

# Gas-Powered Lawn Equipment for Yard Maintenance & Landscaping.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2021

# Our Goal

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Establish a set of clear, concise, and easily enforced rules for yard maintenance & landscaping that balance citizen's need to maintain their property with the need to maintain Medina's unique character.

# Tonight's Presentation

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- Background and History.
  - 2020 Medina Municipal Code updates to address the impacts of Yard Maintenance & Landscaping.
  - June 24, 2021, Community Forum.
- How have other Cities addressed this situation?
- Next Steps. Options going forward.

# 2020 Medina Municipal Code Updates

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In October 2020, the City Council amended Chapter 8.06 of the Medina Municipal Code in the following ways, to help address noise complaints from Medina Citizens.

- Limited **professional yard maintenance and landscaping** in the City to the same hours as **commercial construction and development activities**:
  - Weekdays: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
  - Saturdays: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
  - Sundays: No work allowed
  - Legal Holidays: No work allowed
  
- Limited sounds created by powered equipment when **used by a resident or by the Overlake Golf & Country Club** to:
  - Weekdays: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
  - Saturdays: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
  - Sundays: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

# June 24, 2021, Community Forum

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- Good Turnout. About 30 citizens participated.
- Link to audio recording and comments from participants included in the City Council Meeting Packet.

# How have other Cities addressed this situation? 2021 Goals, Projects, and Objectives

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The adopted 2021 City Manager Goals, Projects, and Objectives includes:

**“Leaf Blowers and Gas-Powered Lawn Equipment – Work with neighboring cities, to regulate use of this equipment.”**

- I have spoken with our neighboring Cities.
- None have expressed a strong interest in regulating lawn equipment.

# How have other Cities addressed this situation?

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## ➤ **Washington State**

- I am unaware of any cities in Washington State that have banned gas-powered lawn equipment.
- Day & time restrictions are common.

## ➤ **California**

- About 2 dozen cities have banned gas-powered blowers. Several have banned electric blowers as well.
- *California Air Resources Board* is finalizing regulations.
  - Require all small off-road engines sold be zero-emissions by 2024. (New sales only. Not existing equipment).

## ➤ **Other States**

- Number of Northeastern cities have banned gas-powered blowers and lawn equipment.

## ➤ **Typical Process**

- 3-5 years notice to ban use or sale of gas-powered lawn equipment.

# Next Steps. Options Going Forward

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## **2021 Goals, Projects, and Objectives**

- City Staff has completed the tasks outlined in the adopted 2021 Goals, Projects, and Objectives. Mainly working with neighboring cities.

## **Options Going Forward**

- Ask City Attorney and City Staff to further research cities that have banned gas-powered, (and perhaps electric) lawn equipment. Return with a draft ordinance for further discussion.
- Consider additional day and time restrictions on the use of gas-powered lawn equipment.

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# Questions and Comments