

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

City Council Study Session

June 8, 2026

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Agenda

- What is the issue with gas-powered leaf blowers?
- How are other communities addressing this issue?
- What has Medina done to address this issue?
- What next steps does Medina need to take?

What is the issue with gas-powered leaf blowers?

- Noise Disturbance → Video (videographer: Randy Reeves)
- Emissions, Environmental Quality, and Public Health
 - Banks & McConnell EPA Paper
 - Edmonds Emissions Test: Car vs. Truck vs. Leaf Blower

How are other communities addressing this issue?

- Adoption of regulations up to and including complete ban
 - City of Portland, Oregon: seasonal use only (Oct 1 – Dec 31) eff. 1/1/2026; complete ban eff. 1/1/2028
 - State of California: new small off-road engine (SORE) emissions prohibited eff. 1/1/2024
 - City of Kirkland, Washington: resolved goal to sunset GPLBs by 12/31/2025 as part of three-year effort of public outreach, internal testing, and incentives; 12/2025 initiative extended three years and expanded as “Electric Equipment Initiative” (GPLBs fully sunset by 12/31/2028)
 - City of Seattle, Washington: 2022 resolution calling for phase-out in City ops in 2025 and citywide in 2027; delayed as enforcement and incentive policies developed

What has Medina done to address this issue?

- 2022 to 2023 – public outreach and education
- 2023 – adoption of Resolution 435
 - Phase out GPLBs by 1/1/2028
- 2025 – Public Works implements seasonal use policy (GPLBs allowed October – March); equipment acquired and tested
- 2025 (to present) – City Council work on draft code



What next steps does Medina need to take?

- Finish code development determining:
 - Timing/phasing of ban
 - Special use exceptions
 - Emergency exemptions
 - Enforcement warning period
 - Confirmed effective dates
- Public Outreach
 - Social media, open house, mailers (residents, 276 businesses)
 - Other interventions (incentives)
- Enforcement Feasibility



Questions/Discussion

