some Why stop at leaf blowers? Why not include snow blowers as well? Same concept.

Will lose all of the benefits described above.

will raise property values

With all the problems that exist this is shouldn't be on the list, a consultants fee for this survey!?

worker safety, use of power, resident comfort

Worry about something important.

Would compromise to get reduced use. Want town to reduce use too.
Would cost a fortune--only the super rich with landscapers could afford it. Not fair to working people.
would prefer to try methods to improve leaf blower technology and noise attenuation
Would vastly increase cost and decrease quality of lawn maintenance and clean-up of leaves, people who complain about noise yes, above a certain decibel level
Yes, the gas ones are the loudest, most polluting ones
un-necessary concern for me, cost for services lower with their use, they are efficient when used properly, periodic noise worth
Until electric blowers are more feasible gas is the only efficient mechanism
Use during certain hours in areas that are not densely populated is reasonable. Use in densely populated Northern Brookline and We can certainly trade a few hours of noise to a cleaner Brookline.
we never needed them before, and they make such dust - its like you have no choice but to have all that in your yard because 1/We should get over it. We are so fortunate to live in Brookline - why get so bothered by some noise every now and then
Will landscapers refuse to do work in Brookline if they can't use leaf blowers? Also, I often see landscapers use leaf-blowers to simply
Would raise labor costs to unaffordable levels
YES, YES - these things are the curse of affluent neighborhoods everywhere. There is no such thing as a quiet gas leaf blower. It's You can't rake sidewalks.
You can't go back to manually raking, as it takes too much time. If there is a ban, then Brookline can cut down the trees that overhang.

Question 9 – 271 Comments

No exemptions for the town. Why should the homeowner absorb the extra cost the ordinance will force them to pay higher costs "Do as I say not as I do" -- can't buy the rationale for exemptions
A ban is a ban. Our park areas are in residential neighborhoods, so if you are saying that leaf blowers can't be used because they a ban makes no sense. my leaf blower makes less noise and produces less pollution than commercial units.
A complete ban is too draconian. Snow blowers and plows can be noisy too and nobody is suggesting banning those.
A total ban will put more pressure on manufacturers.
all exempt
All yards exceeding 400 square feet
Although this would be difficult to legislate and enforce.
Another red herring. The problem is the illegal use, not the type of blower
any rules should apply to all
Anywhere that it is impossible to use electric blowers - but anywhere under an acre or so could use electric blowers.
Anywhere that manual removal of leaves is impractical.
As long as leaf blowers are not being used before 8am, or after 10pm, there is no issue.
Bad law if you have to think up who needs exemptions: As a homeowner I would need an exemption too!
Be consistent. Let everyone have them or no one.
Blowers should not be banned - this is ridiculous
Can't answer this because I think a complete ban is foolish
come on-- the town should exemplify what's right!
Condo complexes.
Condominium associations.
Consistency in the application of the law is essential.
Contractor for public schools is one of most offensive user of leaf blowers -- generating excessive noise and employing workers democracy is messy
Do not agree with ban!

Do not know enough to say

Don't ban leaf blowers.

During school hours at recess my son was playing and an adjacent business was using a leaf blower, which scared my son to extent Elderly homeowners 50+

elderly residents

employ people with rakes

everyone can use or no one

Everyone should be exempt

A complete ban should apply equally to Town et al.

ABSOLUTELY NOT!! If this rule should impact individual homeowners of small or medium sized property, who have less money Again, this proposal unfairly impacts non-wealthy citizens of Brookline! NOT FAIR!

All of these institutions use blowers inappropriately to clear areas that would more quickly be cleared by other means. Clearing All property owners should be allowed the use of leaf blowers. Weather conditions being unpredictable, we should allow mThere All residents should be banned - it is not that hard to rake leaves and is actually nice - though perhaps there could be one clean All town owned property. ...golf courses.....religious institutions. ...private accredited schools.....not including day care centers. there And...bcs those groups would be exempt, I don't think it's fair to ban home owners from using them.

Any kind of leaf blower should be allowed. The one I bought I intentionally bought below the recommended decibel level. I resent Because the large plots of land are who make the most use of leafblowers, I imagine. So either let people use blowers or don't. brookline has a population of 100% exempt from everything. haven't you noticed?

dont know

electric only charged with renewable energy; i.e. solar panels

Every tax paying individual in Brookline should be able to purchase and use a leaf blower. I completely disagree with the proposed

Everyone should be exempt if they have deciduous trees on their property.

Everyone should play by the same rules. No exemptions.

Everyone should suffer under the same rule.

Everyone.

Exempt one, you have to exempt all. Put a rake into the hands of people, and they'll burn some calories.

Exemption for every case when costs of alternatives is more than 125% of cost with proper gas blowers.

Exemptions are confusing and send mixed messages.

exemptions are when problems occur. People plead ignorance for their own convenience.

exemptions does confuse who can and who cannot. and it seems unfair

Exemptions make it confusing and unfair

Exemptions make no sense

favor no restrictions, except perhaps daytime hours

Feel it is not fair that large landowners are currently exempt.

for places that are far away from residents, it is less of a problem

gas blowers should not be banned.

Gas powered leaf blowers should not be banned. Then no need for exemptions.

Gas-powered leaf blowers should not be banned!!!!

Get real here, don't create more reasons to increase the tax rate by requiring hand raking on town owned property.

Get rid of this nonsense....

he fact that you have to exempt some people demonstrates the need for the machine.

Homeowners should NOT be banned from using leaf-blowers, nor should landscapers.

Honestly, we all did just fine with rakes for a very long time!

How can we say they should be banned but then give certain people the right to avoid the ban? If they should be banned...then How is the Town's use any less a noise, air quality, or health problem. Since they are used on large scale areas they are by definition ll

am against banning all leaf blowers!

I am against further restrictions.

I am not in favor of a ban.

I am not in favor of a change in the current use restrictions, and thus the question seems moot to me. If saying no exemptions I am very much against any further restrictions on leaf blowers, so I would hope that all residences would be exempted

I assume the Town and large landowners would have leaf blower-operators who are aware of proper use.

I can't believe the town is actually considering a new rule they themselves want an exemption from. What a joke to live in a place I do not believe that anyone should be exempt from restrictions automatically.

I do not believe that gas powered leaf blowers should be completely banned.

I do not think anyone should be exempt, just because their property is larger! I also believe that DPW would not be able to keep I don't believe in the ban, but a ban is a ban

I don't have a problem with some exemptions for economic reasons, but there should be stricter time constraints so that they are I don't think anyone or any institution should use gas-powered leaf blowers. Electric ones would be permissible for large areas.

I don't think it is fair to give town this use and not its taxpayers. On the other hand, a big process to decide case by case seems I don't think it's fair to restrict use for residents only.

I don't think leaf blowers should be banned

i don't think there should be a ban for anyone, but if there is then it ought to be applied across the board to everyone

I don't think there should be a ban. If there is a ban then it should apply across the board so everyone is impacted.

Exempting golf courses would be ok.

I can see why owners of very large properties need to do this; but whether it's fair to their neighbors may depend on how often i do not think gas powered leaf blowers should be banned in Brookline

I don't believe gas-powered leaf blowers should be completely banned in Brookline

I don't think there should be one. However I don't think anyone should be exempt if there was a ban

I don't think they should be banned

I favor clear rules- complete ban not seasonal

I feel that giving a blanket statement for the city or large non-residential areas needs to be considered based on distance to residential I go back and forth on this. On the one hand I feel like if there are any exemptions, they will be abused. On the other hand, I'm I hope there won't be a complete ban unless there is better solution than gas blower. It would be very unfair to give exemption I live across and work at a school. The town is one of the biggest offenders, so I don't think it's fair to ask others not to use one I live in elderly housing and noise is disturbing and unhealthy!

I oppose the banning of gas-powered leaf blowers .

I opposed the proposed ban.

I really want no exemptions but I suppose there could be a use. The exemption should be strict (in terms of limited hours etc) and I think banning leaf blowers is much too restrictive. People should have the option to use what they need to keep home and town I think everyone should be able to do take care of their properties. If I can't use my leaf blower, why should I have to pay a professional I think I read in the Tab that an elderly couple really felt they needed leaf blowers to keep up their lawn care, I think they should I think neighbors should have a say in the use of blowers since it affects their quality of life.

I think that this should be smart on how to implement - a ban is too severe a step

I think we should at least have regional exemptions- for example if our street or neighborhood would support use of leaf blowers I would give anybody who asked for an exemption an exemption, because it would be a needless law.

I'd be really irritated if homeowners were barred and institutions (including the town) were allowed.

I'm against the ban so I think all homeowners should be exempt!

If gas-powered leaf blowers were banned, it would be unfair for them to be banned for some but not others. The same negative If health and environment are key this has to be weighed

If homeowners banned, then all.

If homeowners cannot use leaf blower's then the town cannot use them either. This is a problem that everyone faces and the same If large institutions, the town, golf courses, etc. can use them they should be regulated as to time of day. If that's the case, then If leaf blowers are banned, the ban should apply to all. No exemptions because this is discriminatory practice.

If leaf blowers are so noxious (and I don't think they are), the ban should be total - no exemptions, including the town or anyone If residents are not allowed to use leaf blowers I strongly feel that the Town and large landowners should not be allowed to use If the noise level cannot be contained, and if harmful dust / debris cannot be properly contained, no exemption regardless of the If the problems are as bad as those opposing suggest, the there should be no use in town or for large landowners. I don't support If the town were restricted from using leaf blowers I believe there would be either a huge increase in the cost of cleaning up the IF there are further restrictions, let majority in a neighborhood exempt the entire neighborhood by petition.

If there is a ban it should apply equally to all!

If there is a good reason for a ban, there should be no restrictions.

If they are banned because of the noise then no one should use them. No exemptions.

If town properties are near residences, it should apply. If they are not, it is less an issue.

I don't think they should be banned. They are becoming more efficient and quiet. Battery powered lawnmowers and blowers also I don't think anybody should be exempt. It seems wrong that there are exemptions now. The town should abide by its own regulations I dont agree with the Ban...If you are going to ban use it should be for everyone for all the reasons residents cannot use

I dont know

I strongly disagree with the ban. Here in South Brookline, I don't live on a sprawling estate, but gas leaf blowers help the tremendous I think a minimum acreage is the threshold. A house of worship on Beacon St? Nope. Pine Manor College? You bet. Wheelock College? If it isn't ok for landscape contractors to use them, I don't understand why it is ok for the town to do it. It's either acceptable or If leaf blowers are perceived as bad wouldnt they be bad for everyone? Why would we allow the large estates to do something If leafblowers cause so many problems (which I do not believe), then there should be no exemptions. In fact, the argument that If the residents and thier employees need to adhere to it, the town should as well.

If the town is stupid enough to let this through they should ABSOLUTELY be forced to sleep in the bed they made - I.e. NO EXEMPTIONS

If unrealistic restrictions are placed on home-owners, it does not seem right to exempt others!

If we must have these restrictions I think it's horribly unfair to give anyone an exemption. I would be in favor of no exemptions If you are banning for homes, then ban everyone. This whole issue is ridiculous!

If you are going to restrict use by citizens then make it wholesale. This seems like a really silly thing to be in a huff about. Are they If you are making a rule it should apply to all the rich people and the town should be restricted if the rest of us are this is the most in my opinion no resident should get an exemption - it only serves the people that live in that house and is a slippery slope if this In non residential areas I would support use of blowers.

Is this a joke?

It concerns me the way this question is worded and above you ask about education. Currently large residents living properties It is outrageous to contemplate mandating non-use of a beneficial tool.

It is unfair to allow use for some and not others

It is unfair to have exemptions; if blowers are "bad" to use this should apply to everyone

It makes no sense to allow some people and institutions to do it and not others.

It makes no sense to penalize the small infractions and encourage the big ones. This is not an issue of big impact but of petty It really depends on the frequency and closeness to residential neighborhoods

It seems unfair to give a waiver to some user groups but not to others.

It would be very hypocritical for the Town to exempt itself and tax exempt institutions while imposing onerous restrictions on the It's a good use of money to pay someone to rake.

Landscape companies

Landscapers

Large landowners (wealthy) are not affected by this... Even a child can see that is not fair

Leaf vacuums work better.

Leave the restrictions as they are.

Let the town and institutions qualify but lose that qualification with a record of complaints.

Let's end this noxious and not very useful practice.

Let's not ban leaf blowers

Like many people, I live and work near town properties (Town Hall, in my case). The use of leaf blowers by the town is worse than Logic dictates that if the case for banning leaf blowers is valid (noise), then any exceptions would make the rationale for the ban Management has influence/control over what the staff or contractors are allowed to do at these institutions. Especially our own My health is more important. The wasted effort and pollution I've observed at my residence leads me to believe the hazards and No ban should exist

No ban.

No exemptions on reduced use

None - mowers can adequately mulch leaves

None of my business telling these entities what to do.

Not fair to homeowners not to use gas-powered leaf blowers--very efficient & easier on the arms..

not in favor of a complete ban

Not sensible to ban gas-powered leaf blowers

Not sure- don't understand the issues well enough

one for all and all for one- democracy right?

One idea is to prohibit the Town and private landscapers using blowers within close proximity. Second, educating the blower Only Electric

If you are going to ban leaf blowers for anyone you should ban them for everyone. I don't think they should be banned for anyone.

Larger parks such as Lars Anderson, and Amory Park, but not small ones like Kivet Park. Probably schools with large tracts like Baker, My big problem is when multiple large landowners use leaf blowers simultaneously. I live near Fiwnes field and it's not unusual No exemptions should be granted if electrical leaf blowers are adequate for large spaces; otherwise, some exceptions are ok

On occasion, I would let town or large non-residential areas use them when a particular need (not all season) provided they followed

owners of residential properties larger than one acre

People living near well-used public parks/walkways/schools.

People will still not follow the exemptions.

People with small yards really don't need them. We used to rake them--what's wrong with that?

Places not near residences should be exempt. Those using them should have to protect their ears.

Please see my comments above.

Plus all residents and lawn crews should be exempt

Private home owners should not have to live under different restrictions from the Town and major institutions; their needs are Privately owned properties such as the Country Club should NOT be exempt.

Proponents of a ban shouldn't be able to customize their opposition to exclude their pet facilities.

Provide employment raking leaves.

raking makes no noise, uses no resources but human, and in my experience does a better job

Revoke the ban.

Ridiculous to ban then to selectively exempt

Same rules should apply to all, if the underlying concerns are noise, air quality, etc.

Schools.

See comment above.

See other comments

seems odd to say "we are against leaf blowers" but then letting the Town use the. Clearly the Town uses them because they are Sensible use by the DPW is tolerable but "make work/ sandbagging" is unacceptable.

Should not be banned

Single family homes
single-family houses

Smaller parks & parcels could be done with electric--Town should have mix of equipment. Also, leaf blowing at schools, playgrounds That exemption is working well and need no further note.

The ban on gas powered blowers should be lifted. using electrical blowers is not powerful enough and you still end up using FOSSIL The blowers should not be banned

The current exemptions prove the point! Banning use is irrational.

The noisiest and most intrusive leaf blowing in our neighborhood is the town clean up of the streets. However we are very appreciative The rules should cover everyone equally.

The small increase in price to use rakes is more than worth the great increase in silence and quality of life.

The town and landscapers are the ones violating most of the rules. The other night our neighbors landscapers came to snow blow The town clears leaves for the public benefit. Others do not.

The town doesn't follow the rules either so they should be exempt. I guess it would be acceptable to use them in wide open spaces The town is a major abuser of leaf blowers. It is a major problem at Clark park.

The Town is exempt from a restriction it has imposed on other institutions? really?

The town must comply with the most stringent requirements rather than giving itself a free pass. No exemptions for country clubs, there just has to be a cleaner alternative in this day and age?

There should be exemptions for elderly and disabled as well as town etc. There should be a permit process for intermittent use There should be no ban

There should be no ban !

Same town, same rules. If the Town of Brookline believes in something so firmly, it should abide by the same laws as the rest of See (8) above. Commerical landscapers with several gas blower going at the same time also emit deafening noise level and exhaust..

should be no ban. this is very intrursive regulation

That's interesting, I did not think large landowners were exempt. They should not be. They are the biggest offenders and in my The only exception that I can think of is Putterham Golf and the parks.

The town could get a few lawn vacuums, and I am certain that the non town golf course could get one. It's a tax write off and depreciable.

There should be no ban.

There should be no restriction on the use of leaf blowers!

There should be no restriction on use, excepting parameters in reasonable hours of use (not too early or too late).

They should not be banned

They should not be banned

They should not be banned

This is a misguided by-law, but if it passes, there should be absolutely no exemptions.

this is pure foolishness

This is ridiculous to cause more bureaucratic waste of time that take away from real issues.

time and noise level restriction should be applied to all

Town uses very loud leaf blowers

Under no circumstances should thee be a complete ban.

Unfair to ban them.

Unfair to exempt certain residents and institutions.

Usage should determine not location or institution.

Use electric

Use electric leaf blowers

Very few exemptions.

W We could give the Town a

year to comply if absolutely needed.

We do not favor the ban for exactly this reason.

What about gas snow blowers?? (much louder)

What's good for one is good for all. Why should small home owners have to pay more for lot clean up and the Town or large landowners What's the point if the Town is exempt? Much of the noise comes from our parks etc. cleanup.

What's the rationale of banning for ordinary citizens but not large land owners and the Town?!

WHATS GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS GOOD FOR THE GANDER

When they can be used should be strictly limited.

Why should anyone be exempt? The restrictions are reasonable. I live on Parsons field and NU uses the blowers too early and for Why should different rules apply to different parties? I see no reason. Leaf blowers, like cars, lawn mowers, chain saws, motorcycles why should the town, golf be exempt..I have same issues!

Why? What's the justification? How are they different from everyone else?

Would need more info on the impact of a complete ban on the town and large landowners to decide.

You can't have a double standard. If there's a ban, it's for everyone.

This question suggests that tax payers should forego leafblowing our homes, but still pay for the town to blow leaves. That's not Town regulations on construction, recycling, et. al., seem to work pretty well with proper education. I assume that the same would Why should any property owner, even the town, be exempt.

Leafblowers are a necessary tool to maintain property. Why should

Question 10 – 541 Comments

I don't think that leaf blowers are a problem. Leaves are the problem.

1. enforcement is terrible 2. measurement of noise, were enforcement to occur, is quite variable. That's just a start.

A bylaw or law Who would enforce it? I am sure someone would sue the Town if other restrictions are applied ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS. THIRD SNOTTIEST CITY FOR A REASON>

Additional restrictions may be helpful in finding a compromise between those who wish to ban them and those who rely on their Again, there should be NO restrictions. If there are there should be no exemptions. It makes no sense.

again, climate change. Plus, we are somewhat annoyed by their noise

Again, it is not enforced -- so of no value. We are always looking to raise revenue in the town to pay for schools, services, etc. How Allow leaf blowers year round - no restrictions

An issue is that some outfits use 2, 3, 4 machines at a time! Deafening even with Windows closes. Also more than one landscape And particularly dissatisfied with the fact that the rules are not enforced, and hence not followed.

As long as the seasons are reasonably defined. And exceptions are made for storm debris at any season.

as long as they are enforced

As long as they are enforced.

As mentioned, they aren't monitored and the landscapers do whatever they feel like.

Ban gas

Ban them

Because current restrictions are not really enforced.

Because the town views itself as above the law.

Because they are not enforced.

Because those restrictions are openly ignored and there is no enforcement.

But are the restrictions enforced? I don't think so. Better training required (see Q7 response) and like all other regulations, violations but do not increase the restrictions any more than this

but I wouldn't mind more restrictions

But it should be extended a bit in the fall to be after the last leaves have called

but maybe if enforced

But no evidence that noise levels are actually enforced

But summertime ban is too restrictive

But the restrictions are not enforced.
But they are not enforced/ home owners need to be more aware
but they're not always followed or enforced
Can't answer -- really don't know the details.
Come on - Is this that serious?
Commercial leaf blowers are too noisy
Concerned about the pollution from gas engines and also noise when windows open, and wildlife more prevalent
Constantly violated. Not broad enough.
Current restrictions are excessive and should be relaxed
Depends on the weather / climate. When leaves are actually falling, snow is melting.
Disallow multiple blowers and ride-on mowers going simultaneously.
Does anyone actually monitor the noise levels? If not, what is the point of the law?
Does not seem clear, thought through, or enforceable.
Although I appreciate the restrictions, I still find leaf blowers in Brookline to be very loud. Less unpleasant sounds
are often considered Although they should be allowed to clean up debris from large storms.
Brookline is over regulated. Relax restrictions.
But there should be no exemptions and it should be enforced
Can't see how noise restrictions have improved things
daily time restrictions needed - 7:30am not ok.
don't know
don't think there should be any restrictions
Doubt that any restrictions would be enforced and the problem would not be any better.
Either the noise levels are too high or not enforced. Often I have intrusive noise in my house during the day.
either the policies are not enforced or the policies are not adequate
either the restrictions are inadequate or the users are not following them
Either they are too weak or they are not enforced.
Electric-only is preferable from an emissions perspective
Enforce Compliance!!!
Enforcement not sufficient
Enforcement of noise levels are difficult, the enforcement process needs to be overhauled.
Every time I pass someone with one, they must turn around and sometimes they spew garbage at me.
except I'm not sure if equipment operated by town and others complies
favor no restrictions
Fewer restrictions for electric
find it a bit much
First enforce what exists strictly with sanctions
Fluffy snow moves easily with a leaf blower. Saves my back!
For me it is about health issues for the user and community members
for our neighborhood, there seem to not be any complaints.
For the 10 to 15 minutes they use the equipment it should not impact anyone other than residents who complain
about everything.
Free the leaf blowers!!!!
frequent violations of the restrictions by landscapers
Further restrictions are not necessary.
Gas leaf blowers pollute with noise and poisonous chemicals. They are bad for the people who use them and for
the people around Gas leaf blowers should be banned and electric highly restricted as stated
Gas powered are too loud, too polluting. I would like to see a year round ban
Generally, but I would extend the ban to weekends, when people are home.
Get rid of all restrictions.
Get rid of it
Get rid of the ban.

Given that they're used for more things than just blowing leaves, there should be a broader ban happens all summer too

Have heard blowers clearly above noise minimum

How about snow blowers at midnight in adjacent parking lots??

However much I dislike them, present regulations are a reasonable compromise...

I agree with those as a minimum, but might favor more.

I am a fan of more workers with rakes.

I am advocating for a complete ban on their use.

I am in favor of the seasonal restriction, but question whether it's necessary to have a spring leaf-blower season.

Because the fall dont ban leafblowers

During peak season for leaf blowers, they are often in use in our neighborhood at least 4 hours each week day. It puts particulates except in emergency situations. e.g., freak weather

Gas blowers should be banned but electric are ok

Glven the unpredictability of the length of the seasons, I would prefer an additional 2-3 weeks of permitted use in the spring and haha are u kidding? they are used yr round

hard to run or walk in neighborhood. air qaulity terrible. we dont need every leaf gone!

I am not aware of restrictions

I appreciate allowing seasonal use but then they do not comply with the noise level requirement

I believe the current restrictions are both measured and sufficient.

I can still hear the damn things blocks away.

I cannot stand the sound of leaf blowers.

I didn't know a restriction existed. I am not bothered by leaf blowers

I do not believe that a complete ban is politically feasible

I do not believe that the noise level is or can be effectively policed. Nor do I believe that early mornings are appropriate for leaf I do not think there should be any restrictions

I do not think there should be restrictions

I do not want dust and dirt blown into the air across sidewalks with heavy pedestrian traffic.

I do not want to hear ANY leaf blowers on the weekends or after 5:00 PM

I don' know what the current restrictions are

I don't believe the current restrictions are enforced or that residents and companies are well educated about these restrictions.

I don't believe they are being observed.

I don't care if people use it year round

I don't see the need for any restriction but what ever restrictions you put in place those restrictions should apply to all

I don't think the noise levels are enforced.

I don't think there should be any kind of restriction. If their effects are so terrible, other similar restrictions should be placed on I don't think they should be restricted at all

I don't understand why there are any seasonal restrictions

I don't want any restrictions. Give us us free!

I favor a total ban.

I favor no restrictions.

I feel like the noise pollution is not as bad as in the past.

I find them extremely noisy

I have no complaints. Therefore, it might be that the restrictions are too much, but I can't know that one way or the other.

I have not been affected by the use of gas leaf blowers

I have not seen a leaf-blower lately.

I hear loud leaf blowers that i believe are gas-powered. They are deafening.

I just don't like them, or see the need for them, given their demerits for the general population.

I need to see data

I often see leaf blowers used to move leaves from private property to public streets. This is a noisy nuisance and a hazard

I prefer more restrictions on time of day and date range.

I see no reason to limit people from using these machines in a proper manner - police it don't blanket restrict it - just because i see them all year

I think enforcement is an issue.

I think it is unnecessary

I think leaf blowers can be important to use during the summer

I think leaf blowers should be banned on weekends as well.

I beleive the current restrictions are too limiting and are targeting a single source of noise and pollution in the town. The town I do not believe that those hired to work in Brookline follow the rules. I also think the times allowed are not reasonable.

i do not want leaf blowers used in Brrookline, is that clear??

I don't like leafblowers and I think they sould be banned: they're noisy and smelly, they blow dust and dirt as well as leaves, and I feel it is ok to vacuum leaves but to blow them off your property onto others or in the street or air is criminal Do you recommend I live near the Longyear estate and they run blowers frequently and for long periods of time.

I think any restrictions should be repealed

I think that leaf blowers should be allowed year round. To mitigate the issue, narrow the hours. 10am-4pm.

I think the current limit of 8pm is too late, that is after usual baby's bed time. I think 6pm is more reasonable.

i think the current restriction is over reaching and not fair to the "average" person, nor to the small business owner trying to make I think the current version is fine. Maybe there could be an additional entry about the number of leaf blowers used simultaneously I think the gas ones should be banned - period!

I think the maximum noise level should be lower. We are zoned for fairly wide spaces between houses and the noise, with all of I think the noise restrictions should be quieter

I think the restrictions are unnecessary any time of year. Anytime that DPW can jackhammer a street, someone should be allowed I think there are too many restrictions. The town is exempt and uses higher decibel level machines because that's the only way I think there needs to be more education and more accountability

I think there should be no restrictions electric leaf blowers. Gas blowers should be banned.

I think these laws are a little silly.

I think they are ignored by many.

I think they are overly restrictive.

I think they should be allowed all year. The restrictions on noise level are good.

I think we could allow the use from 10am-3pm year round and there would not be a huge impact on noise

I think we should be moving to electric blowers

I want 3 season use

I want a total ban.

I want the restrictions relaxed

I wish for No restrictions at all.

I work from home and have no problem with noise from leaf blowers.

I would be happier if the restrictions were in fact adhered to

I would be if they were followed/enforced especially the hours.

i WOULD LIKE A COMPLETE BAN. THE BENEFITS DO NOT AT ALL JUSTIFY THE DUSTINESS CREATED AND THE NOISE.

I would like a summertime ban on electric leaf blowers as well

I would like all bans to be lifted. I personally rake leaves, but my lawn service uses blowers to clear walks of debris.

I would like year-round ban.

I'd like them to be completely allowed all year long.

I'd prefer to ban

I'm home during the day, and it is too loud

I'm not sure, to be honest, because I don't really know what they are

I'm okay with leaf blowers being used, as long as it is at a reasonable hour. I don't think 7am on any day is a reasonable hour.

I've explained earlier. The noise level is way too high and the gas ones are too polluting.

I've never been bothered by them. This Town has bigger issues it needs to worry about!

If anything, it's already too stringent. Should not be more restricted.

If anything, they are too restrictive

If enforce

If machines are to be used, they should be quiet machines.

If noise is the primary problem and the noise limit is in place, then I don't think a time of year restriction is important.

I think that in essentially rural areas of Brookline that a ban should be abolished.

I would be in favor of easing the current restrictions. Leaf blowers are used to remove tree pollens and small debris effectively I would like the full ban on gas powered. And if not that, I would like to see a rule you can only blow into the middle of your property I'm not sure if there is also a restriction on time--I wouldn't allow before 8 a.m.

I'm not sure why they are necessary. they give off terrible fumes and are so loud, especially at 8am.

If abided by and enforced.

If the argument is that leaf blower usage is a health risk, then why would the largest users be currently exempt from the restrictions

If violators are not aggressively pursued this requirement is useless.

Impossible to enforce.

In general, I think this is fine. However I do think that if there is a major storm during restricted times, that leaf blower should be In general, not in favor of restrictions

In my neighborhood the people hired by the homeowners are very irritating

Incredibly loud and disruptive still.

It feels like there is continuous leaf blower noise 3 seasons of the year where I live.

It is a good compromise already.

It is enough

It is impossible to be outside or even indoors in a room that faces someone using a leaf blower. They are loud and befoul the air.

It is just plain painful to be at home in spring and fall.

It is simply not working! Unbearably loud and smelly work continues, and often ruins weekend mornings. A glaring case of poor It is very unpleasant to be working in the yard and have these very loud machines interrupt the quiet and birdsong...

It makes living where we live, and working from home, untenable. I don't want to have to close my windows in spring and fall.

It seems that there are no restrictions on noise

It should be restricted year round.

it would be nice if there were a time restriction, like early mornings.

It's a stupid rule

It's still very noisy.

Its too restrictive

Just enforce the law

lack of enforcement - abuse primarily by landscapers, noise level is excessive

Landscapers & home owners continue to use them all summer. Even with the noise restrictions, they seem very loud especially Leaf blowers are necessary. Until we make a rule against trees, we need to be able to deal with the debris they create.

Leaf blowers are still far too loud and landscapers run multiple blowers at a time all day everyday

Leaf blowers are still loud and it's a problem as a pedestrian to walk through/alongside leaf blowers that are blowing debris & Leaf blowers are still too noisy and used too frequently in my neighborhood

Leaf blowers are used all summer and at high noise levels
Leaf Blowers are very noisy, and adding pollution. I encounter them in the park/playground and they ruin our experience. I'd like Leaf blowers can be helpful year round.
Leaf blowers should also be allowed in the summer.
Leaf blowers should be banned
Leaf blowers should be banned completely.
Leaf removal should be reevaluated not by season but need. Climate delays may mean leaves linger a bit longer than expected. Leaf vacuums work better.
leaves are only falling in the fall; in the spring they are only blowing debris
Leaves can fall in Dec. The time frame should be Extended
Less restrictions needed. Too costly to regulate given the minimal impact during certain times of year. Better to spend the money lift the ban
limit hours: not more than two hours in one block
Limits aren't enforced
literally could not care less.
mandate stricter noise levels, mufflers really help
Many companies disobey the ordinance.
More can be done.
It seems silly you can hire some one to use a leaf blower on your land but you can't use your own. Having reasonable noise and it's not realistic to enforce noise level
More protection of environment needed. Force large property owners/golf courses etc to hire folks to do landscaping manually
Most heavy work has been done during those seasons, occasional use should be allowed
Multiple leaf blowers significantly change the perceived decibel level. Also, it is unclear why commercial landscapers should be My main issue is with the allowable hours of usage. Many times during the spring and summer and fall my family eats out on our Na
Need them all year for sidewalk clearing
Need to use them in summer months to clean my long driveway
needed in the summer as well
Needs better enforcement, esp time of day.
Never been an issue for me
no enforcement
no enforcement, who knows if the professional services have the right equipment?
NO leaf blowers
No meaningful enforcement
No monitoring that I can see. You can make rules and laws but most people will scoff them. Or, as one police officer said to me No more restrictions than currently exist
no one should be loud before 8 am.
no real enforcement of noise levels, or noise levels set to high
No restrictions
No, because they are not followed. If they were, they might be acceptable, barely..
No, because users don't adhere to the rules.
No, I think it is excessive
No; sometimes I can hear hordes of them, can't think straight!
No..short of a ban, stricter by-laws are needed
NOISE Year round ban
Noise and pollution are my chief concerns
Noise is intolerable for many days in the Fall.
noise is not enforced, still pollute and add particulates to air
Noise is still unacceptable, as well as air quality negative impact.
Noise level is difficult to enforce

Noise level is never enforced.
Noise level restrictions are impossible to enforce.
Noise levels shouldn't be unfairly restricted.
Noise limits are not enforced. They still pollute
Noise pollution
Noise, cost to the Town. Rakes will work for most properties.
Not enforceable
Not enough
Not everyone abides by the restrictions
Not in favor of any restrictions
not obeyed
Not only is use not enforced in the summer but the noise level is not enforced and some landscapers notably use louder units not satisfied because it is poorly enforced
Most leafblowers do not meet the noise restriction
need to push hard for better noise standards--requires a movement bigger than Brookline alone
Needs to be modified to allow for special cases ie damaging storms
Noise levels absolutely are not enforced and I'm not sure how they realistically would be.
Not sure
Not sure
Not sure -- while noise is an issue, the bigger concern for me comes from the environmental impact of the gas leaf blowers specifically Not sure what they are
Not sure.
Not sure.
Oak trees in front of our house drop leaves all summer
Often woken up too early.
Onerous restrictions. Unreasonable.
our condo has noisy leaf blowers. I don't know if they are exempt. Once they said they were due to a large storm.?
Overall yes, though I would like to see more restrictions on gas powered blowers.
Perfectly sensible. We don't need any further restrictions
Permitted decibel level needs to be revisited.
Please ban them.
Please note: Most landscape companies use their leaf blowers all summer long. Many smaller companies have old machinery Please, no unreasonable restrictions!
Poor awareness, inadequate enforcement and non-accountability for homeowners render the existing restrictions useless.
prefer banning all seasons
really not sure - I don't know how much of the offending use is really misuse
Reasonable restrictions are already in place. Focus on education and enforcement of regulations already in place.
reduced noise would be ideal
Regrettably, I am near the Boston line, and I do not get the benefits of the restrictions.
regulations are of no use if not enforced.
Regulations routinely ignored.
Restriction passed seems not to satisfy those who don't like leaf blowers. They want to intrude on everyone. We have bigger problems Restriction should be on hours of the day, not seasons of the year, independent of power source
Restrictions are fine. Enforcement is necessary
Restrictions are reasonable as to seasons & noise.
Restrictions are reasonable but often does not seem to be followed or enforced
Restrictions are ridiculous. The entitlement needs to be toned down. What makes these sensitive people so important?

Restrictions aren't well enforced.

Restrictions need to be observed and penalties enforced.

Restrictions not adequate.

Restrictions not enforced

Restrictions routinely ignored. How to enforce without pissing off neighbors or being a "snitch"?

Restrictions should be hours only and not restricted by date.

Revoke the ban.

See #9

See above

See above

see above comments

See above, re: exemptions. More ENFORCEMENT is what is needed. You can make all the laws you like, but without oversight there see above.

Often smell gas exhaust that blows into my condo.

People still need to work and study in Spring and Fall--impossible to do with the noise.

present restrictions are unenforceable or unenforced

see 9 above. I would ban them entirely except for specific occasions & users. Electric are ok for pollution, but still some noise issues.

See answer below

See my answer to 8

See reply re: exemptions. If a law is worth having, it should apply to everyone.

Seems not to be enforced

shorter time periods and fewer hours of use per day

Should apply rules to all seasons

Should be able to use whenever needed.

Should be allowed in summer as well.

Should be allowed only for fall leaves.

should be banned all year

Should be banned in the spring.

Should be much quieter. Only electric blowers should be allowed.

should be no restrictions

Should be no restrictions

Should be no restrictions. There is a limited amount of leaves to blow.

Should be no seasonal ban

Should not be used

Should not be used before 11am on weekends and only one day each weekend(alternate sat and sun. Weekdays from 10-3 provided Should not have restrictions

shouldn't be seasonally restricted

Simple complete ban is the only way to make it work well

Since it should only be necessary for major clean up, perhaps each property could be given a certain number of days. I do think Some blowers are very loud. Would be nice if those could be reduced.

Sound reasonable.

Spring and fall are beautiful times of the year when window are opened but the noise is disruptive.

Spring and fall has the most debris to be taken care of.

Still allows 5 months of noise. In my neighborhood it is nearly constant during those periods.

Still deafening.

Still noisy and used where it would take only a few more minutes to grab a broom or rake

Still pretty noisy since several people often blow at the same time

Still too noisy and polluting

Still very noisy

Still very noisy throughout different times of day

Summer ban of electric only does not do the job. Electric blowers are expensive, low run time and low power. Summer should be included. I feel that either they are okay or not okay. I understand fall and spring cleanup are tough so leaf The "off season" restrictions are not a big deal because people don't use blowers much off season. Ban seems overdone. Sound The are still misused to blow debris into my yard and into the street. The benefits to a privileged few don't outweigh the cost for the majority. The calendar restraints are unnecessary. If there is nothing to blow, then the machines won't be used. Maybe we should cut down the companies ignore them completely. The fall time should be longer some years. Status quo is just fine. still being used in summer. In Brookline Village, where I live, properties are close together and the noise is a pain in the butt. Still too loud. Too much aerosolizing of dirt/mold. Still too much noise in my neighborhood. That's ok although I hope the policy limits which hour a blower can be used, not season. The following argues strongly against leaf blowers: It concerns the parasite (Center for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc>). The landscapers are small and will ignore the law. ZERO enforcement. The leaf blowers are still too loud. The leaf blowers on our street are still extremely loud. The noise and pollution is annoying when they are allowed. The noise and the fumes! The noise in my neighborhood is intolerable. The noise is awful. I hate breathing in the fumes. The noise is intolerable in the spring and fall when you work from home. The noise is still way too high. The noise level is completely intolerable, even through closed windows. the noise level is still too high. The noise level of 67 decibels is a bit too silent for a decent leaf blower to function efficiently. My electric blower did get a sticker The noise level restriction is critical; but all of this has to be enforced. The noise levels are nowhere near reasonable. It seems like added restrictions could spur technological advancements. The noise limit is designed to allow less-loud leaf blowers, but it's still quite loud. And, the harm to quiet enjoyment occurs in spring The noise restriction is a joke if there are two or three fellows using their blowers side-by-side, as the Town DPW often does. The THE only restriction on leaf blowers should be that they are used between 7 am and 7 pm on weekdays, and 8 am to 7 pm on The period goes too long. Neighbors have their leaves and such cleaned up every week for months, and landscapers ignore the The pollen season ends at the end of June, it is necessary to use leaf blowers to clean up the pollen and again during storms in The regulations seem to be rarely enforced. Unless there is enforcement, the restrictions are somewhat meaningless. The restriction is ridiculous and useless. The restrictions are a burden. The restrictions are poorly enforced. That's why we advocate for a complete ban. Easy to identify violators, no exceptions. The restrictions are ridiculous. The restrictions are too restrictive and prevent appropriate cleanup (pollen debris, leaves, acorns, storm debris). The restrictions might be sufficient if they are strictly enforced and contractors were registered by the town. The seasonal restrictions are not enough, and the noise levels are too high. The solution should not be seasonal and differentiated between gas vs. electric blowers. Don't over complicate, make the solution The time of day needs to be addressed. I have experienced living adjacent to a condo complex where the extremely noisy and The time of year usage restrictions don't make sense. Leaves don't suddenly stop falling because some arbitrary time period has The town could work toward requiring machines which have lower noise levels.

The Town should not meddle in any way with leaf-blowers.

The use of leaf blowers is minimal- in the fall for us and as question points out, in the spring but that is rare.

Town already has The use often can seem nonstop during these times.

There are other environmentally sound alternatives.

There are reasons when using a leaf blower during the winter and summer are very advantageous, such as removing leaves late There are times there's need to use in the summer.

The noise levels are denied by police officers, and the landscapers turn the leafblowers down when police are coming anyway. The oak trees here in South Brookline have leaves on them well into winter - even in February, our street is still littered with leaves.

The pubic leaf blowers used at schools cause a lot of pollution that enters classrooms and hallways. They are loud and distractin

the restrictins should be equal for all property owners

The restriction actually matches the time when you would use the leaf blowers. They are basically useless. The

restrictions are The restrictions are not enforced strictly enough and are blatantly ignored by

landscapers/leafblowerworkers. Particularly the noise The use of leafblowers should be restricted to 8am-6pm (9am-6pm on weekends). 8pm is too late. Young children go to sleep There are no restrictions that are working at

all. Tell the guys with the blowers in june,, july and august, and they get this surprised There is little benefit to thiuier use, and so many negatives. If all leaf blowers are banned, all landsapers do not have that tool, none

There is reason or justification for banning them in any season.

There is significantly less need for leaf blowers in the spring.

there should be a restriction on the total sound level. Often, multiple blowers operate at one time.

There should be a year round ban.

There should be an all out ban on gas powered leaf blowers

There should be no leaf blowers on the weekend.

There should be no regulations on leaf blowers

There should be no restrictions

There should be no restrictions

There should be no restrictions

There should be no restrictions at all

There should be no restrictions.

There should be no restrictions. Please get government out of our lives!!!

There should be no restrictions. Period. Does the Town not have more important matters to attend to?

There should not be any restriction

These are common sense rules that balance the need to maintain our properties and consideration of all citizens.

These are reasonable restrictions. There is little reason to use blowers outside of these calendar restrictions. As a leaf blower owner these bans should be lifted. They are ridiculous! aren't there more pressing issues

These restrictions aren't enforced.

These restrictions aren't well enforced and commonly ignored.

These restrictions have not diminished the negative impacts from leaf blowers. The problem could be enforcement.

These restrictions seem like a reasonable compromise, though I understand from my landscaper that the allowed dates might be They all are still using the old blowers

They are an abomination.

they are extremely bothersome!

They are handy during the summer as well. Get out of my business.

They are inadequately enforced!

They are loud and dirty. I get debris blown onto me as I walk past.

They are not being enforced.

They are not enforced in my neighborhood

They are NOT enforced. It's not enough.

They are not necessary

They are still loud, smelly, and a terrible nuisance
They are still too noisy, polluting and spread a lot of dust.
They are still too noisy.
They are too restrictive
They are used in summer as well.
They are useless and cause noise and air pollution. No role for these anywhere, they do not remove leaves but just blow them around.
they are very hard to enforce. I don't know who to contact and how.
They aren't enforced
They aren't enforced so are widely abused.
They do not work. The landscape service my neighbors use do not follow the rules.
They go too far.
they just need to be better enforced
There should be no restriction - if you are bothered by an occasional leaf blower you need to get thicker skin.
What's next lawn They are not obeyed or enforced, whereas a year-round ban would be more likely to be obeyed/enforced. Also, some contractors They are too strict.
They might be adequate if they were enforced, but they are not.
They pollute no matter what season they are used
They seem adequate
They seem reasonable and fair to everyone.
They seem to be working.
They seem to start earlier and some companies just blow leaves to other properties.
They should be allowed at all times of the year - but restricted to between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm.
They still create a lot of noise in a quiet residential neighborhood.
They're still extremely loud. The town sends in crews of several people to leaf-blow their properties and it completely drives me Think should be no restrictions
This has been an improvement, though it could be better.
This is an instance of a technology that has gotten out of hand and is creating far more problems than they are worth. Please ban This is more than enough
this is pure foolishness
This would not be an issue if homeowners and landscapers complied with the current restrictions. But unfortunately there seems Though I don't know of their existence, I have no issues with leaf blower use.
time of day restrictions also needed
To me, this is a reasonable accommodation for those who object to the blowers--limiting them to times of year when they are too difficult to enforce
too loud - esp on weekends.
Too many machines at same time
Too much dust, noise and scattered debris.
Too much noise during season. Too much use out of season. Blase' attitude of police.
Too much noise when some neighbors use gas blowers
Too noisy and too polluting
too noisy!
too restrictive
Too restrictive
Too restrictive.
Too stringent
Total ban on leaf blowers on Saturday & Sunday
Tularemia - and this is only what we KNOW.
uncertain
Unfair. They should be legal. If not no more nail guns. Jack hammers. Cars for that matter
Unnecessary but a decent compromise.

Use a rake instead, hire more people.

Very difficult to enforce. I'm reluctant to burden police. The workers are innocent victims; I bet fines are taken from their pay. Landscape Very noisy frequently. Most of the work could be done without leaf blowers.

Walking in winter can be difficult and dangerous as leaves still remain on sidewalk. Ban should be amended to include winter if Want less restrictions

Was leaf blowing in the summer to require a ban

We are often woken up to the sound of leaf blowers. I wish there were a ban on blowers until 10 am.

We are overwhelmed by leaves in the fall -- we absolutely need a leaf-blower in order to maintain our property and safe sidewalk We don't need any restrictions!!!

We don't overuse them. We just had a tax increase recently. We shouldn't be further burdened by an increase in our condo fees. we don't need any restrictions, if some one bothers you just speak tp them

We need restrictions on where they are blowing the leaves and debris.. i.e. shouldn't send them into street nor on other's property.

we need them without restrictions

We need to give education a chance. There were many many residents as well as landscape maintenance providers who seemed We should not be spending town money regulating at this level of control. Please remove these restrictions.

We should not have restriction at all. People who use them do like the noise either, but we would like to keep the neighborhood We used to live in a community with no ban, so these restrictions are a big improvement.

we've become physically lazy and environmentally stupid.

well if the people that use them in my neighborhood are following these guidelines then we still have a problem because the noise what about tennis courts

What I find annoying is the use of gas blowers at locations where electricians would work as well.

When two (or more) blowers are used next to each other the noise clearly exceeds restrictions.

While I wish there were no seasonal restrictions, I understand the reasons for restricting use in the summer and am willing to live WHO CARES???

Why allow something to mar people's quality of life six months a year, when the old-fashioned practice of raking leaves is sufficient.

Why can't we either rake or allow nature to take its course rather than imposing leaf blowers on our world? winter as needed

With adequate enforcement

With flexibility. Warm December meant January raking but no bag pickups.

With multiple blowers running along the street, the cumulative noise level is quite high

With proper education, there should be no restrictions on use of leaf blowers

With rational and appropriate conditions, for example: the Town has planted several tree species that don't seem to know that they Yes but noise levels should go down and be strictly enforced

yes...if it is enforced.

You need a leaf blower when you need it. Let's mandate the lowest level of noise for powerful, high quality leaf blowers and then you should use in all seasons but have it on the lower level, use the technology to help clean

When I'm outside working in my yard, and some company comes and blows leaves at one neighbor's yard, and then another's, and

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ban entirely except as stated in 9 & 10: one-use permission for large non-residential lots provided meet strict time, noise, pollution however one of our neighbors seems to use the blowers almost every day at very high decibels. I would like for there to be more Leaf blower's should not be allowed to be used early in the morning. I think the time should be restricted to after 10 AM.

total ban on leaf blowers on Saturday & Sunday.

... yet they should be tightened.

a complete ban

A total ban.

Absolute prohibition.

Absolutely not

ABSOLUTELY NOT. THIS WILL IMPACT THE LESS WELL OFF BROOKLINE RESIDENTS!

Absolutely.

After 9 am

Again because of air pollution and noise

Again, not unless there are truly substantial health issues - not just for the public but even particularly for the landscapers using Again, the advantages of leaf blowers greatly outweigh the disadvantages.

Air quality is a problem

all landscapers should be licensed by the town. they should use electric blowers because the noise levels are lower. the gasoline-Already said: noise pollution. I rake my leaves and its good exercise!

An outright ban would be a net benefit for the town.

And better and quicker enforcement.

Any restrictions to reduce the duration and volume of the noise would be welcome.

As above

As above

As above, if the restrictions are enforced, no additional restrictions needed.

As commented in Q10 - if the industry can create machines which are adequately powerful but are somewhat less noisy.

As described above - no gas blowers for homes ever.

As discussed above. I believe gas-powered blowers should be banned. Usage of electric blowers should be subject to the current As I have stated we want trees and trees bring leafs. The leafs have to be removed. There should be no ban.....

As I said, the noise level is way too high, especially when 4 leaf blowers are going at once on one property. The emissions level As stated above

As stated above, I believe no blowers (gas or electric) should be used after 5pm when families would like to be outside.

Avoid school hours and school areas. Reduce the maximum noise level and create some kind of monitoring/enforcement system ban 'em

Ban all gas leaf blowers.

Ban all leaf blowers in the Town.

ban all non-public use

Ban all, except on case-by-case exemptions.

ban completely - raking leaves is good core exercise - healthy for all!!!

ban except for town

Ban them

Ban them all, and for all times.

ban them during the summer. Not much in the way of leaves. Landscapers use to clean up after mowing and to clean up trash/Ban them in residential neighborhoods. Or set a schedule of when they can be used -- one day on each road for example -- so ??? number of leafblowers at site

againg climate change. Same for gas-powered mowers

although enfocing current restrictions would help, I'd like to see the town go further for the health and environmental reasons As stated in #10, the town has listened to a few bad apples about leaf blowers. I am a middle class citizen in Brookline, living in

Ban them on all but very large parcels.

banning gas-powered leaf blowers altogether

Blowers should not be used to clean areas where there are no leaves

But adherence to current time restrictions should be enforced.

But am open to more restricted hours if that helps with those who oppose them...

Can quieter (with mufflers) be used?

Can restrict time of day and days of week to further limit impact

Capital punishment for anyone who starts one up before noon on a Saturday or Sunday morning.

Changing hours of use to 10:00 am to 5:00 seven days a week.

citizen-based enforcement

Commercial properties with any hazardous materials - such as service stations/gas stations should never be allowed to use leaf Complete and total ban

Complete ban

Complete ban of gas blowers

complete ban on GAS powered leaf blowers. (as opposed to electric powered)

Contingent upon outcome of moderator's committee findings

Costs will be prohibitive and taxes would need to increase. I do support some sort of additional communication requirements create an enforceable law that does not require neighbors to call the police

Current regulations routinely ignored.

Current restrictions make sense and are workable. The issues that have arisen under the current restrictions are mostly due to Cut down on noise before 8 am and after 5 pm.

Definitely NOT.

Don't know

Don't know

educate and enforce what's on the books

education re current restrictions enough

Electric battery powered only

Electric only or use takes

electric only, limit hours from 10 am to 4pm

electric only, town only,fall only

Electric-only blowers

Eliminate

Eliminate them unless they are truly quiet and dust is contained.

Eliminate weekend use.

Enforce Compliance!!!

Enforce the restrictions we have, then we can see if more are needed.

Enforcement is the key

Enforcing hours of use and no weekends

Ensuring debris is not passed to neighbors or public sidewalks

Environmental impact, noise

Even lower noise levels and shorter hours of operation would be good.

Even the current restrictions are overwhelming and burdensome. Additional restrictions would be absurd.

Existing restrictions should be eliminated

Fine the homeowner; fine the misuse.

Brookline is a densely populated area with many properties crammed close to one another. The use of leafblowers has become Brookline is over regulated.

Depends on what they might be. I think that if a ban of some kind is put into place that it could be oppressive and expensive for dont know until we have a year of true enforcement with sanctions

For all the reasons stated above. They are also unhealthy and dangerous for those who use them.

For large landowners and the Town.

for most properties, they are unnecessary for doing the job and end up blowing too much dust and leaves into shared areas like for reasons cited above: environmental, health, noise...

Full ban.

gas AND electric should be banned year round

Gas powered are polluting in every way

Hard to legislate, but it would be nice to be subjected to this noise only when necessary. I have seen landscape

contractors using hours

I am in favor of the opposite--easing or eliminating the current restrictions.

I am in favor of the seasonal restriction, but question whether it's necessary to have a spring leaf-blower season. Because the fall I am okay with partial ban, but not opposed to further restrictions

i am totally against additional restrictions.

I cannot stand the sound of leaf blowers.

I do find them annoying because of the noise & trying to walk around the person using it.

I don't know enough about the argument to voice an opinion

I don't know what the restrictions would be.

I don't know yet.

I don't know. Let's enforce the restrictions that exist and then see if we need more or less

I don't know. See above

I don't want to get rid of them, but a combination of enforcement and some additional restrictions could be useful. What about I favor a ban. It is a standard business reaction to proposed regulations (as well as minimum wage increases) to cause alarm, predicting I favor a complete ban, other than at golf courses. Raking leaves is perfectly adequate and much better for the environment.

I favor rolling back all restrictions.

I hate leaf blowers = they are daily, and I can not even talk on the phone they are so loud

I just don't see why people are so upset about this. I think it's working fine as is.

I still hear them and smell the pollution.

I think if the current restrictions are applied universally and adhered to, things are workable.

I think the current limit of 8pm is too late, that is after usual baby's bed time. I think 6pm is more reasonable.

I think the restrictions are pretty good, but I would like to see them banned for personal use and around homes.

I think the town should be able to lift the restrictions in case of an emergency like a major storm or hurricane.

I think the town should specify specific brands and models that are approved for use.

I think they should be banned in dense single family neighborhoods

I think they should be banned outright.

I think we should do a better job enforcing the current laws. And we should allow leaf blowers after extreme weather events during I think we should have some guideline on not to use blowers on weekends, holidays and after school hours.

I truly feel people are making way too much out of this. However, curtailing the hours might be helpful.

I would back a complete ban. They destroy what little peace and quiet we're able to have in our urban environment.

I would be delighted if there was meaningful enforcement of the current bylaws - increase the fines and hold homeowners accountable

I would extend the ban to weekends, when people are home.

I would like better enforcement, and if not effective, then change restrictions or penalties for non-compliance.

I would like to see them banned

I would rather 10am instead of 8am start time.

For the reasons stated in 8 above

I detailed this in a previous answer, but also: <http://www.nonoise.org/quietnet/cqs/leafblow.htm>

I live on Beals street, there are so many trees and so many leaves it would take forever to get them all up.

I'd be in favor of even further limited the times during the day when they can be used.

I'd like them to be eliminated altogether.

I'd like to see them banned altogether, except for Town use, and for the blowers to be much, much quieter, perhaps by requiring I'm just not sure it is worth the time, expense and effort.

I'm not sure additional restrictions help first start with enforcing the existing regulations

I'm wondering if the people who complain about the leaf blowers would be willing to surrender their cars. Cars are much more If additional restrictions are imposed, in no circumstance is it fair to exempt institutions or large non residential areas. That is nonsensical If anything we should relax them

if possible

If the committee feels that additional restrictions are necessary, I'd consider it. Really I'd prefer to say "Maybe" here!

If there is support for additional restrictions, I will be fine with it.

In a house with significant allergies, the dust and debris restricts our ability to be outdoors and the noise day after day and often In favor of more enforcement not new rules

In favor of no restrictions.

In my neighborhood it is like living in an industrial park.

Isn't this the same as question 8?

It depends on what the additional restrictions are

it is sometimes uncomfortable walking in the street when landscapers blow leaves and dust

It seems to be working.

It would be overwhelming to do clean up without them!

It would sky rocket costs which us seniors still trying to live in our homes would become prohibitive. If you start to give exceptions It's far too restrictive already. This is a policy of the majority (condo owners) crucifying the minority (house owners).

It's ridiculous if it is done properly.

It's the most efficient way to remove dead leaves and debris from our properties, sidewalks and streets.

Just ban them and move on with it.

Just ban them.

Just enforce the current restrictions. If the Town is unwilling to do that, maybe they should be prohibited completely.

just the hours

Landscape companies with multiple machines all running at the same time is most offensive to me. It is constant since as soon as Large gas blowers (the only kind commercial services seem to use) should be allowed only by a very hard to get special permit

large land owners should have the same rules as small land owners maybe

Leaf blowers are important to our condo to push the leaves up the steps on our walks.

Leaf Blowers are very noisy, and adding pollution. I encounter them in the park/playground and they ruin our experience. I'd like Leaf blowers with two stroke gas powered engines should be banned.

Leaf blowing allows gentle removal of leaves from ground plants, thereby preserving them. Raking destroys a great number of leaf blowing is pointless, noisy, and polarizing.

Leaf blowing should be banned entirely on weekends, holidays and between 5 pm and 9 am on weekdays

Leaf vacuums work better.

Less noise and air pollution is definitely needed.

Less noise, less often please!

Less noise.

Let's compromise and limit hours more say 10 am-4 pm weekdays and 10am-2pm weekends. Seems a good compromise.

Let's enforce the current laws and evaluate their effectiveness before we make new ones.

Just ban them unless you are really going to enforce restrictions. Users don't often know or care about restrictions.

just educate and regarding current restrictions, might also make sense to limit the number of leaf blowers in use on a residential Large properties in S. Brookline, no concerns. Where proximity is close and particulates drift onto neighboring properties, they Leaf blowers should be electric and measure less than 65 dBA

Let the market develop alternatives. If they are attractive they will outcomplete current methods.

Let's enforce the restrictions currently on the board.

Let's focus on things that matter.

Limit number of blowers at a time

Limit to M-F, afternoons only, one machine per acre at a time

Lower acceptable noise level.

Machines are getting louder

Make residents liable for their landscapers actions

maybe

maybe less hours?

Maybe some incentive (like a credit or something) to encourage the use of electric blowers/discourage gas.

maybe, see above

Meet the noise restriction

More electric, less gas. Better hours for when parks and playgrounds are blown and dust stirred up. Better enforcement in the More enforcement and tougher consequences

more limited hours

More restrictions less freedom.

More restrictions will increase the cost of cleaning my yard

My neighbors landscapers start at 8 AM.

Na

No blowers before 8 am on weekdays. No blowers on weekends.

No blowers before 8 am or after 4 pm

No blowers, only vacuums

No gas blowers on Sat or Sun

No gas leaf blowers on residential streets. Limited use or no use of electric blowers

No leaf blowers on weekends or after 5:00 PM

No leaf blowers, no exemptions.

No leaf blowing before 8am on weekdays, 10am on weekends

No more restrictions. How much will it cost to clean my yard!?

No necessary. Too much already

No need to regulate devices that aren't used much

NO NO NO. They never should have gotten into this. One's house should be their castle and any invasion of one's privacy should No restrictions. Allow people to maintain their properties accordingly.

No use near sidewalks and playgrounds.

No, see answer to #10

No, current is good.

Noise is awful. Fumes are as well.

Noise level and time of day... say 10- 1 pm

Noise level down

noise, pollution

non committal

None at all. Buy a rake.

None for residential use, only electric blowers for institutional use

None what so ever. Get real.

Not a partial, but outright, ban.

Limit one leaf blower to properties under 10,000 sq. ft. Shorten hours per day, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, 9-4

Saturdays, 11-More edu and accountability, and if that doesn't work, then yes, maybe

No leafblowers use after 6PM

Not additional restrictions, but different restrictions.

Not clear that additional restrictions would be enforced any better than current ones

Not in favor of any restrictions.

not in favor or restrictions

Not necessary or reasonable.

Not necessary.

not sure

not sure

Not sure

Not sure

Not sure

Not sure yet. Hoping the Committee's report will help us all decide.

Not sure.

not sure.

Number of machines allowed to operate simultaneously

Numbers of machines on small properties

On gas powered.

One in use per property at a time including town properties

One leaf blower on the street is a nuisance, two or more at once become intolerable.

Only if electric or battery powered ones are a feasible option.

ONLY if reduced noise is economically feasible

Only one at a time in parks, if possible.

only way to control is to ban

Out of desperation, and because the law is being flagrantly ignored by most landscapers, out of desperation I'd say ban landscapers outright ban

perhaps a later starting time

Perhaps something to keep leaf blower dust/debris away from sidewalks?

Perhaps there could be certain days for the neighborhood. At least one or two days would then be noise free.

Please do not impose fines on use of leaf blowers.

Possibly, it does not bother me that much; there are many "more important" issues that The Town needs to focus on right now prefer complete ban. Otherwise restrict to weekdays and lower noise level more.

Present policy is not sufficient.

Private users should also be required to give notice and/or get approval from neighbors.

Probably

Problem with odor of gas/huge oil smell that permeates house

propose a later start time on weekends and holidays. 9 or 10 am.

Quieter and better behavior of users.

Quieter would be better

Reduce noise and pollution

Removal of gas blowers because of the environmental and noise

Restrict to machines in good operating condition.

Restriction on leaf blowers is stupid

Restrictions are useless if they are not enforced. I believe companies should be registered with the town and when called the police Only if restrictions are applied to all noise generation in the town. For example, if there is a noise limit, regardless of the source, People used to rake. Why raise the noise level and greenhouse gases for the sake of convenience. It seems like the Brookline community Possibly--I don't see why leafblowers are needed in most cases where they are used (where it isn't a safety issue), but perhaps I Restrict and enforce noise levels generated by the blowers. Restrict the number of blowers that can be operated concurrently on

See #10.

See #9

See above

see above

see above

see above

See above.

See above.

See above. Significantly reduce maximal decibel level and possibly significantly restrict time frame.

See above. There are often blowers going at 7 or 8 am and it's a horrible way to wake up.

See above...all of above

See comment above

see those above.

seems like what we have needs to be enforced

should be 9-6, if not already

should be banned all year

Should be restricted to fall only.

should never ever be done in the mornings, the earliest could be at noon

Should not be any seasonal ban. If I can't use a leaf blower I will not clean the town sidewalk on my property

Smaller window for times of use and only one at a time per property per day

Something tells me the rules are not being enforced.

Sound and dust.

Stop controlling the residence lives and monitor landscapers!

Stop wasting time on this ! Registering leaf blowers with police is a waste of police time and our tax dollars. If someone is making Strict noise abatement.

Stricter enforcement of noise levels. There are fairly quiet machines out there. Many contractors just don't use them.

The combination of electric and gas blowers at the right season works fine.

The current law can work if education takes place.

the current noise levels are not enforced. just do that.

The current regulation is already too restrictive by not being allowed in the summer when they are also needed.

The current regulations are fine... though perhaps we could consider ensuring that all landscapers are registered with the town The current restrictions don't work and are a health hazard.

The current restrictions go far enough (maybe too far) in addressing concerns over leaf blower noise. But everybody needs to The existing restrictions should be removed, completely.

The gas leaf blowers should be banned completely.

The impact of their noise should be capped further. There also should be rules limiting how close landscapers can use them next The landscapers should be engaged in coming up with assistance. If they get involved, they may abide by the restrictions.

The main concern for the town should always be proper clean up and disposal for all institutions including homeowners and landlords. The main thing is ENFORCE THE RESTRICTIONS!

The many landscaping companies we as a community support would not survive. I, as a resident, also own a blower to keep property The more restriction's, the better. They're obnoxious, and waste fuel on something that can easily, and quietly, be done manually.

The noise and the dust they raise.

same as above, i believe current regulation should be enforced among all residents, including large landowners, perhaps over 2 See above. Fast, timely and cost effective leaf blowing needs to continue. Making further restrictions on an already quite considerate The following argues strongly against leaf blowers: It concerns the parasite (Center for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc>. The noise can be deafening at times when more than one household gardner is working.

The restriction I want is no leaf blowing in Brookline.

The restrictions are a burden.

There should be limited on the number of blowers that can be used at one time by the homeowner and contractor. In my neighborhood They are being used for small jobs--not necessary.

They are efficient, fast and cost effective.

They are necessary and current restrictions are adequate. Enough said.

They haven't bothered me

They should be banned in their entirety.

They should be banned outright, for the reasons I have outlined.

They should be banned.

They stink and they are very noisy

They're too noisy. Older ones should be banned

This is a useless Survey!

This is a waste of town resources to monitor and enforce this. If this is a serious enough problem, let the federal

government make This is not a concern and frankly i believe there are far more important issues for all of us to be spending time on. I am a long This town has gotten out of control with respect to restrictions on homeowners' rights. It has to end.

time of day

time of use: early mornings on weekends must be OFF limits.

time restrictions

time to ban selectmen and official making these kind of decisions.

times

Times of day maybe? Noise level? I don't know if some are noisier than others.

Too much of a burden

Total ban

Town and landscapers violate decibel level limits

try and make it for only one month in spring and one in fall

uncertain

Unless landscapers do not obey existing laws - now they do not.

We already said we were satisfied with the current restrictions.

We have enough restrictions. Current restriction was a good compromise.

We need to clean our yards

we won't be successful --leaf blowers are here to stay--let's make them better

Weekend and before 9 and after 5

weekend blackout would be great.

When a cost effective machine is developed we should phase in its use

While annoying at times, the noise is below the threshold of hearing damage concern.

Why? Why make people work harder? Most of the people complaining have probably never worked for a landscaping company Within the existing framework, we should start be reducing the decibels to 65 to eliminate the worst products. In addition, I support Would like a restriction in the number of hours blowing consecutively.

Sometimes they are going for hours on end at this complex WOULD LIKE A WEEKEND BAN

Would like day time limits, 9-5 use only

the total sounds level should be further restricted. For example, only quieter blowers, and do not allow more than on at a time.

The work/use day should end by 5:00 p.m... Noise levels should be more restrictive.

They should not be permitted in Brookline

Tow behind or push lawn vacuumes are much less obnoxious.

unnatural to hve such precise cleanup. do it manually and leave more debris on the ground

Use on lawns, ground covers and walkways only - not sround shrubs and trees

with enforcable restrictions

Would like to restrict early hours.

year round ban on gas blowers.

yearlong gas ban!

Yes - summertime ban on all leaf blowers, registration of landscapers with the Town, lowering the acceptable dB levels as newer Yes & no. Enforce the existing rules. Use common sense. Use proper equipment.

Yes. Country clubs and the town must be brought into compliance with the law.

Would like to see the low impact leaf blowers that my Landscaper uses be mandatory

Year-round ban, except City. City required to use less annoying "white-noise" -- style blowers: Again, I've seen and heard these, Yes, a start and end time--not before a.m. and not after 6 p.m.

Question 12 – 226 Comments

"concerned"? They're a nuisance but no good alternative yet

Actually, kind of between "not concerned" and "moderately concerned." The noise is obnoxious whenever it

occurs, especially Always liked rakes best. Good for the lawn, too.

An unnecessary nuisance. But there are worse things.

And annoyed.

Biggest concern would be if the use of leaf blowers was not permitted.

Blowers are the most effective and efficient way to clean up an area and vital to our quality of life.

Can't stand the noise.

Concerned about misuse of leaf blowers

Concerned about noise

Concerned about the increased cost associated with limiting blowers.

Concerned in that they are needed and should not be restricted further. This is a poorly written question.

Concerned that people will use them, or won't be allowed to?

Concerned with respect to when they start in the morning.

Current regulations are perfectly adequate and balance public concerns with private necessity.

Do not want to see any additional restrictions

Don't people have more important matters to worry about!

don't understand the question - when the Town clears leaves from the nearby traffic triangle the noise is deafening

Elderly property owners need to be able to use blowers.

Every week, I have to steel myself to the constant whine for several hours. I shouldn't be subjected to that in my own home.

Fall cleanup is bad - concentrated in a few weeks

Feel it is appropriate.

For all reasons previously stated and checked off.

for the reasons I stated earlier - mainly blowing debris (on sidewalks is where it is most annoying)

Frequently, several landscapers are working in our neighborhood, creating a level of noise that makes it impossible to remain outdoors. Gas blowers are very noisy.

Get out of this issue ASAP spring, summer and fall.

Get rid of ban

get teams to do raking of their own fields - TEACH

Honestly, I'm a lot more concerned about other issues. Too much digital ink has been spilled over what is really a peripheral concern.

I am concerned that a few people don't like them and have managed, somehow, to arbitrarily limit their use.

I am concerned that you will ban me from doing select activities on MY PROPERTY.

I am not as concerned about electric leaf blowers if they are quiet.

I am not bothered by leaf blowers

I appreciate their use during those times, especially

I dislike the leaf blower noise level in dense part of town.

i DO NOT LIKE LEAF BLOWERS.

I do not think they are essential

I don't appreciate the noise and fumes and fuel use, but I also do believe we have bigger problems to solve as a community.

I don't like leaf blowers, but increasing regulation of them is just as offensive.

I don't like the noise either, but the benefits outweigh the costs on blowers.

5 months per year I'm subjected to nearly continuous noise Monday thru Saturday

brookline has bigger issues to worry about.

CDC site re: parasite leaf blowers could make airborne: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html>

Even with the use of leaf blowers in the fall, there is a tremendous amount of leaves and debris covering sidewalks and roads - I am very concerned that there should be no more restrictions on leafblowers and that they should continue to be allowed also

I don't think they are necessary

I don't want to hear them ever again.

I find leaf blower noise disruptive at all times.

I hate the endless noise of landscapers

I hate the sound and the smell

I have not been bothered at all by the use of leaf blowers during spring and fall

I haven't been bothered by it, but my husband (when working at home) has been bothered by the noise.

I marked moderately concerned even though I would like to mark very concerned, but I understand the need for compromise.

I need a leaf blower - it is critical. But I do not need a gas blower that is loud and smelly. They should be banned.

I need my parents to use it to blow pollen off door steps

I obviously feel strongly about the issue. It's just silly that we allow our lives to be disrupted by this unnecessary noise.

I think I've been clear -- I hate leaf blowers. They are the focus of evil in the modern world.

I think it's perfectly fine and reasonable.

I think they should be used any season

I will lose my shirt if they are banned.

I would be concerned if they were banned and it increased the time, effort, and cost of leaf clean up.

I would hate to see less clean up gone, if blowers were not allowed

I would prefer residents to be informed of the days and times landscapers will be using leaf blowers. If the noise and pollution I'm concerned that even the current restrictions are overreaching and a waste of town dollars on enforcement.

I'm most concerned about unnecessary use of fossil fuels.

I'm not concerned as long as they are allowed to do it. I wasn't sure what the questions asked.

I'm not sure what you mean, but I have no objections to the use of leaf blowers in fall and spring clean-up.

I'm very concerned about needing to continue to use leaf blowers!

I've made enough previously!

If people are misusing, behavior should be addressed and corrected.

If we have to pay someone to rake leaves instead of leaf blowing, it will get done far less frequently.

In a tightly populated neighborhood like mine, the whine can go on for hours.

In the fall we are subjected to noise Monday - Saturday from 8-6.

In the grand scheme of things I have opinions but really not very strong ones.

In the sense that they are critical tools for the job

It is a convenience, not a necessity. Why sacrifice the environment for convenience?

It is a spring and fall ritual. The sound of others in the neighborhood using a blower does not bother me at all. In fairness, I am It is disturbing

It is important to allow use of leaf blows to keep things neat and clean.

It is not practical for large landowners not to have use of leaf blowers

it is unpleasant

It ruins my experience of sitting peacefully in my back yard on a nice day.

It will cost too much money to have the leaves removed by hand.

It's more efficient

Just limit the hours.

Keep them!

Landscapers seem to use gas-powered almost exclusively and multiple at the same time. This are the source of nearly all my leaf Leaf blower saves a large amount of labor. Cars and trucks also make a large amount of noise

I don't think landscapers will manually rake leaves for anywhere near the same price. They may put bags on their gas lawn mowers I find it annoying when the leaf blowers begin before 8am which seems to happen in my neighbor relatively frequently.

I suppose if they used them for big fall clean up, that would be ok, but some users use them every day, and this isn't necessary.

Last spring there were way too many piles of leaves throughout Brookline. I personally viewed numerous children playing in the

Leaf blowers are essential to keep the town clean

Leaf blowers make air quality bad

Like I said I am a 62 year old woman with 14,000 square feet and I manage just fine with a rake.

Look-- environmentally, leaf blowers are a problem; rakes really work

Loud polluting leaf blowers reduce our quality of life

Maybe the people who support the ban should come over to my house and rake my leaves

My main concern is that some people don't follow the existing laws in terms of days/times/seasons.

My opinion after having watched this debate unfold is that there seem to be a few neighborhoods / residents that are bothered Na

Necessary equipment in New England

necessary tool

Noise & air quality (asthma) leading concerns

Noise and HEALTH reasons.

Noise and health.

Not concerned for myself, but the town needs the clean-up in parks

Not only is it healthy, it's reduction in costs offsets an increase in jobs

Not sure what this means. Concerned that people will use them, or concerned that they won't be allowed?

not sure what this question means

Nothing to be concerned about.

OLD FASHION BROOM AND RAKE WITH SHOVEL

Only concern is that they might be banned in the future.

Only concern when I see them blowing into the street.

Only if done before 8 am or in the evenings

Only that I think the town does a good job

Our landscaping cost would increase by 5x if banned. And as a family with 3 small children we would not be able to do the clean Our neighborhood is overrun during these seasons with various yard services here for at least 4 hours each day.

Our surroundings sound like an industrial area for 3 months in the fall, and much of the spring, and even in summer. It is horrible

Over used; another way to reduce use would be to ban in spring; continue in fall

Particularly in the Spring when they used just to blow remaining road sand and salt away.

People sleep & breathe year round.

Please note I am also concerned about the use of poisonous herbicides such as Roundup on our parks and other public land.

poorly written question - concerned that yards will not be maintained if they are limited or concerned that their use will harm quality Prefer landscaping companies (with multiple blowers) use them only during the week and during work hours.

Properly used they are a very useful and productive tool. Any tool can be misused.

Question is ambiguous -- I am not concerned about their current use; I am very concerned that use would be banned

Question unclear. I am NOT concerned that we presently use them in spring and fall clean-up.

Rakes and electric can do all that gas blowers do.

see 8 above

see above

See above comment.

See above comments.

Leaf boowers are an extremely minor nusence, not worth getting at all excited about

Leaves are a menace. They clog gutters, storm drains, sidewalks and I'm thankful to all those that use them to clear their property Most of the yards in Brookline are small to very small. You don't need a battalion of guys with leaf blowers to clean them.

Not sure where you're going with this question. I'm not concerned about their actual use, but I would be

concerned that they Personally, I was never concerned myself. I answer 'moderately' because I know some of my friend/neighbors are strongly against Pollen kicked up in the spring by leafblowers are a nuisance to people like myself with allergies.

See comment above

See my comments above.

see question 8

should be shorter time

should now be obvious from previous comments

Single blower for use on small properties last no more than 5-10 minutes.

Some leaves on the ground are actually good for the soil.

Spring cleanups are costly enough. We cannot legislate ever possible preference to satisfy a few.

the allowable hours are too long.

The downsides exceed the upsides, unfortunately.

The leaves have got to go for safety reasons

The need to have every leaf removed every week is a compulsion. If leaves were raked rather than blown, our neighborhoods might

The noise and pollution negatively affects my health and directly impacts my activities.

The noise and the dust/dirt are real problems to people who have to walk through or by a leaf-blower in use.

The noise and the pollution from them have become unbearable. They seem to be on 24/7!

The noise from leaf blowers is frequent and very loud. It frequently affects my ability to get work done in my home office.

the noise is awful

The noise is worse than (commercial lawn mowers), leaf sucking machines, wood chippers...all which are ALSO being used at this The quality of our towns and cities is being degraded by many machines. Noise and air pollution is worsening. Why allow the

The use of leaf blowers doesn't bother me.

The whole idea that the Town is conducting a survey for this ridiculous subject strikes me as a waste of taxpayer dollars.

There are plenty of greener ways to clean properties

There is a need for their use, but the landscapers need to be on board. Why not ask them what they would propose?

There is no concern. Trucks and other equipment make more noise.

There is no problem.

There was a time when brooms and rakes were fine.

These clean-ups can be performed without gas-powered leaf blowers. Our association has insisted on this repeatedly.

They are a huge irritation and often blow debris and dust into the streets.

They are a necessary evil

They are a public nuisance

They are extremely annoying and people who use them rarely exercise courtesy or common sense.

They are extremely annoying.

they are needed, small inconvenience; vastly overblown

They are noisy and pollute. They should be banned.

They are not a concern. They do a good job, quickly and with minimal intrusion. I happen to be in the house frequently during

They are the only way to efficiently and effectively take of clean-ups that HAVE to happen care

They aren't necessary. Most people don't use them and of just fine

They detract from the atmosphere.

They don't bother me

They perform a very valuable service.

They pose no hazard, and they aren't used at night when noise would be a concern

They should be allowed

See above. Simply no need for them. Use rakes & rotary mulching mowers.

The noise of leaf blowers and exterior HVAC systems ruining the quality of life in Brookline.

The use of leaf blowers is an efficient way of cleaning up a property. But they are noisy, often all day, every day in our Brookline They are necessary to do a swift an efficient job with very little impact on the enviornment.

They are obnoxious

They should be allowed.

They so a better job and if banned cost will significantly increase.

They wake my kids and baby up from naps

This is a confusing question, concerned that they should still be allowed to be used or concerned that they should be banned?

This is a loaded question. Spring and fall is NOT the issue

THIS IS A NON-ISSUE.

This is seriously crazy. It's a leaf blower people.

This question and answer options are unclear. I am concerned that banning the use of leaf blowers in spring and fall will have a This question is vague. What does concern mean?

This question is very poorly worded. I am not *concerned* that leaf blowers are being used. I *am* concerned about the leaf blower This question seems redundant and as such, is confusing. Concerned about what?

This survey is too long. It seems like these questions are repeating themselves. What's next? Banning snow plows? They are loud To lose the ability to use gas-powered blowers would greatly change how we clean our property. What would be next? snow blowers? Too much air and noise pollution. Too hard to enforce unclear legislation. Too hard to control 3d-party users.

Too much noise and grit in densely populated areas.

Total ban is needed

Town and landscapers violate season/hour limits

Traffic on our street always forces leaves and debris to sort of accumulate at our front door and garage. I can't imagine leaf blowers unclear what this questions is asking.

Use a rake instead, hire more people.

use is limited to certain hours and seasons

Use rakes, or the particular type of gas blower that creates relatively little "pitched" sound, and only mid-band white-noise: I've very concerned in that they be allowed to be used

very concerned that use will be restricted

very necessary service

very noisy and pollution noise and air

wakes people up

We have a big yard and lots of leaves and we use a rake. Nice and quiet and good exercise.

We should be able to use year round

What on earth does 'concerned' mean? Very imprecise question construction and bias is apparent in the framing.

Poor result When blowers are in use it makes being outside an unpleasant experience. On a dry day the air is filled with dust.

Why are we wasting time/energy on this pointless activity? Let's deal with it, and move on. Rakes and paper bags for debris are Would like to have 1 or 2 weekend when could sweep leaves to curb and have town sweep up and mulch.

you must get it by now

This question is unclear. I take it to mean, would i like a reduction in the use of leafblowers. I would, very much.

This town is known for it's trees. Considering most of what I am cleaning up comes from town trees it's outrageous the way some too loud and fume emitting.

Town of Natick offered free turf care session to municipalities ~ where was Brookline ? Absent.

We live in an urban setting. Construction noises abound. C'est la vie.

Question 13 – 213 Comments

"User education" will accomplish nothing.

again - climate change. Small gas engines have disproportionately high carbon footprints
again, fines will work not education

Again, people have blown this out of proportion and will continue trying to prove their points of view.

Also enforcement

are large landscapers currently informed? Do they have to sign something in agreement

As long as gas-powered leaf blowers are used, no matter time restrictions, they will pollute the air and create noise that is an unnecessary As long as the use is limited during each day as well as per season. The noise and dust produced is awful.

As the saying goes, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make the horse drink. You can educate everyone until you are At this point I have no faith in such "education" There has been plenty of time and it has not worked. See additional comment At this time, I have no "concerns" about this matter, as it is really none of my business. For individuals who are bothered by short Ban them

Best practice is for TM not to arbitrarily over-regulate anything. At the very least, explain with actual facts why leaf blowers are Blower workers need to stagger their timing and/or the day of the week to reduce noise level and emissions level in concentrated COMPOST

Current regulations are not followed. It has nothing to do with education.

Current restrictions are appropriate. Reminders are always useful

depends how it's done and what the penalties are!

Depends on educator. Should be someone anxious to reduce leaf blowers to as close to zero usage as possible.

depends on the narrative of best practice document.

Depends on whom you're 'educating' and how

Do not have concerns; current restrictions are effective

Do not know what user best practices are, other than taking a "common sense" approach to the use of blowers being mindful to Do you mean by education - calling the police on your neighbors like it is a hate crime?

Don't know

don't really know

Educating users is a very good idea, even if moderately effective.

education alone never works. If it did Americans wouldn't be fat or smoke or drink or pollute or use leaf blowers

Education and enforcement, including the property owner and the landscaping company.

Education does not work when people are too self-interested to pay attention to anyone around them.

Education had its limits

Education has to be combined with penalties for knowing violation of the restrictions.

Education is always a good idea and I suppose it would help address any issues of "abuse."

Education is fine. Enforcement and fines are key.

Education is helpful but in my experience people don't bother to read what is provided to them.

Education is not enough. We need strict enforcement, or -- even better -- a ban.

Education is not likely to be effective, especially with non resident landscaper crews who come and go but live elsewhere.

Education is too expensive and will only work with enforcement. We need additional restrictions

Education is useful but without enforcement I am pessimistic things will improve

Effective if enforced

eliminate them - why bother trying to mitigate an identifiable problem.

enforcement is necessary.

CDC site re: parasite leaf blowers could make airborne: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html>

Don't hold out much hope for change as there are a huge number of landscapers that work in Brookline and I'm not sure that most education trainings must be mandated and trainees must sign off that they understand and follow the rules and regs

education wont work ban with penalties will

Enforcement is needed

Enforcement will be key

Enforcement will often be a problem.

Especially hours of usage. This is the biggest issue on our neighborhood. People do not know that the use of blowers is restricted Even after hearing all the TAB articles and complaints during various discussions of our by-law, landscapers still want to use gas-Even after they are informed of the regulations, the contractors in our neighborhood continue to ignore them. On one occasion, Except for large swaths of lawn, I don't see the need for these leaf blowers in residential areas, period. Rakes aren't much slower Fines would help more.

Fining homeowners is the only way to get full compliance.

for those whose perceptions are not accurate

Full compliance will still yield an unacceptable noise level (by far!)

Get rid of ban

Hard to change habits

Hard to enforce.

Home owners must inform their landscape workers!

However, education is a critical part of a comprehensive program.

I am guessing.

I am hoping that technology will produce quieter leaf blowers, but I don't see any other downside to leaf blowers.

I am not concerned about it

I am not concerned about leaf blower usage

I am not concerned. Do not feel like additional education is necessary. Perhaps a notice in the TAB would help.

I am not concerned. There are far more important issues than this silliness.

I am utterly amazed that this is even an issue. Our current regulations on this is extremely considerate.

I believe that education should be given a chance.

I cannot get m landscaper, K&S, to use smaller less noisy blowers.

I do not know

I don' have enough knowledge to know

i don't have any concerns re: their use

I don't have any concerns.

I don't have concerns

I don't have concerns

I don't know.

I don't see it as such a problem now, but if others do, perhaps it would help.

I don't see leaf blowers as a problem.

I don't think you will get the landscape companies to comply. When I have complained about noise that was huge- like a plane I don't want gas blowers used.

I have no concerns

I have no concerns

I have no concerns

Honestly I have never spoken to any Brookline resident who has a problem with leaf blowers. Leaf blowers are amazing, and we Humans are humans. I notice only the newest workers (not long-timers) seem to not know what to do, or what their machines' I am not concerned about the status quo.

I assume that the town educted the landscapers when the restrictions went into effect. They have disregarded and are breaking I can't believe this is an actual issue. I live in an area with lots of trees, houses and hired landscapers and I have never been bothered I don't have any concerns with use of leafblowers

I feel that for a short while best practices will be respected. However in no time things will lessen, specifically noise levels will increase, I have found that the police are not willing to enforce the existing regs

I have no concerns .

I have no concerns about using blowers. Getting the job done quickly and efficiently is paramount.

I have no concerns.

I have no current concerns of leaf blowers

I know the arguments, do not restrict usage as in effect now

I realize that some people in town find leaf blowers problematic, and I do think education will help. But

everybody in town should I reject the hypothetical. Education isn't going to be effective.

I think enforcement is a big issue.

I think enhanced education may alleviate others' concerns.

I think it's important to have a way to notify neighbors when they are not complying with the rules.

I think more home owners would comply in the interest of being good neighbors, but other than that, I do not think education I think people will do what they want. For example, not everyone shovels the sidewalks completely clear. No one does anything I think we should start by making sure everyone is following the same rules.

I use a commercial gardener for cleanup

I want a total ban

I would hope. And to the question below(#14) I have excellent hearing

I'm not concerned

I'm not in favor of the use of leaf blowers at any time. Hire more people to do the work manually (or do it yourself), and stop obsessing if enforced

If the rules are not enforced, they will not be honored.

If you make it clear to the landscaping companies. They need the education!!

IF.

It is not an issue

Its all about the noise. As long as there is noise there will be complaints

Knowledge is a good first step toward compliance, but may not be all that's needed.

Landscapers do not follow the restrictions.

Landscapers do the bulk of the cleanups, so I don't think it will matter much if private citizens are educated.

Landscapers don't care. I have printed out the rules and handed them to them and just ignore them. You will need to fine them.

Landscapers from out of town don't care

Landscapers know use of blowers is cheap and fast (more jobs for them)

leave the present ban in place

Limit hours more and educate.

Need enforcement

need enforcement and sanctions

I imagine a fee for non compliancy would be effective as well

I inform condo mgt, they inform landscaper; I inform landscaper, nothing changes.

I sometimes think that people in Brookline seek out things to complain about. I can think of any number of things that are far I think education has been tried (and failed). People will take notice when they are penalized for misuse (ie, tickets).

I think open communication between the town, the committee, and the leaf blower users would be useful.

I think that people that use leaf blowers will continue to use them. I think a financial incentive for people who DON'T use them I think the main problem is noise+pollution, and these occur *always*. Why not use other solutions e.g. vacuum-based, that, for I think the term best practices is funny in terms of leaf blowers. It is incongruent. The best practice is no leaf blowers. Please I would hope that education would help in providing knowledge on the leaf blower laws.

If usage best practices are implemented, they will need to be persistently repeated and enforced year after year.

It all depends on how the education is done and required. My neighbors just hire whomever is cheapest for seasonal cleanup and Most current users, especially landscapers, already are well trained in the efficient use of leafblowers and their impact is minimal.

My concerns will be reduced if I can have a hotline and can call and stop the offenders.

need to enforce these rules. they are likely not enforced at all currently

Negligibly

Newer quieter machines should be mandatory for landscape companies and institutions who tend to use the machines for longer no controls

noise is noise-- let's reduce it--not talk about it

NONE> They know the reg now and IGNORE = I tell them, they just turn them up when I walk away
Not concerned

Not concerned. Another leading question!

Only an outright ban will achieve success.

Only if monitored & enforced. The general public & landscape industry won't voluntarily adopt & maintain standards

Only if the town abides by the same rules.

Parking enforcement only seems to work if there is the reasonable threat of a ticket, I believe the very real possibility of fines will Particulates are major problem for lung health. Using any blower puts fine particles into air and causes harm.

People are generally responsible when they understand a problem and are sensitized to it.

People are not as stupid as you think (though they may be in a rush to get work done). People just need INFORMATION, NOT People don't care!

People who use leaf blowers obnoxiously know and don't care. The police don't care.

Personal blowers are quiet enough and commercial companies don't care about noise

Plus kind enforcement

Request for no use before 8 am or at lower noise level denied

Restrictions already widely ignored.

See above; too difficult to enforce and control.

See above.

See above. Enforcement is what's needed.

Some commercial blowers will choose to ignore unless with penalty.

Some people are oblivious and/or don't care about their impact on others. Would there be consequences to repeated offenses?

Some people will always complain.

Some people will not get it right.

That will work only if it's backed up by fines.

The communication between Town and personnel working for contractors. They often do not speak English and I don't think their The contractors ignore the rules

The current exemptions for the town, and the current time exemptions, are the cause of most of my problems. So user education The education needs to include the landscape companies and their employees.

The landscapers won't follow the rules

The landscaping companies pay no attention to rules about residency/visa status (ask Mitt) They will ignore any rules until it costs The landscaping industry, as a whole, has demonstrated it cannot be trusted to abide by the existing restrictions. I would be less The noise and air quality issue is still a problem in the middle of the day.

The people landscapers hire aren't often very sophisticated. They just want to get the job done. They need supervision.

The people who use them are generally not the decision-makers--they do what they boss tells them. Owners of landscaping companies The town should not waste time and resources on education and/or enforcement

There are always those who don't care

There should be no ban

There should be penalties for misuse.

not applicable because nothing you do will change the entitlement and without that your rules won't apply to those people who Police enforcement is intimidating and most people I know who cannot stand these being used will not call them. To me it just The Dept of Public Works already includes a section on leaf blower use in the booklet it sends out to all property owners in Brookline. They don't speak english and then the ones that do will throw a temper tantrum, threaten to quit and the landowner will cave and

They're not following the guidelines now, and I do not believe they will follow new ones. Homeowners should take responsibility, this is a town where many don't see rules applying to their situation. Stand at a cross walk and risk getting run over by someone This question is too vague.

Those against are going to be against regardless

Use a rake instead, hire more people.

User education can only do so much without enforcement.

Voluntary best practices never work

We don't need education; we need enforcement and fines.

What are "best practices". I have never had a problem with leaf blower use in my area. People seem to use common sense. What would that education look like?

When you are walking around in densely populated neighborhoods there is no getting away from swirling debris and deafening Who will enforce the practices?

why not impose restrictions on user violations and enforce them
will mostly be ignored

Will work only if people report problems to an agency that will act fast!

Without enforcement, nothing will change

Without fines and enforcement, compliance will be low

Would prefer all use of any leaf blowers. Too much noise in neighborhoods already.

You also need to reduce gas blowers period

You are not going to change the habits and practices of the people who use leaf blowers and are primarily interested in getting you keep asking the same question over and over.

You would waste a lot of time and money trying to educate people about a trivial issue.

Unfortunately I fear the proponents on the band will not be happy until the noise level in Brookline is equal to that of a pasture We live in an urban environment.with many noises

Why not make a Youtube video showing best practices and put on DPW webpage?

Without a complete ban, there will always be those who flaunt or bypass the law. Btw, thank you SO much for asking our opinion

Email Communications from Residents

To the Moderator's Committee on Leaf Blower Use and Regulations

- 1) My name is Peter Bleyleben, and I have been living at 66 Norfolk Rd, Brookline-Chestnut Hill since 1984. The Property is a corner property of close to 24,000 sqft with numerous big old trees producing huge amounts of leaves, acorns and other debris. I use a commercial landscaper who uses gas-powered leaf blowers for spring and fall cleanups. I own an electric leaf-blower that is useful for some small low density clean ups, such as a stone terrace, but is essentially useless for any substantial clean up efforts.
- 2) For the last 50 years or so an increasing number of gasoline motorized 'gadgets' have found their way into the market-place that have made traditionally burdensome and time consuming tasks substantially more efficient and effective: They include snow blowers, lawnmowers, chainsaws, wood choppers, jack hammers and leaf-blowers. The fact of their increased use both among professional companies and private citizens is proof of their value to get necessary tasks done more safely, easier, efficiently and effectively. All these gadgets have a very specific use for very specific and necessary tasks and are not used 'just for fun' (The "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" notwithstanding...[sorry for that side-comment....])
- 3) All of these gadgets produce noise and some 'pollution': This is the price we have to pay for the convenience of getting these tasks done (that everybody I believe will agree, need to get done). It is my understanding that the typical hour of a leaf-blower's use produces as much CO2 and other pollution as a typical car driving for more than 4 miles: The pollution created by leaf-blowers is infinitesimally small compared to, as an example, traffic on route 9. Leaf-blowers are used only thru a few weeks in the fall and in the spring for just a few hours on each property: Of all the other noise 'pollution' surrounding us, leaf-blowers are a very limited problem and negligible compared to their value to keep our properties healthy, safe and clean.
- 4) Leaf-blowers are as important for our convenience and as much needed to help us live an efficient and effective life in the green areas of our town as snow-blowers, lawnmowers, chainsaws, etc . 'Strategically' I don't see any difference among the importance of all that equipment and I cannot understand why leaf-blowers are being singled out.
- 5) I am vehemently opposed to any further restrictions on leaf-blower use in Brookline. If anything, I would propose to relax the restrictions: Nobody is using a leaf blower to any significance outside the 'cleaning season' anyhow and formally restricting the use outside the cleaning seasons I think is an unnecessary regulatory overreach. Relaxing the current sound restrictions might actually allow for more powerful leaf-blowers that could get the job done faster with only shorter periods of noise issues?
- 6) I understand that the Town of Brookline itself has decided that it needs to use leaf-blowers 'to get the job done': I was appalled to hear that a proposal to forbid the use of leaf-blowers for private individuals and professional landscapers while exempting the Town (and a few large property owners) has not been discarded on the spot and I hope it will never see the light of day...I cannot find any logical reason for such an approach, unless the town is taking over the fall and spring clean up of all of our properties (which of course would be a ridiculous a concept...)

Thank for considering my input

Peter Bleyleben --02/03/2016 -- peterbley@aol.com --- 617.277 8279 --

Gentlemen: Even if the leafblower noise maximum of 67db for each machine is followed under bylaw Articles 8.15 and 8.31, or under the new proposal now under consideration by the AGs office, the law is totally undermined and vitiated if you allow more than one machine to operate simultaneously in the same area. According to Town Counsel this serious problem is not addressed in this ambiguous and awkwardly written bylaw. Both the Town landscape people who are hired from private contractors and private landscape firms all the time use two or three leafblowers next to each other at the same location. This practice obviously means the 67 db limit is overwhelmed by the total noise output of these machines and the purpose of the bylaw is defeated. What has to be incorporated as you consider revising this regulation is clear and unambiguous language that states, for example, "No more than one leafblower can operate at the same time within 100 feet of each other." Even then the noise is loud, palpable, and would exceed the so-called "background" noise level mentioned in the bylaw.

I was the first one to submit a noise/pollution warrant article on leafblowers at Town Meeting about 12-13 years ago. It was defeated, but a few years later when I was a TMM (I'm not now) the first hour/noise/pollution regs were affirmed. I can still remember receiving an email from an older man, in distress, pleading to stop the noise from these "torture machines". I sincerely hope that after the survey and your committee's deliberations you can submit an unqualified recommendation to Sandy Gadsby that includes the proviso of limiting the use of leafblowers to "one" within the authorized db level and within a designated area. The Town should then send written notice to all relevant Town employees and landscape contractors/companies. Thank you.

Regards, Jerome (Jerry) Sadow iersadow@bu.edu

From: Jean-Francois Ducrest <jf@northerncrossllc.com>
Date: Mon, 8 Feb 2016 20:49:50 +0000
To: Carla Benka <rcvben@earthlink.net>
Subject: Leafblowers

Dear Carla,

Due to computer problems please note that I cannot fill the survey.

Please register my opinion/vote as 100% against any extra regulation of leaf blowers especially gas ones.

Warm regards,

Jean-Francois Ducrest
Principal
NORTHERN CROSS
125 Summer Street
Suite 1410, 14th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
www.northerncrossllc.com <<http://www.northerncrossllc.com>>

Handwritten letter (transcribed) forwarded by Sandy Gatsby with enclosure:

Mrs. William G. Coughlin
52 Upland Road
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

Feb 4th 2016

Dear Sandy,

I understand you are the head of the Committee pondering the fate of leaf blowers in Brookline! With that in mind, and as [a] staunch opponent of said works of the devil, I am enclosing the article I read online about leaf blowers in Greenwich, CT.

I hope you take the time to read this most thorough discussion of the subject – There is much more to the opposition to leaf blowers than just the outlandish noise.

With all the best wishes to you,

Sally R. Coughlin

To the Committee on Leaf Blowers:

Excessive leaf blower noise is produced by commercial leaf blowing services. The use of large leaf blowers should be allowed by permit only. Permits would be issued for specific properties having more than an acre of leafy open space.

Many Brookline residents use leaf blowers. They are small, handheld, reasonably quiet and get the job done. I see large piles of leaves and residents don't seem to be working very long to assemble the piles. Residents are not creating a noise problem.

Commercial services however almost all use large, very noisy backpack blowers which look like NASA jet packs. Perhaps there are services that use smaller blowers and don't attract my attention. Nevertheless, there are enough services using jet packs such that stronger leaf blower regulations are needed.

Jet pack blowers may be suitable for golf courses. I have seen them in use at Fisher Hill Estates which is probably appropriate. I also see them used to clean driveways between triple-deckers which is not appropriate.

Since the seasonal ban has been instituted, I have noticed another alarming trend. Services are now using two jet packs during the allowed months instead of one year round. Since they can't do six 20 minute monthly sessions, they are bundling the same work as three 20 minute two-person sessions. Two blowers working together is not just louder. The motors spin at slightly different speeds and the combined sound is nefarious. Imagine two cats howling together; it's not the same as one cat but louder.

Why are commercial services using jet packs on leaf-free triple-decker driveways? My hunch is that residents are being sold year-round maintenance contracts in order to get priority snow plowing in winter. The jet packs make the unneeded spring and fall work look impressive and valuable.

Why are commercial services using jet packs at all? My hunch is because they

occasionally clean golf courses or large estates and want to own only one type of blower. Thus they use the large blowers on small sites too. These services probably also own a chainsaw because they occasionally cut trees. However, I doubt they use it to trim rose bushes too because it simplifies the business to own just one type of saw. They should own several types of blower just as they own several types of saw.

It's time to create some regulations to keep jet pack blowers off driveways and small lawns in close proximity to other residences. It's not just about noise. The jet packs are appropriate for a few large jobs and I don't object to the noise when it's truly necessary to get the job done. What I do object to are the large majority of jobs where commercial services are being inconsiderate of neighbors and using oversized equipment not matched to the task.

Tom Elwertowski
97 Highland Rd

cc: Precinct 5 Town Meeting Members

From swartz <chswartz@rcn.com> ☆

◀ Rep

Subject **Leaf blowers.**

To JD <john@jdoggett.net> ☆, Neighborhood Alert - Kids Live Safe <mail@info.toppediakeepers.com> ☆

Hi John and Neil,

Thanks for serving on this committee. I'm not sure if I will be able to sub committee meeting at 6:30. If I can't make it, here are my thoughts.

Limit one blower for 10,000 sq. ft. or under.

Blow toward the center of the property. No blowing toward the street or

Shorten hours, 8-5 weekdays, 9-5 Saturdays, 11-3 on Sundays.

Specify make and models of blowers acceptable to the town.

I will let you know as more ideas come to mind.

Chuck Swartz

To: The Moderator's Committee on Leaf Blowers

Date: March 5, 2016

I am writing to offer general comments on our current leaf blower regulations, noise level concerns and potential bans on leaf-blower use because there are several points missing from Town Meeting discussions regarding leaf blowers.

One is an understanding of what constitutes noise and the second consideration of whether it's harmful and if so, in what way. Toward that end I offer these comments from the EPA:

“The traditional definition of noise is “unwanted or disturbing sound”. Sound becomes unwanted when it either interferes with normal activities such as sleeping, conversation, or disrupts or diminishes one’s quality of life. The fact that you can’t see, taste or smell it may help explain why it has not received as much attention as other types of pollution, such as air pollution, or water pollution.... Studies have shown that there are direct links between noise and health. Problems related to noise include stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss, sleep disruption, and lost productivity. research has shown that exposure to constant or high levels of noise can cause countless adverse health affects.”

Further to this point--

For an immediate triggering of protective reactions (fight/flight or defeat reactions) the information conveyed by noise is very often more relevant than the sound level. It was shown recently that the first and fastest signal detection is mediated by a subcortical area - the amygdala. For this reason even during sleep the noise from aeroplanes or heavy goods vehicles may be categorised as danger signals and induce the release of stress hormones. ([H Ising](#), [B Kruppa](#), Federal Environmental Agency.)

Leaf-blowers have been the subject of extensive conversations in Brookline at least since 2011 because of their noise, the dirt & dust they cause to circulate and the amount of green house gases they emit. Despite citizens’ concerns and our 2012 Bylaw, negative impacts due to their use are still a problem for many Brookline residents. Landscapers, as a group, have ignored the Bylaw and repeatedly violate it. In addition, there have been occasions when workers were hostile to and insulted citizens who reminded them of our Bylaw regulation.

Although the industry has heard complaints for decades all over the country, paid lobbyists continue to tell us why leaf blowers are not a problem. In fact, the leaf blower industry employs a full-time lobbyist who travels the country attempting to quiet anti-blower legislative activity. The industry was very active during our last Town Meeting to quash any restriction on their use.

One cannot avoid the racket by deciding to stay indoors—the quality of leaf blower noise penetrates our homes, affecting face-to-face conversations, phone conversations and the expected pleasure when listening to music, the radio or TV. The noise makes it difficult to conduct business and also interferes with childrens’ and elders’ rest. It is especially painful to the ear and psychologically distressful in hardscape areas where the racket and the whine reverberates and ricochets around the

surfaces. Since some 70% of our population lives in multi-family buildings, the number of people negatively affected by leaf-blowers is consequential.

But in addition to our right to the quiet enjoyment of our home, we would like to be able to enjoy being in the yard and the outdoor common during the very months when it's most pleasant to be outdoors. With respect to "quiet enjoyment," I've had occasion to complain to police about noisy, late night parties. The fact that they arrive promptly and restore peace to our neighborhood is evidence that Brookline values the quiet enjoyment of its residents. We don't tolerate disruptive noise at night and we shouldn't tolerate it during the day either.

People who don't work at home, who are away from home for long stretches of time or who live in areas with broad stretches of turf may not understand the disruption caused by leaf blowers because they don't experience it. I respectfully suggest these residents seek to understand the experience of others.

In addition, a third argument made the false comparison between leaf blower noise and ambient traffic and construction noise. Leaf blower noise differs significantly from traffic-related noise such as trucks rumbling by, sirens, and construction related noise generated by bull-dozers and back hoes. First, the sound differs in quality, frequency and duration. Comparing these sounds to leaf-blower noise is a false comparison not only when considering decibels, but also because of the particular pitch emitted by leaf blowers. Further, traffic and construction related noise generally is restricted to the immediate environment for a specific project while leaf blower noise rakes a wide community with abrasive, sustained & repeated noise.

The quality of leaf blowers whine has been shown to be particularly disruptive to humans. I refer you to the numerous scholarly studies & reports on the effect of noise on our health and sense of well-being. For instance, incessant noise at the correct pitch is used to torture prisoners. The expression is to "break them." During your deliberations, it could be useful to consider the reason that properties located along turnpikes and large thoroughfares are protected from the ambient noise caused by passing vehicles. This sound is far less disruptive than that of leaf-blowers.

Finally, I ask the Committee to consider the harmful effect of leaf-blower noise on wildlife. Wildlife faces far more problems than humans since they are more dependent on sound. In fact, their survival depends on it. These are some of the impacts of noise on wildlife:

Hearing loss makes them easy prey and leads to dwindling [populations](#) when they become inefficient at hunting. This interference disturbs the balance of the eco-system.

Species that depend on mating calls to reproduce are often unable to hear these calls due to excessive man made noise. As a result, they are unable to reproduce and cause declining populations. Others require sound waves to echo-locate and find their way when migrating. Disturbing their sound signals means they get lost easily and do not migrate when they should. To cope up with the increasing sound around them, animals are becoming louder, which may further add to the pollution levels. This is why understanding noise pollution can help us lower the impact it has on the environment. (Conserve Energy Future)

Leaf blowers are a recent convenience that some people take to be a necessity. However they aren't necessary, as evidenced by our ability to keep properties clean for centuries before their invention.

Landscapers argue that the job takes longer without machines and costs them money. Their argument holds our quality of life hostage to vendors' bottom line and suggests that price is the only consideration.

But, as a society, we pay more for cars to make them safer and to reduce emissions; we are willing to pay more for healthier foods and many of us support local merchants instead of global corporations, all at a higher cost. Brookline's position instead should be first to protect its citizens from leaf-blower racket. Logan Airport, for instance, requires airlines to observe "no-fly" areas to protect certain neighborhoods which would otherwise be negatively impacted by noise if planes were allowed to fly over them. The fact that it may cost the airline more to alter the route is not sufficient to override citizens' comfort.

Instead of demanding a right to use these machines landscapers and property owners should instead demand that manufacturers use current, available technology to design motors suitable for use in neighborhoods.

The Noise Pollution Clearinghouse states that "Good neighbors keep their noise to themselves." It calls noise polluters "bullies, claiming rights and freedoms that are not theirs while degrading resources that are ours." Let's make Brookline a community that sees how to protect its citizens and acts to do so.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Jane Gilman, Co-Chair
Brookline Town Meeting
Green Caucus
TMM, Precinct 3

From: Kate Nimick <kbnimick@aol.com>
Date: Tue, 16 Aug 2016 11:29:43 -0400
To: Carla Benka <rcvben@earthlink.net>
Subject: Leaf blowers

Hi Carla -

You may not want any more input on leaf blowers - there is virtually no compliance with this bylaw - I encounter at least three or four landscaping companies a day who clearly are aware that the consequences of use are minimal and that they use consider using them their right. One unfortunate consequence is that with so much construction going on an increasing number of nails and construction type screws are ending up in the street when the landscapers deposit construction related yard debris from blower use into the street. Four recent flat tires for us.

I hope the whole concept of leaf blower use and restriction remains front and center before the committee reviewing it.

Thanks - Kate