



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Gas Leaf Blower Discussion

**Residents & General Community
March 13, 2025**



Agenda



- **Background**
- **Proposed Regulation Changes**
- **Benefits of Proposed Ban**
- **Discussion/ Q&A**
- **Additional Outreach**
- **Next Steps**



Background

- ▶ **City's Noise Code regulates lawn and garden equipment by hours of operation.**

Activity	Allowable Hours
Power Lawn and Garden Equipment	M-F: 7 AM- 9 PM Weekends/Major Holidays: 9 AM- 9 PM

Section 11-5-2 Definition of Power Lawn Equipment
Section 11-5-4(16) Allowable Hours Power and Lawn Equipment
*City Holidays, as listed in Sec. 11-5-5

- ▶ **No change to regulation of lawn and garden equipment by hours of operation is proposed.**



Proposed Regulation Change

- ▶ **Propose a total prohibition of the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.**
 - ▶ Easier to enforce, as compared to decibel or other restrictions.
- ▶ **Incorporate a multi-year phase-out period.**
 - ▶ Considering phase-out period between 1.5 – 3 years.



Benefits of Proposed Ban

- ▶ **Reduce Noise Levels in the City**
 - ▶ Quality of life and health issue.
 - ▶ Reduces noise exposure to the operator.

- ▶ **Reduce Air & Water Pollution**
 - ▶ Gas-powered engine are a significant source of air pollutants, particularly 2-cycle engines.
 - ▶ Reduces exposure to air pollutants to the operator.
 - ▶ Reduces nitrogen pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.
 - ▶ Reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

NOTE: The City recognizes potential financial impacts to businesses and residents.



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Discussion & Questions





Additional Outreach

- ▶ **2nd Community Meeting: Wednesday, March 26th from 7pm – 9pm in City Hall CR1101**
 - ▶ If you are with a company, please let us know, for future, targeted outreach.
- ▶ **Calls to lawn & garden businesses to understand possible impact.**
- ▶ **City will host hands-on demonstrations of electric lawn equipment.**
- ▶ **Community feedback – Due April 2nd**
 - ▶ Fill out community feedback forms
 - ▶ Email eco-cityalexandria@alexandriava.gov



Next Steps

- ▶ **Staff anticipates providing an update to City Council and bringing proposed ordinance change in May/June 2025.**
 - ▶ Includes Public Hearing on Ordinance.

- ▶ **City to explore possible incentives for residents and businesses to use battery powered equipment**
 - ▶ Back to City Council in Fall 2025.



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Questions, Comments, Thank You!

To provide additional comments/ questions,

- fill out the comment card or
- email eco-cityalexandria@alexandriava.gov

