



TOWN OF BROOKLINE  
*Massachusetts*  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Andrew M. Pappastergion  
Commissioner

**Re: Commercial Landscaping Permit**

Dear Landscaping Services Provider:

**All commercial/private landscapers who operate leaf blowers in the Town of Brookline must apply for and receive an annual permit through the Department of Public Works.**

The Town regulates the use of leaf blowers in accordance with Leaf Blower Control By-law 8.31. This past year there was significant debate and deliberation pertaining to the use of and potential ban on leaf blowers. In May, Town Meeting voted to support the current regulations with the understanding that the Department of Public Works would implement changes to increase enforcement and compliance. To improve compliance, the Department of Public Works has promulgated regulations, updated educational materials and implemented the annual permitting of commercial/private landscape companies who wish to operate leaf blowers in Town. The annual permit is intended to improve communication and ensure that everyone has read and understands the bylaw/regulations. The Department of Public Works understands that this is an important tool in the industry and wish to work with the landscape community and citizens to find a workable solution.

**Please complete and return the attached Commercial Landscaping Permit Application by March 10, 2020** with your payment of \$25.00. Once completed and approved you will receive a leaf blower permit from the Town. If your vehicle(s) do not have exterior printing of the company identification/contact information that matches the information in your application, you must request and attach a permit sticker to the bumper of your vehicle doing business in the Town. While not required, we recommend that all permitted contractors/companies do so to show the public that they are permitted. The Town will post a list of companies on its website that have been permitted to operate leaf blowers in Brookline.

Please read in full Brookline's **Leaf Blower Regulations** and **Leaf Blower Bylaw** in regards to the use of gas powered leaf blowers. The Town of Brookline will strictly enforce all rules and regulations pertaining to Leaf Blower Bylaw 8.31. Citations and fines will be issued to any landscaping company violating these rules and regulations and/or operating without the required permit. As defined in the bylaw and regulations, Gas powered leaf blowers are **PROHIBITED** from May 16<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> and again from January 1<sup>st</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup>. From March 15<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> and again from October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> gas powered leaf blowers are permitted so long they as the operators follow the noise and time requirements set forth by this by-law. Leaf blowers that operate at a noise level no more than 67 dBA can be operated Monday through Friday from 8am to 8pm, and weekends and holidays from 9am to 6pm.

