

ARTICLE 37: Prohibition of gas-powered leaf blowers

That the following Section be added to the Concord Noise Bylaw:

Section [X]. Landscaping Equipment

The use of gas-powered hand-held leaf blowers is only allowed in the periods of March 15 to May 31 and September 15 to December 30 and is prohibited all other times.

Effective March 15, 2025, the use of gas-powered hand-held leaf blowers by commercial landscapers shall be prohibited.

Effective March 15, 2026, the use of gas-powered hand-held leaf blowers by residents on their own property shall be prohibited.

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- Gas-powered handheld leaf blowers produce noise up to 95dB
 - Factor 1,000 higher acoustic pressure than electric leaf blowers (30dB difference)
- 2-stroke engines are the most inefficient
 - Combust only 70% of gas, high emittance of unburnt hydrocarbons
- Significant health impact on workers
- Bans established in 100+ towns and one state

Proposal

- Limit use initially to spring and fall
- Phase-out gas-powered handheld leaf blowers over time
- Mirror rules from surrounding towns

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