



MEDINA CITY COUNCIL

Monday, October 27, 2025

5:00 PM - STUDY SESSION
6:00 PM - REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA

VISION STATEMENT

Medina is a family-friendly, diverse and inclusive community on the shores of Lake Washington. With parks and open spaces, Medina is a quiet and safe small city, with active and highly-engaged residents. Medina honors its heritage while preserving its natural environment and resources for current and future generations.

MISSION STATEMENT

Ensure efficient delivery of quality public services, act as responsible stewards of Medina's financial and natural resources, celebrate diversity, leverage local talent, and promote the safety, health, and quality of life of those who live, work, and play in Medina.



MEDINA, WASHINGTON
MEDINA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING

Hybrid - Virtual/In-Person
Medina City Hall – Council Chambers
501 Evergreen Point Road, Medina, WA 98039
Monday, October 27, 2025 – 5:00 PM

AGENDA

MAYOR | Jessica Rossman

DEPUTY MAYOR | Randy Reeves

COUNCIL MEMBERS | Joseph Brazen, Harini Gokul, Mac Johnston, Michael Luis, Heija Nunn

CITY MANAGER | Jeff Swanson

CITY ATTORNEY | Jennifer S. Robertson

ACTING CITY CLERK | Dawn Nations

Hybrid Meeting Participation

The Medina City Council has moved to hybrid meetings, offering both in-person and online meeting participation. Medina City Council welcomes and encourages in-person public comments. To participate in person, please fill out a comment card upon arrival at City Hall and turn it in to the City Clerk. To participate online, please register your request with the City Clerk at 425.233.6410 or email dnations@medina-wa.gov and leave a message before 2PM on the day of the Council meeting; please reference Public Comments for the Council meeting on your correspondence. The City Clerk will call you by name or telephone number when it is your turn to speak. You will be allotted 3 minutes for your comment and will be asked to stop when you reach the 3-minute limit. The city will also accept written comments to Council@medina-wa.gov at any time.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://medina-wa.zoom.us/j/82744321998?pwd=oNyGHuaSlKurNS5fXbsbi5pOHT3RYH.1>

Meeting ID: 827 4432 1998

Passcode: 311113

One tap mobile

+12532158782 US (Tacoma)

Study Session Information

The Study Session is an informal discussion for the City Council. This session is held in person only and is not recorded. The public is welcome to attend; however, Zoom access will not be available until the regular meeting begins at **6:00 PM**.

1. STUDY SESSION

1.1 Vegetation Management Reimbursement Policy

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

1.2 Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

Time Estimate: 50 minutes

The Regular meeting will start at 6:00 PM.

2. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Council Members Brazen, Gokul, Luis, Johnston, Nunn, Reeves, Rossman

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Individuals wishing to speak live during the Virtual City Council meeting may register their request with the City Clerk at 425.233.6410 or email dnations@medina-wa.gov and leave a message **before 2PM** on the day of the Council meeting. Please reference Public Comments for the Council Meeting on your correspondence. The City Clerk will call on you by name or telephone number when it is your turn to speak. You will be allotted 3 minutes for your comment and will be asked to stop when you reach the 3-minute limit.

5. PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

None.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

None.

8. LEGISLATIVE HEARING

None.

9. **PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

10. **CITY BUSINESS**

[10.1](#) Small Works Roster Policy Update

Recommendation: Adopt Ordinance No. 1038 and Resolution No. 452.

Staff Contact: Ryan Osada, Public Works Director

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

[10.2](#) Gas Powered Leaf Blowers Draft Ordinance Discussion

Recommendation: Discussion and direction.

Staff Contacts: Jeff Swanson, City Manager; Ryan Osada, Public Works Director; Jennifer Robertson and Randi Shaffer, City Attorney's Office

Time Estimate: 60 minutes

11. **REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a) Requests for future agenda items.

12. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comment period is limited to 10 minutes. Speaker comments are limited to one minute per person.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Time Estimate: 20 minutes

RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)

To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to **RCW 42.30.140(4)**, discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next regular City Council Meeting: November 10, 2025, at 5 PM.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Public documents related to items on the open session portion of this agenda, which are distributed to the City Council less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, shall be available for public inspection at the time the documents are distributed to the Council. Documents are available for inspection at the City Clerk's office located in Medina City Hall.

The agenda items are accessible on the City's website at www.medina-wa.gov on Thursdays or Fridays prior to the Regular City Council Meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (425) 233-6410 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Monday, November 10, 2025 - City Council Meeting (5:00PM)

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 - Veterans Day - City Hall Closed

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 – Special City Council Meeting (5:00PM)

Thursday, November 27, 2025 - Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall Closed

Friday, November 28, 2025 - Day After Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall Closed

Monday, December 8, 2025 - City Council Meeting (5:00PM)

Monday, December 22, 2025 - City Council Meeting – Canceled

Thursday, December 25, 2025 - Christmas Day - City Hall Closed

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING AGENDA

The agenda for Monday, October 27, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Medina City Council was posted and available for review on Thursday, October 24, 2025, at City Hall of the City of Medina, 501 Evergreen Point Road, Medina, WA 98039. The agenda is also available on the city website at www.medina-wa.gov.



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

Monday, October 27, 2025

Subject: Vegetation Management Reimbursement Policy

Category: Study Session (5 Min)

Staff Contact(s): Jennifer S. Robertson, City Attorney, Randi Shaffer, Assistant City Attorney, and Ryan Osada, Public Works Director

This item is a brief opportunity to review the ordinance in preparation for the November 19th Council Meeting. The study session is informational only and not intended for discussion. The attached renderings are provided to help clarify and establish standards for vegetation management. These standards will be discussed at a future meeting and incorporated into the overall Vegetation Management Policy.

This proposed Ordinance meets and supports Council's priorities 1, 3, 4 & 5.

Council Priorities:

1. Financial Stability and Accountability
2. Quality Infrastructure
3. Efficient and Effective Government
4. **Public Safety and Health**
5. **Neighborhood Character and Community Building**

Attachment(s)

ORD XXX - Ch. 12.05 MMC - Nuisance Vegetation(11070143.2)_rev1

Figure 1 – 4 Renderings

Budget/Fiscal Impact: N/A

Recommendation: Review for November 19th Council Meeting

City Manager Approval: N/A

Proposed Council Motions: N/A

Time Estimate: 5 minutes

CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON

Ordinance No. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 12.05 IN THE MEDINA MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED “NUISANCE VEGETATION” TO REGULATE OVERGROWN VEGETATION IN OR ON CITY RIGHTS OF WAY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CORRECTIONS; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Medina (“City”) wishes to address complaints regarding overgrown vegetation on private property that interferes with public rights of way, including sidewalks, by restricting pedestrian travel or creating unsafe or unsightly conditions; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce the impacts to public health and safety of overgrown vegetation, a new Chapter 12.05 should be added to the Medina Municipal Code (“MMC”) establishing a process for the City to regulate overgrown vegetation; and

WHEREAS, RCW 35.21.310 provides authority for the City to abate overgrown vegetation and to bill the property owner or lien the property for such costs of abatement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires staff utilize proactive outreach to improve compliance and community cooperation through targeted strategies, including informational materials in multiple languages, community engagement, and digital tools, to educate adjacent property owners about their responsibilities for right-of-way maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the public interest, safety and welfare to adopt this procedure into the MMC, as set forth in this Ordinance; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new chapter 12.05 is hereby added to the Medina Municipal Code to read as follows:

Chapter 12.05 NUISANCE VEGETATION

12.05.010 Obstructing streets and sidewalks.**12.05.020 Abatement by the city.****12.05.010 Obstructing streets and sidewalks.**

Trees, plants, shrubs, or vegetation or parts thereof which overhang any sidewalk or street, or which are growing thereon in such a manner as to obstruct or impair the free and full use of the sidewalk or street by the public are public nuisances. Grass, weeds, shrubs, bushes, trees, or vegetation growing or which have grown and died, and all debris upon any property and which are a fire hazard or menace to public health, safety, or welfare, are likewise public nuisances. Pursuant to MMC 16.52.220, it is the responsibility of the owner of property adjoining a city right-of-way, including sidewalks and streets, to ensure the trees, shrubs, and landscaping in the right-of-way adjoining their property do not interfere with the free passage of pedestrians and vehicles or cause any risk of danger to the public or property. It is the duty of the owner of the property adjoining a city right-of-way to abate any such nuisance vegetation that exists by destroying, removing, or trimming any such growth, and removing any such debris.

The requirements of this section shall apply equally to the city rights-of-way whether the city's title to the right-of-way was obtained by dedication, condemnation, deed, or any other manner. This chapter shall not be construed so as to require a private property owner to abate any such nuisance which exists because of natural vegetation growing wholly within the limits of the city's rights-of-way, unless such vegetation was planted by the private property owner with or without City permission.

12.05.020 Abatement by the city.

The city may initiate the process requiring an adjoining property owner to remove the nuisance described in MMC 12.05.010 as follows:

- A. A resolution of the city council shall be adopted after not less than five days' notice to the property owner, which shall describe the property involved and the nuisance or hazardous condition, require the owner to abate such nuisance by destroying, removing, or trimming the nuisance vegetation, and state that in the event of the owner's failure to do so, the city will cause the trimming, removal, or destruction of such nuisance and that the cost thereof shall be borne by the owner of the property and become a lien against the property.
- B. If any such nuisance vegetation as defined by this chapter is not abated by removal, destruction, or maintenance by the adjoining property owner upon reasonable notice, the city may abate the same and staff shall render a bill for the city's costs of such abatement and mail the bill to the property owner. If the property owner fails or refuses to pay the bill immediately, or if no bill is rendered because the property owner cannot be found, the clerk of the city in the name

of the city may file a lien against the property with the King County Recorder, which lien shall be in substantially the same form, filed with the same officer and within the same time and manner and enforced and foreclosed as provided by law for labor and materials liens.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 3. Corrections. Upon the approval of the city attorney, the city clerk, and/or the code publisher is authorized to make any necessary technical corrections to this ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

Section 4. Effective Date. This interim official control shall take effect five days after publication as provided by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA ON THE ____ DAY OF JULY, 2025 BY A VOTE OF ____ FOR, ____ AGAINST, AND ____ ABSTAINING, AND IS SIGNED IN AUTHENTICATION OF ITS PASSAGE THE ____ DAY OF JULY, 2025.

Jessica Rossman, Mayor

Approved as to form:
Inslee Best Doezie & Ryder, P.S.

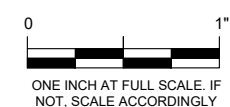
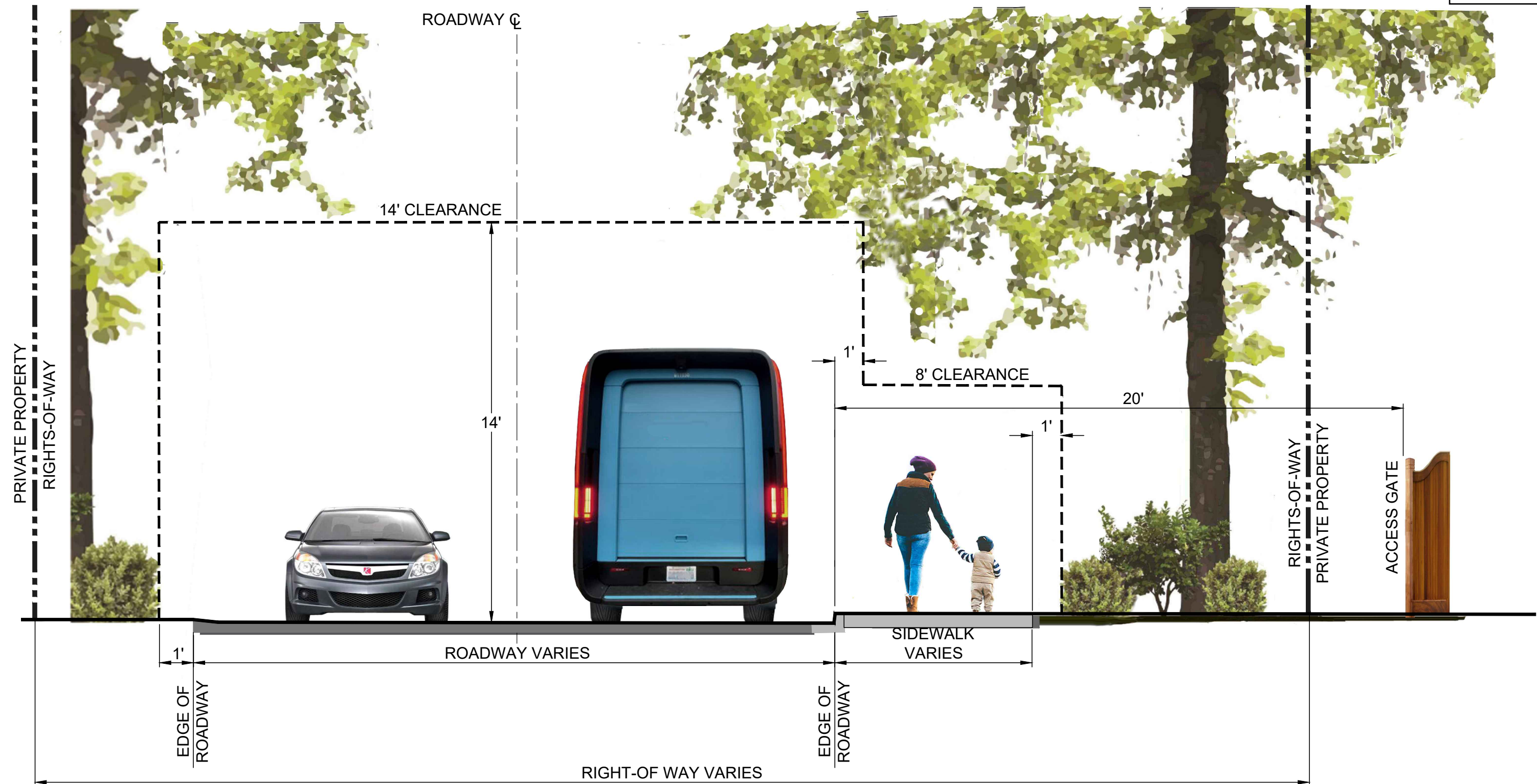
Attest:

Jennifer R. Robertson, City Attorney

Aimee Kellerman, City Clerk

PUBLISHED:
EFFECTIVE DATE:
ORDINANCE NO.: / AB

M:\Medina\25439.02 Right-of-Way Clearance Detail\Renderings\Autocad\Fig 1-2-3.dwg, 9/12/2025 3:32 PM, PHILIP MARSHALL



CITY OF MEDINA

RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARANCE REQUIREMENTS

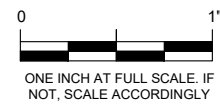
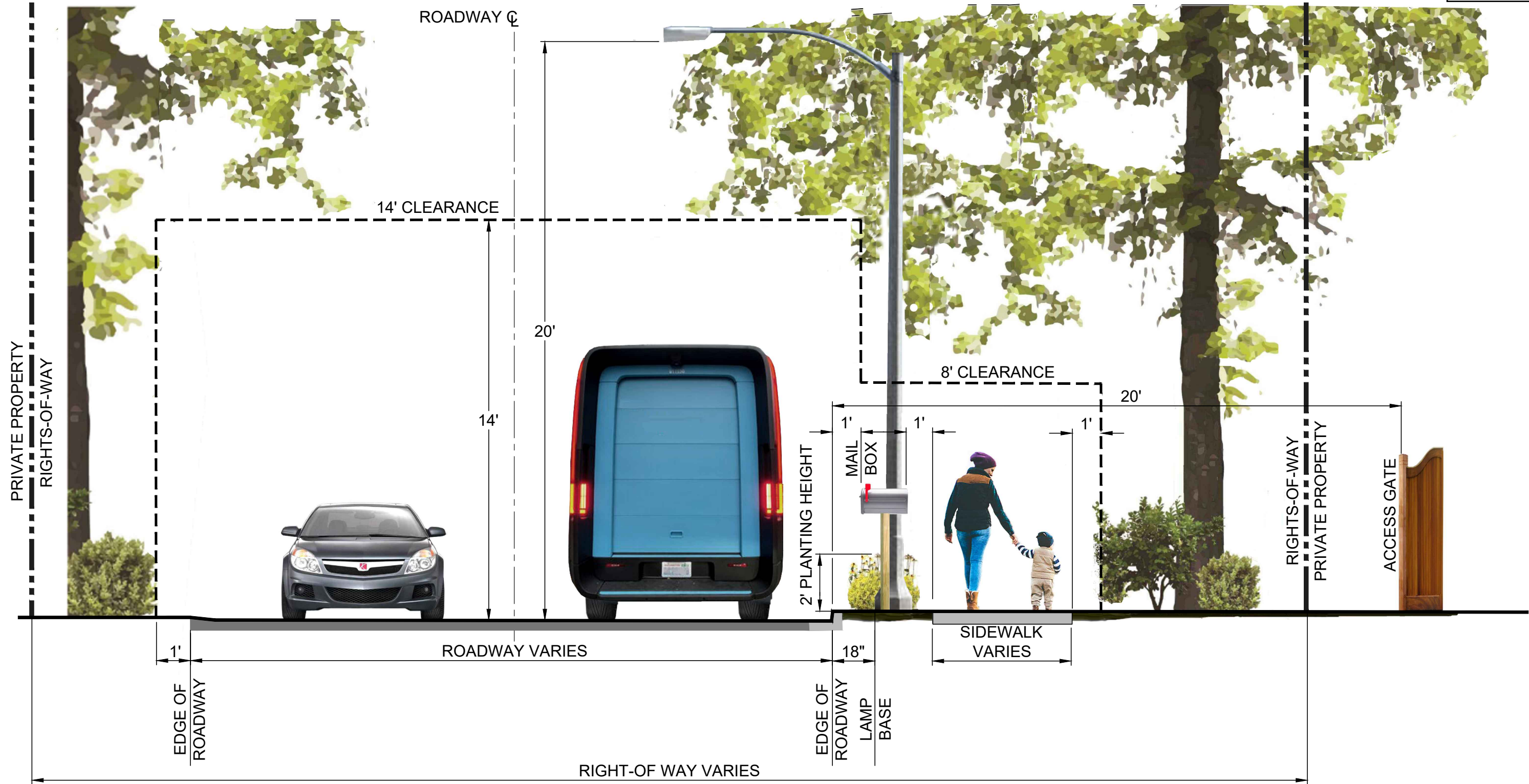
FIGURE 1

Gray & Osborne, Inc.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

10

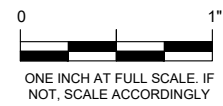
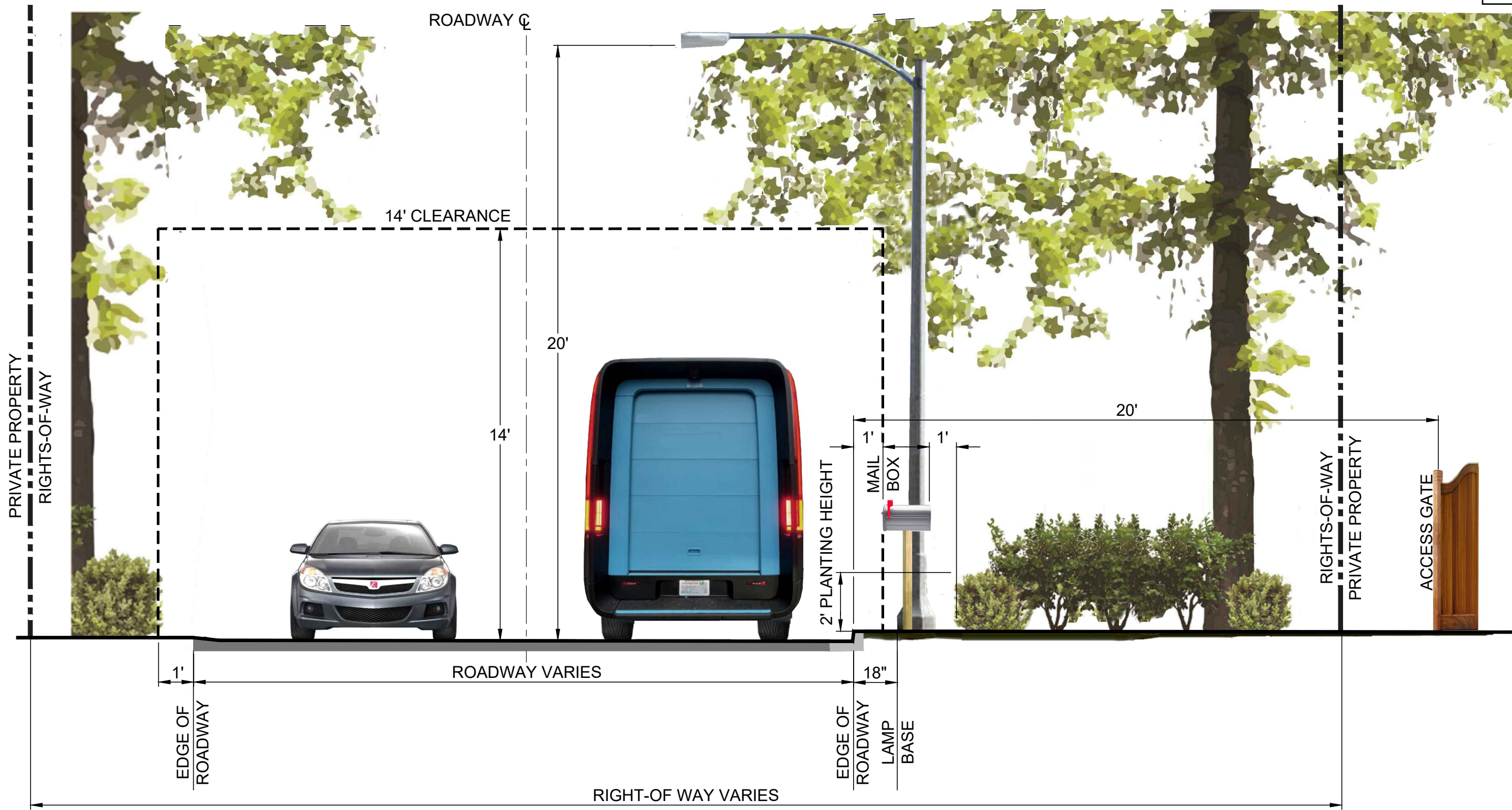
M:\Medina\25439.02 Right-of-Way Clearance Detail\Renderings\Autocad\Fig 1-2-3.dwg, 9/12/2025 3:33 PM, PHILIP MARSHALL



CITY OF MEDINA
RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARANCE
REQUIREMENTS

FIGURE 2

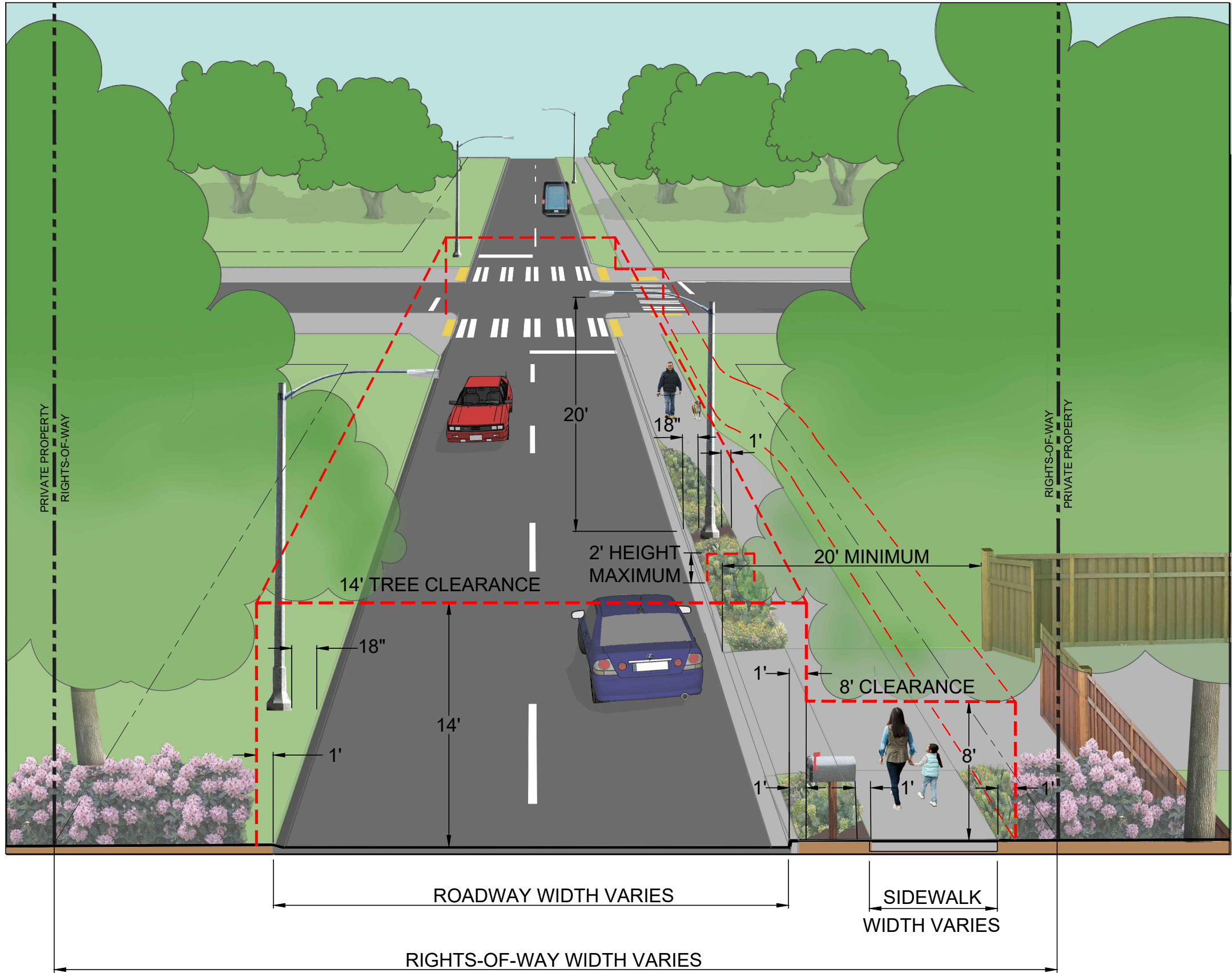




CITY OF MEDINA
RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARANCE
REQUIREMENTS
FIGURE 3



M:\Medina\25439.02 Right-of-Way Clearance Detail\Renderings\Autocad\Fig 4.dwg, 9/16/2025 12:57 PM, PHILIP MARSHALL



CITY OF MEDINA
RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARANCE
REQUIREMENTS
FIGURE 4

Gray & Osborne, Inc.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

13

Ryan Osada

From: Steve Burns
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 8:41 AM
To: Council
Subject: Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Brief
Attachments: Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Brief - Open House and Survey Results.docx; Leaf Blower Written Comments.pdf; Leaf Blower Open House Comment Cards.pdf; Seattle Resolution Leaf Blowers.pdf; Kirkland Resolution Leaf Blower.pdf

Mayor and Councilmembers –

I wanted to provide you with the Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Brief that will be covered during City Business at the Monday, July 10, 2023, Medina Council Meeting.

I have included copies of the comment cards from the open house, citizen comments received by staff, and the resolutions passed by Seattle and Kirkland.

This information will be included in the Council Packet.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Steve

Stephen R. Burns
 City Manager - City of Medina
 501 Evergreen Point Road
 Medina, WA 98039
 Office (425) 233-6412
 Cell (206) 510-7942
sburns@medina-wa.gov



**** WARNING - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ****

This electronic message, and/or its attachments, contain information, which may be privileged and confidential. The information is intended for the exclusive use of the individual(s) or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any secondary dissemination, disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of this information is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately.



CITY OF MEDINA

501 EVERGREEN POINT ROAD | PO BOX 144 | MEDINA WA 98039-0144
TELEPHONE 425-233-6400 | www.medina-wa.gov

Date: July 3, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Stephen R. Burns, City Manager

Subject: Gas-Powered Leaf Blower

The Medina City Council provided City Staff with direction to provide residents with educational material regarding the hazards of gas-powered leaf blowers while soliciting feedback from residents about possible restrictions on gas-powered leaf blowers. This brief is an update to the Council regarding this topic.

CITY STAFF ACTIONS

Education

In March 2023, City Staff created an education page on Engage Medina to provide information to residents about the hazards of gas-powered leaf blowers. The page is located at <https://engagemedina.com/gas-powered-leaf-blowers>.

Open House

The City hosted an Open House on Thursday, May 11, 2023, to solicit feedback from residents and professional landscapers about possible restrictions for gas-powered leaf blowers. Over 15 people showed up and spoke to staff about their concerns. Most filled out comment cards which are included at the end of this brief.

Written Feedback/Input

During this process, City staff received several written recommendations and comments from residents and businesses. These have been included in this report.

Survey

A citywide survey was sent out in June to solicit additional feedback from residents regarding gas-powered leaf blowers. The survey was sent out both electronically and through the United States Postal Service.

With sincere appreciation to Councilmember Gokul for her help in putting together the survey, the questions that were asked include:

1. Gas-powered leaf blowers cause both noise and air pollution. What aspect of leaf blowers most concerns you?
 - a. Noise
 - b. Pollution
 - c. Nothing
 - d. Other, please specify.
2. If you had to select a gas-powered or electric leaf blower, what would you pick?
 - a. Gas-Powered
 - b. Electric
 - c. None
3. Medina Municipal Code reads that “professional yard maintenance and landscaping may take place only between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. On Saturdays, professional yard maintenance and landscaping may occur between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No such work is allowed on Sundays or legal holidays.”

Do you find the code to be effective?

- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. If no, why?
4. Would you favor further restrictions on hours of operation for leaf blowers?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Survey Results

231 mailed in postcards received.

1. Gas-powered leaf blowers cause both noise and air pollution. What aspect of leaf blowers most concerns you?

Noise	Pollution	Nothing	Other
122	70	67	Length of time they blow. Frequency. Health hazard. What professional landscapers rely on. Blows away debris – Not picked up and removed. Hours and duration.

2. If you had to select a gas-powered or electric leaf blower, what would you pick?

Gas-Powered	Electric	None
54	142	17

3. Medina Municipal Code reads that “professional yard maintenance and landscaping may take place only between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. On Saturdays, professional yard maintenance and landscaping may occur between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No such work is allowed on Sundays or legal holidays.”

Do you find the code to be effective?

Yes	No	If no, why?
127	81	Yard work and construction takes place 7 days a week. Should be no noise on Saturdays. Yard work on holidays. Work is done on Sundays. Could we amend to only allow quiet work before 8 AM? People don't follow the code. Code should also apply to homeowners. Too much noise. Why can't professional yard works use a brush or rake? Too much noise. Minimize hours of use. Not enforced. People don't know about it.

		No enforcement mechanism other than calling the police. 7 AM is too early. Never on Sunday. Window is too long. Commercial should be limited to weekdays. Too early for gas blowers. No Sundays is remnant on the past. Some work longer. Golf course maintenance begins at 6 AM. No enforcement. People violate it. Could shorten hours. Needs enforcement on weekends. Ignored by landscapers.
--	--	---

4. Would you favor further restrictions on hours of operation for leaf blowers?

Yes	No
104	96

Additional comments:

- Please enforce decibel code.
- Favor banning leaf blowers.
- There should be no noise on Saturdays.
- Sunday ban harms Medina residents.
- Impacts climate change.
- Ban on Saturdays too.
- Limit noise 9:00 am to 5 pm six days a week.
- Wait a couple of years for electric to improve – not yet as capable as gas.
- Add weed whacker.
- Change code from 7 AM to 8 AM.
- Any work with noisy machines should be between 9 AM and 5 PM, not on weekends.
- Sundays are noisy with homeowners using gas blowers.
- Only favor restriction on hours if against the homeowners, not the contractors.
- There should be strict enforcement 8 AM – 5 PM except Sun and holidays.
- Gas-powered for landscapers and electric for homeowners.
- Ban blowing into the street.
- Isn't it a hardship for landscapers to require them to buy new equipment?
- Yard crews keep our neighborhoods beautiful. We should not make their jobs harder.
- 7:00 am is too early. 8:00 am is more tolerable.
- Medina homeowners should have the right to work on their yards on Sunday.
- Focus attention on other matters.

- End hours during the week by 6 PM.
- Maintenance professionals need gas blowers.

NOTE: Council can review each individual survey response at City Hall, if requested.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

There are several options for Council to consider on gas-powered leaf blowers. Below are a few options to consider:

Option 1: Council could not act and wait until either King County or the State of Washington pass legislation banning gas-powered leaf blowers.

Option 2: Council could refer to the Planning Commission by providing specific guidance to review and provide recommendations regarding gas-powered leaf blowers.

Option 3: Council could direct staff to prepare a resolution like other jurisdictions which could include the following items:

- Recommend or require Medina City Public Works to replace gas-powered leaf blowers with electric or battery operated within a time period or when phasing out old equipment.
- Encourage residents and businesses to voluntarily replace gas-powered equipment with electric or battery operated.

Option 4: Council could reduce the hours of leaf blower use through updating the code.

Option 5: Council could pass an ordinance to ban gas-powered leaf blowers.

Existing Medina Code Sections

As a reference, the current MMC language regarding landscaping hours for professional and residential use.

8.06.160. - Work hours for commercial construction and development activities and professional yard maintenance and landscaping.

- A. *General.* Commercial construction and development activities and professional yard maintenance and landscaping may take place only between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. On Saturdays, commercial construction and development activities may occur between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and professional yard maintenance and landscaping may occur between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No such work is allowed on Sundays or legal holidays set forth in RCW 1.16.050(1).

8.06.140. - Exemptions—Sounds exempt during daylight hours.

The following sounds are exempt from this chapter between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekends, unless different hours are specified:

- A. Sounds created by bells, chimes, or carillons not operating for more than five minutes during any one-hour time frame;
- B. Sounds created by blasting, provided their operations are between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, and between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.
- C. Sounds originating from lawful pickets, marches, parades, rallies, and other similar public events.
- D. Sounds created by powered equipment when used by a resident or by the Overlake Golf and Country Club for the temporary or periodic maintenance or repair of their property or its appurtenances, including lawnmowers, leaf blowers, powered hand tools, and snow-removal equipment, provided such use is between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekends.
- E. Sounds originating from the required testing of emergency equipment such as generators.

Attachments:

- 1. Open House Comment Cards
- 2. Written feedback, input, and comments
- 3. Gas-powered Leaf Blower Resolutions from the City of Seattle and the City of Kirkland



Comment Card: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

NAME: Cathy Bauler DATE: 5/11/2023

Email: oakleafproductions@msn.com

Comments: _____

Buy a rake!!!!
Seriously, it's so loud all day
every week day.

Resident:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Landscaper:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Company Name: _____

Contact: _____



Comment Card: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

NAME: Steven Breyer DATE: 5/11/2023

Email steven_breyer@hotmail.com

Comments: First step should be for Medina Public
Works to switch to electric, including mowers.
Should have a total ban on all equipment that
phases in over 3-5 years to allow residents
and landscape companies to more easily transition.
Should provide report to Council + Residents on

Resident:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Landscape:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Company Name: _____

Contact: _____

expected incremental costs.

Perhaps provide charging facility that gardeners can use for their equipment (with sign-up to avoid extra traffic) - at Medina Parks Maintenance Facility. Ensure

that Medina Nursery, Chevron, and Overlake (and any other businesses) are included in any restrictions.



Contact: _____

Resident: Saturdays - loss of enjoyment of a
 Yes K No weekend day outside
 with listening to blowers.
 Landscaper:



Comment Card: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

NAME: MICHAEL HIGGINS DATE: _____

Email: MHIGGINS2003@MSN.COM

Comments: I WOULD LIKE TO SEE GAS
BLOWERS EITHER ELIMINATED
OR EXTREMELY RESTRICTED

Resident:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Landscaper:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Company Name: _____

Contact: 725 450 4045



Comment Card: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

NAME: Ching-Pi Wang DATE: May 11, 2023

Email: chatcolet@gmail.com

Comments: Request an exemption for home-
owner use of gas-powered blowers.

Homeowner to use during reasonable
work hours. Any future resolution, code,
ordinance should allow for homeowner
use.

Resident:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Landscaper:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Company Name: _____

Contact: _____



Comment Card: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

NAME: Daniel Lipkie DATE: 5/11/23

Email: daniel.lipkie@outlook.com

Comments: Gas-No Electric yes- We have
landscapers that use electric- but multiple
neighbors that don't. The sound & smell are
the reasons we prefer electric

Resident:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Landscaper: ~~Britscope~~ ~~Britscope~~ ~~Britscope~~

Yes ☒ No ☒ NO

Company Name: Britscope

Contact: _____



Comment Card: Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

NAME: Roberta Goodnow DATE: 5/11/23

Email roberta.goodnow@outlook.com

Comments: I realize homeowners need to have their
yards maintained, however, the gas-powered
blowers are so loud! I would like to be able to
walk without hearing the gas-powered ones.

Every Friday, I hear a gas-powered blower nearby
our home for a couple hours & I'm inside our house --
we move our activities to the other side of our house
indoors during that time.

Resident:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Landscaper:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Company Name: _____

Contact: _____

Steve Burns

Subject: FW: Gas Blowers

From: Alex Morcos <alexmorcos@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 10:42 AM

To: Aimee Kellerman <akellerman@medina-wa.gov>

Cc: Steve Burns <Sburns@medina-wa.gov>; Steve Wilcox <swilcox@medina-wa.gov>; Ryan Osada <rosada@medina-wa.gov>

Subject: RE: Gas Blowers

Thank you Aimee. I registered at the Engage Medina site that you suggested.

As for my comments regarding gas powered leaf-blowers, please consider this as my input on the subject (which was also discussed numerous times when I was on council).

"Medina is a Sylvan City that puts a lot of emphasis on green spaces and protecting trees. As a result, it is a collection of mostly large properties with an expansive amount of grass, shrubs, green spaces, and trees. It is of high importance to most Medina residents that their properties are well-maintained, whether through mowing grass, pruning trees and bushes, or removing landscape debris resulting from trimming or just naturally falling leaves. Raking leaves manually is impractical and close to impossible in many large properties. Thus, the use of leaf-blowers is necessary. Banning leaf-blowers, like a very small number of cities have attempted to enforce around the country, is not reasonable or realistic. A compromise can be achieved that would satisfy most residents. Some gas-powered leaf-blowers are noisy and produce noxious gases. Yet many newer models are built with environmental considerations in mind. What I would propose is a collection of ideas that can make the city a more enjoyable place while still allowing residents to manage their lawns by themselves or with the help of landscape professionals.

1. Since leaf blowing mostly occurs AFTER landscapers or homeowners have trimmed and mowed their lawns, it is acceptable to restrict any leaf blowers not to be used earlier than 9 am. Other types of construction as well as lawn mowing and pruning can still happen after 7 am weekdays based on the current MMC. Just leaf blowers to be restricted to after 9 am.
2. Consider a code revision that regulates the decibel rating on leaf blowers not to exceed 70 dBA. There are gas-powered leaf blowers like the Echo PB-255LN at a noise rating of 64 dBA. A 70 dBA maximum is reasonable and results in the noise at a neighboring property to be in the 60 dBA range, not much louder than existing AC units and generators.
3. If item 2 (restricting the dBA rating) was to be applied, allow for a couple of years' notice to permit landscapers and homeowners to plan accordingly at replacing their existing machines.
4. Recommend but do not enforce only battery-powered leaf-blowers; current technology may not have the necessary blowing power when using a battery-operated leaf blower compared to gas models, not to mention the shorter lifetime due to battery charges. Battery-powered leaf blowers may be reasonable to use on small properties such as properties in the R16 zones, but remember that Medina includes R20 and R30 zones with properties larger than 20,000 SF and 30,000 SF respectively which makes a battery-powered leaf blower quite an inconvenience."

Thank you all for your good work at the city.

Alex Morcos

Steve Burns

From: Bruce Freed <bruce.freed@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6:39 AM
To: Steve Burns
Subject: Re: blowers

Good morning Steve—thanks for the reply. Just in to be clear...chainsaws, weed eaters, mowers large and small, power hedgers, blowers, bobcats, small tractors, etc.... They all pollute via air and noise. The tool you choose to fit your narrative was the blower. So you convince the public that if we can eliminate the blower air and sound quality will improve. The only problem I see isthe problem..the blower....the answer is banning...so the desired result will follow. The desired result of clearer air....doesn't seem to have any documentation to support the case. You were unable to produce a single example of improved air quality to any city who has banned the gas power blower. Actually you have proved the blower is not the problem we thought it was otherwise the evidence would be obvious. I agree the electric blower is somewhat quieter but, not as effective. So really as far as banning a gas blower it is not really a game changer for any city unless the desired result was to "feel better" about the cause/narrative. Please remember I have no real opposition to electric cars and equipment but, I am also think if you are going to ask the greenest industry to make such a large change you should have solid reasons.

Speaking of offsets...can you think of an industry...gardening and landscape...which is the job of planting trees and shrubs not to mention the care of the greenery in the community. Interesting..... Thanks, Bruce Freed

Bruce Freed
 bruce.freed@me.com

On Apr 24, 2023, at 3:33 PM, Steve Burns <Sburns@medina-wa.gov> wrote:

Bruce –

You asked a great question, and I cannot find any scientific studies that have compared pre-gas powered leaf blower bans versus post ban.

There are a lot of studies that identify gas-powered leaf blower hazards for noise and air pollution.

I will continue to search and if I find one, I will let you know.

Thanks, Steve

Stephen R. Burns
 City Manager - City of Medina
 501 Evergreen Point Road
 Medina, WA 98039
 Office (425) 233-6412
 Cell (206) 510-7942
sburns@medina-wa.gov

<image001.png>

**** WARNING - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ****

This electronic message, and/or its attachments, contain information, which may be privileged and confidential. The information is intended for the exclusive use of the individual(s) or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any secondary dissemination, disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of this information is prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately.

From: Bruce Freed <bruce.freed@me.com>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:28 AM
To: Steve Burns <Sburns@medina-wa.gov>
Subject: blowers

Is there any study that shows air pollution has vastly improved due to the banning of leaf blowers in that city for which they were banned??? After all I read it is low hanging fruit....so I assume there is plenty of documentation which influences the decision making. So for example the city of Del Mar is now experiencing much better air quality because they have banned leaf blowers. Thanks, Bruce Freed

Bruce Freed
bruce.freed@me.com

Steve Burns

From: Huan Bui <cardiper@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 7:16 PM
To: Steve Burns
Subject: swilcox@medina-wa.gov, rosada@medina-wa.gov

Dear Council Members,

I understand you are to discuss on banning gas-powered leaf blowers within the City of Medina to reduce air emissions and noise pollution. Base on those reasons, some may argue a ban on all ICE vehicles is more effective but is a much harder task. Also, the most effective ban of any products that deems harmful or unfriendly to the enviroment is to ban from its source.

It should have a grand father clause for those residents who had own one prior to this proposal as similar to others jurisdiction in the article attached.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Huan Bui



Gas leaf blowers and lawn mowers
 are shockingly bad for the planet.
 Bans are beginning to spread.
 USA TODAY

Steve Burns

From: Allison Frey <awfrey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 9:46 AM
To: Steve Burns
Subject: Fwd: Survey - Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers in Medina

Hi there. Just took this but am uncomfortable with the unintended consequences of asking maintenance and yard people, whose margins are already slim, to make capital investments to accommodate our community. Also, it's a bit of hypocrisy to ask external maintenance crews to give up the gas when our parks team is booping around on loud, gas powered atvs.

Is there an opportunity for a buy-back program thru the city where landscapers could trade in their gas blowers for cash or electric ones?

My two cents (that I couldn't put into the survey)

A

Begin forwarded message:

From: City of Medina <wamedina@service.govdelivery.com>
Date: May 30, 2023 at 8:02:59 AM PDT
To: awfrey@yahoo.com
Subject: Survey - Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers in Medina
Reply-To: wamedina@service.govdelivery.com



Steve Burns

From: Doug Hutson <airbear1@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 9:55 AM
To: Steve Burns
Subject: Gas blower survey

Good morning Steve,

I just took the gas powered blower survey and found that it was very minimal in allowing me to express my ideas on the subject. Can you explain what your role in this policy will be going forward? I intend to comm w/ the council as well, but wanted to touch base with you.

I am strongly opposed to a ban. I fully understand opposition to the blowers, I also wish I didn't have to hear them as often as I do in the forest I live in. However, by far the biggest maintenance issue I have at my residence is cleaning the CONSTANT debris that my trees drop onto my roof, gutters, and grounds. Gas powered blowers are the only thing that make it bearable. I don't believe that electric will prove adequate to the task.

Finally, I wish to point out the incongruence of the City's policy and tree code which severely restricts tree removal, but then would not allow homeowners the means to deal with their effects in a reasonable manner. It really seems to me that the City cannot have it both ways.

Much thanks,
Doug Hutson
101 Overlake Dr E

To Medina City Council Members:

A Public Comments on Leaf Blower Regulation:

The leaf blower survey was missing several critical questions. If the City really wanted resident's input on blower regulations, the survey should have asked, do you support the city's efforts to ban leaf blowers? Then list the alternatives and ask residents to show their preferences. Based on the rather random questions on the survey, it appears that the survey purpose is simply so that the City could "say" it sent out a survey that informed their regulations.

The city webpage on Leaf Blower regulation does not have information about the environmental impact of electric blowers, how much noise electric blowers make and the *cumulative* noise impacts of electric blowers since they take longer to do the job. It also lacks information on the impact of gas powered leaf blower regulation on the cost to yard service companies, the decrease of yard service company availability in cities that have banned leaf blowers and the increase in price for yard services in cities that enacted bans. The City and council members have an obligation to understand all the consequences before making a decision.

The City's webpage on leaf blowers lacks information on what their phased approach to banning is. That information should be clearly available so that residents can comment on it and it should have been included in the survey.

I would encourage the City Council members to understand all the consequences of a gas powered leaf blower ban. In order to stay in business, smaller yard service companies and family run companies will likely take their services elsewhere where they can complete enough jobs per day to stay in business and not increase their overhead by having to purchase multiple electric blowers to get them through the day (batteries don't last all day). This will increase the cost of yard service, which for some is not an issue but is a problem for the fixed income crowd living. Blower noise may end up being more extensive as it just takes longer to do a job with an electric blower. I do wonder if the City feels strong enough about banning gas powered blowers because of their noise and environmental impact, why wouldn't you also ban gas powered boats, power washers, lawn mowers, chain saws, hedge trimmers and edgers? Or does the City just want to ban gas powered leaf blowers for the optics?

Of course the city should work to encourage companies and individuals to voluntarily move to equipment that is less impactful to the environment as the technology improves and becomes available. No argument there. Through education, publications, the press's focus on climate impacts and better electric technology, the industry already is and will naturally migrate to cleaner tools. In the meantime, appropriate regulations on hours of use helps limit the noise. In addition, any individual resident could purchase an electric blower for themselves and for the landscapers that work at their home. This allows those that have the means and desire to start the migration to do so, while allowing those without the means to do it later as they naturally need to replace equipment. Forcing the issue through city regulation is not necessary.

Unfortunately because of the likelihood of being "cancelled" by a few of the more vocal residents in our community, I am not comfortable signing my name. I wonder how many others feel the same way!

Sincerely,

A Medina Resident

Steve Burns

From: Stephie Borgförd <borgfords@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 5:14 PM
To: Steve Burns
Subject: Gas powered leaf blowers

Dear City Manager Burns,

My name is Stephenie Borgford and I live at 7841 NE Tenth St here in Medina. I have lived here since 1975 and my parents, Richard and Sheryl lived here since the early 70s when my grandfather purchased this property at an estate auction.

In your introduction on Medina's page you write "I want to welcome you to the City of Medina – a tremendous place to live, play, and work." Unfortunately, this statement reflects the Medina I knew ten some years ago but is not reflective of today. One of the main reasons I state this is that gas powered blowers have made for an absolute miserable existence here in Medina ruining the special feel of this city.. From dawn to dusk, there is hardly a quiet moment here as there is always the LOUD noise from gas powered blowers. They make living in this beautiful area hell honestly.

For the past two years I have been mainly residing in Eastern Europe and I can safely say that even in giant dirty polluted cities like Bucharest in the center, it is quieter than Medina. In the past two years I have stayed at literally hundreds of different places, from small houses on islands in Croatia to hotels in wartime Kyiv and in some of Eastern Europe's biggest cities and I can safely say none of those places have had the absolute horribly intrusive noise of these gas powered blowers.

I have written the council quite often. I have made my view known. In fact, this is honestly one main reason I chose to live elsewhere for the majority of the year. The noise is so bad, it's not worth staying here for a long period of time. I find this sad as my property used to be peaceful.

Big cities like Vancouver BC, Washington DC and the entire state of California have all banned these. I fail to understand why medina cannot act. The time for talking and input is over!! At what point does this start to affect home values? Who wants to purchase a 4 million dollar home only to hear blowers all day???? I would be disappointed if I were a buyer.

This situation is unbearable, unacceptable and cannot continue. It will only get worse. Action is needed. Words won't make this area more peaceful.

I am looking forward to returning to Bucharest and Chişinău, Republic of Moldova where I can enjoy tranquility!!! Who would imagine a person would say Romania and moldova are more peaceful but they are.

I hope someday the city will act responsibly and put an end to this nightmare. Thank you for your attention. Sincerely,

Stephenie A. Borgford

--
 Stephenie Borgford

RESOLUTION R-5585

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT AN ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER INITIATIVE TO TRANSITION THE CITY'S GAS-POWERED HAND-HELD AND BACKPACK LEAF BLOWERS TO ELECTRIC, ADMINISTER FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SECTOR AND RESIDENT EQUIPMENT CONVERSION, AND EXPLORE LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS IN THE CITY OF KIRKLAND BY DECEMBER 31, 2025.

1 WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council has prioritized preserving
2 the environment by adopting the 2023-2024 Council Sustainable
3 Environment goal to "Protect our natural environment through
4 sustainable goals and practices to meet the needs of community
5 members for a healthy environment and clean energy without
6 compromising the needs of future generations"; and
7

8 WHEREAS, on December 8, 2020 the Council adopted Resolution
9 R-5457 approving Kirkland's Sustainability Master Plan which establishes
10 environmental goals for the City and 200 actions including SG-1.10, "the
11 City will explore [the] reduction of or elimination of gas-powered
12 landscaping equipment in City operations"; and
13

14 WHEREAS, on February 21, 2023 the Council adopted Resolution
15 R-5578, adopting the 2023-2024 City Work Program, including a work
16 plan item to "prioritize and continue to fund Sustainability Master Plan
17 actions to further equity, energy efficiency, public health, and a clean
18 energy economy that promotes a sustainable and resilient environment
19 to further the Sustainable Environment goal"; and
20

21 WHEREAS, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in
22 2020, the City has received a high volume of noise complaints about
23 leaf blowers, and responding to these complaints was a key factor
24 prompting exploration of this initiative; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the Council included \$500,000 in American Rescue
27 Plan Act Funds in the adopted 2023-2024 budget to support
28 transitioning the City's equipment to all electric leaf blowers and
29 incentives for private sector and resident conversion; and
30

31 WHEREAS, initial research shows that current electric leaf blower
32 models produce similar noise levels to gas powered leaf blowers, but
33 that electric motors have more potential to reduce noise pollution and
34 electric leaf blower technology is anticipated to improve in the coming
35 years; and
36

37 WHEREAS, research also shows gas-powered equipment has
38 negative health impacts on operators and negative environmental
39 impacts from extracting natural resources and burning fossil fuels that
40 contribute to climate change; and

R-5585

41 WHEREAS, this initiative would impact landscaping businesses
42 who are often small operations owned by culturally diverse members of
43 the community and who are also disproportionately exposed to
44 emissions at a higher rate than other community members; and
45

46 WHEREAS, providing financial incentives to support Kirkland
47 businesses through the transition will be important to maximizing the
48 benefit of offering an electric landscaping service to Kirkland clients and
49 reduce any associated burdens, especially on small businesses; and
50

51 WHEREAS, similar financial incentives may be strategic to
52 encourage adoption of electric equipment among Kirkland residents and
53 support community members that may be experiencing economic
54 constraints in making the transition; and
55

56 WHEREAS, research also shows an environmental trade-off by
57 converting to electric equipment, where the mining, extraction,
58 production, and recycling processes for batteries also causes significant
59 environmental harm; and
60

61 WHEREAS, acknowledging this complexity, policymakers around
62 the country are still choosing to act to reduce emissions, and potentially
63 noise pollution, in their communities and protect health and safety of
64 users by sunseting gas-powered equipment including in Washington
65 D.C., California, Multnomah County, Seattle, and other cities in the
66 Puget Sound region; and
67

68 WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has considered
69 legislation in the past to incentivize purchase of electric equipment
70 through financial incentives and although the bills presented did not
71 pass out of the legislature, Kirkland's legislative delegation has
72 expressed that future action is likely; and
73

74 WHEREAS, the Electric Leaf Blower Initiative positions Kirkland
75 to be proactive and effective in anticipation of potential future State
76 decisions to sunset gas-powered equipment, in addition to reducing
77 emissions in Kirkland and protecting health of users; and
78

79 WHEREAS, the City's Parks and Community Services and Public
80 Works Departments have already purchased and use a combined total
81 of 18 electric leaf blowers and actively consider electric options when
82 the nearly 70 gas-powered leaf blowers in the fleet reach the end of
83 their useful life; and
84

85 WHEREAS, in early 2023 the City Manager met with staff from
86 the City's Parks and Community Services and Public Works Departments
87 and hosted a focus group with Kirkland landscaping businesses to learn
88 what impacts a transition to all electric equipment would have and how
89 to work together to make this initiative a success; and
90

91 WHEREAS, City staff met with staff from the Kirkland
92 Congressional delegation to discuss opportunities for funding and
93 partnerships and there was expressed support for the initiative and
94 interest in identifying collaboration opportunities in the future; and

R-5585

95 WHEREAS, staff gathered key insights from the stakeholder
96 engagement and incorporated the opportunities and key challenges into
97 the proposed Electric Leaf Blower Initiative three-phased approach,
98 including key milestones set forth in this Resolution.
99

100 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City
101 of Kirkland as follows:
102

103 Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed
104 to implement an electric leaf blower initiative that would achieve the
105 following goals:

- 106 a. Sunset the use of gas-powered hand-held and backpack leaf
107 blowers in Kirkland by a target date of December 31, 2025
- 108 b. Reduce negative health impacts caused by emissions from gas-
109 powered leaf blowers
- 110 c. Ensure a responsive transition to electric leaf blowers that
111 reduces the burden and maximizes the potential benefit to
112 Kirkland landscaping businesses and residents
- 113 d. Be proactive in anticipation of potential State decisions to sunset
114 gas-powered equipment
- 115 e. Develop mechanisms to effectively improve enforcement of
116 existing city noise regulations (KMC 11.84A.070 and KZC 115.95)
117 on all uses of gas- and electric-powered landscaping equipment
118 to provide relief to residents prior to conversion or technological
119 improvements
120

121 Section 2. The initiative shall develop strategies to address
122 challenges identified throughout initial stakeholder engagement,
123 including, but not limited to, the following:

- 124 a. Electric equipment is heavier than gas-powered equipment and
125 with extended use, may create an ergonomics concern for users
- 126 b. Limited availability of powerful, commercial-grade electric
127 equipment currently available on the market.
- 128 c. The potential impact of less powerful equipment on length of
129 operations and service levels and the potential increase in costs
130 to businesses and customers.
- 131 d. Ethical disposal process for functioning gas-powered equipment.
- 132 e. Ensuring sufficient charging infrastructure and exploration of
133 alternative energy sources to charge equipment.
- 134 f. Noise pollution produced by electric leaf blowers.
- 135 g. Batter related challenges such as high acquisition cost for the
136 quantity needed per day, concerns around the disposal/recycling
137 process, less reliability in cold temperatures, and need for mobile
138 recharging options that do not rely on gas-powered generators.
- 139 h. Consideration of expanding the scope of the initiative or identify
140 opportunities for future initiatives to address other gas-powered
141 landscaping equipment or gas-powered equipment more
142 broadly, should stakeholder and regional engagement and other
143 learnings suggest opportunity for pragmatic scope expansion.
- 144 i. Effectiveness and equity concerns with enforcement of a
145 potential ordinance sunsetting gas-powered equipment,
146 including enforcement plan options for future Council
147 consideration.
- 148 j. Minimize potential disruption to equipment replacement cycles
149 for businesses and the City.

R-5585

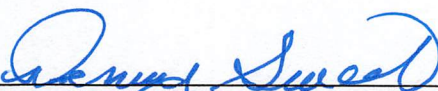
- k. Providing financial incentives to support of the transition of landscaping operations.
- l. Providing financial incentives, especially for low- and moderate-income residents, to support the transition of household equipment.
- m. Explore potential regional collaboration for the transition.
- n. Consider supporting County or State-wide action to transition to electric leaf blowers as part of the City of Kirkland legislative agenda.
- o. Evaluate any potential City budget implications that may result from changing service levels by using electric equipment.

Section 3. The City Manager is further authorized and directed to deploy a three-phased approach with key target milestones to accomplish the Initiative's goals. The City Manager may propose changes to these milestones based on new information, learnings, and opportunities:

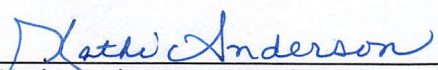
- a. 2023: City pilots, evaluates, develops, and begins implementing a transition plan for the City's equipment; engages federal and state officials in support of the initiative; and initiates outreach to regional partners and key stakeholders in the community including, but not limited to, the Lake Washington Institute for Technology Horticulture Program, Quiet Clean Kirkland, the Washington State Nursery and Landscaping Association, and the Lake Washington School District; and deploys any Council approved improved enforcement of noise regulations to provide immediate relief to residents.
- b. 2024: City implements financial incentive programs to support private sector and resident transition to electric equipment; continues City transition and stakeholder engagement; and deploys an educational and information campaign for Kirkland residential households and businesses.
- c. 2025: Propose an ordinance for Council consideration sunsetting hand-held and backpack gas-powered equipment city-wide while continuing City, business, and resident transitions.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this 18th day of April, 2023.

Signed in authentication thereof this 18th day of April, 2023.


Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:


Kathi Anderson, City Clerk

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____ 32064

A RESOLUTION declaring the City Council’s intent to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers; establishing goals and identifying actions to meet these goals.

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle (“City”) has the authority to adopt policies to protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the City Council (“Council”) adopted Statement of Legislative Intent OSE-003-B-001 requesting that City departments develop a plan to phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Seattle within two years and submit this plan to the Council by September 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Council is seeking to reinforce and elevate this request through this resolution by establishing goals and articulating specific actions the City should take to gradually phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the City’s Department of Planning and Development (now the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections) considered strategies to reduce or eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in their response to Statement of Legislative Intent SLI 70-1-A-1 and recommended no new regulations or changes to City practices due to the lack of equivalent electric alternatives and other considerations at that time; and

WHEREAS, since then, new data have revealed more of the environmental and public health impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers; electric leaf blowers technology has improved; and other jurisdictions have moved to eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers; and

WHEREAS, gas-powered leaf blowers most commonly have two-stroke internal combustion engines that incompletely combust their fuel, resulting in the emission of toxic and

1 carcinogenic substances, such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic
2 compounds, which contribute to the formation of ozone, smog, and acid rain; and
3 WHEREAS, best available data indicate that the use of gas-powered leaf blowers can cause
4 direct harm to people within the vicinity by contributing to localized air pollution,
5 creating excessive noise, and causing other negative health impacts to their operators,
6 who disproportionately identify as Latinx or Hispanic (46 percent) relative to overall
7 workplace demographics (18 percent); and
8 WHEREAS, operating a leaf blower results in particulate matter lifting into the air, which has
9 been shown to degrade localized air quality by increasing coarse and fine particles by
10 more than 60 percent relative to ambient air, and the smallest particles can remain in the
11 air for up to a week; and
12 WHEREAS, studies from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicate
13 that fugitive dust (i.e., particulate matter) and exhaust emissions from gas-powered leaf
14 blowers can pose significant health risks to operators and the public, including
15 “cardiovascular disease, stroke, respiratory disease, cancer, neurological conditions,
16 premature death, and effects on prenatal development”; and
17 WHEREAS, gas-powered leaf blowers with two-stroke engines emit particularly low-frequency
18 sound waves, including ultra-low frequency, which cause the sounds to travel longer
19 distances and more easily penetrate walls and other barriers, magnifying the impacts of
20 nuisance noise; and
21 WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board determined that operators of gas-powered leaf
22 blowers may be exposed to an average sound of 88–101.3 decibels (dBs), which exceeds
23 acceptable thresholds set by the World Health Organization, the United States

1 Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Washington
2 State; and

3 WHEREAS, regular exposure to sound levels higher than 70 dBS can cause hearing damage and
4 loss to operators, and studies have shown that high environmental noise pollution can
5 contribute to the incidence of arterial hypertension, myocardial infarction, tinnitus, and
6 stroke; and

7 WHEREAS, the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) established a Racial Equity
8 Toolkit (2012) analysis process, wherein the City committed to racial equity and justice
9 principles, including prioritizing stakeholder engagement throughout policy development,
10 especially stakeholders who are directly affected by a policy’s implementation; and

11 WHEREAS, in response to the considerable negative impacts from gas-powered leaf blowers,
12 over 100 cities across the nation have instituted policies limiting or banning them from
13 use, and California has passed Assembly Bill 1346, which requires the California Air
14 Resources Board to create a plan to phase out the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers in
15 California by 2024; and

16 WHEREAS, electric leaf blowers are quieter than gas-powered versions and do not emit low-
17 frequency sound waves or toxic emissions, reducing harm to operators and other people
18 nearby; and

19 WHEREAS, several City departments continue to use gas-powered leaf blowers, including
20 Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Seattle Department of Transportation, and Seattle City
21 Light; and

Yolanda Ho / Toby Thaler
LEG Leaf Blower Phase Out RES
D2

1 WHEREAS, transitioning away from fossil fuel-powered leaf blowers is consistent with the
2 City's electrification plans to phase out the use of fossil fuels for transportation and
3 buildings; and

4 WHEREAS, while Seattle Parks and Recreation has already committed to transition ten percent
5 of its gas-powered leaf blowers to electric models each year to reach 50 percent leaf
6 blower electrification by 2026, the harms to workers, residents, and the environment and
7 the wider availability of equivalent electric alternatives warrant a faster and more
8 thorough implementation; NOW, THEREFORE,

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

10 Section 1. The City Council recognizes that the use of gas-powered leaf blowers causes
11 significant adverse environmental and health impacts, including noise and air pollution, and
12 establishes the following goals to support an expeditious transition away from their use:

13 A. By January 2025, or later if necessary, the City and its contractors will phase out the
14 use of gas-powered leaf blowers; and

15 B. By January 2027, or later if necessary, institutions located in Seattle, businesses
16 operating in Seattle, and Seattle residents will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

17 Section 2. To accomplish the goals in Section 1 of this resolution, the Council requests
18 that City departments (as suggested below) pursue the following actions:

19 A. Seattle Parks and Recreation, the Department of Finance and Administrative Services
20 (FAS), Seattle City Light, the Seattle Department of Transportation, and other departments as
21 appropriate, are requested to:

1. Evaluate their current practices related to the use of leaf blowers and explore options to reduce reliance on leaf blowers, both gas-powered and electric, either by allowing leaves to naturally decompose or clearing them using non-motorized methods; and

2. Develop and implement plans to ensure that City facilities and employees are adequately equipped with infrastructure and equipment to use electric-powered leaf blowers rather than gas-powered leaf blowers.

B. Seattle Public Utilities, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections (SDCI), the Office of Labor Standards, and the Department of Neighborhoods are requested to design a culturally- and linguistically-appropriate education and outreach strategy that informs City employees, businesses, and the general public of the negative health and environmental impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers, and encourages residents to adopt alternatives that are safer, quieter, and more environmentally friendly.

C. FAS, SDCI, and other departments, as appropriate, are requested to develop a proposal that would phase out and ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within Seattle. The proposal should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. A Racial Equity Toolkit analysis to identify benefits or burdens of the proposal and gather feedback from key stakeholders, such as landscaping businesses that operate in Seattle;

2. Whether the City should offer incentives, such as a buyback program or rebates, to landscaping businesses that operate in Seattle and low-income Seattle residents;

3. What regulatory mechanism (e.g., amendment to the Noise Code) is most appropriate to support enforcement of the ban; and

Yolanda Ho / Toby Thaler
LEG Leaf Blower Phase Out RES
D2

1 4. The potential benefits and reasonably quantifiable net costs (if any) to the City
2 of implementation and enforcement of the actions requested by this resolution.

3 Section 3. The Council requests that the Executive provide to the City Council's
4 Sustainability & Renters' Rights Committee or other committee as appropriate by December 2,
5 2022, a proposed work program, timeline, and budget to achieve the goals of this resolution.

6 Section 4. Nothing in this resolution should be construed to preclude or impede the City's
7 ability to more quickly phase out gas-powered leaf blowers.

Yolanda Ho / Toby Thaler
LEG Leaf Blower Phase Out RES
D2

1 Adopted by the City Council the 6th day of September, 2022,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 6th day of
3 September, 2022.

4 
5 President _____ of the City Council

6 Filed by me this 6th day of September, 2022.

7 
8 Elizabeth M. Adkisson, Interim City Clerk

9 (Seal)

CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 435

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE CITY COUNCIL'S INTENT TO PHASE OUT GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS; ESTABLISHING GOALS AND IDENTIFYING ACTIONS TO MEET THESE GOALS

WHEREAS, the City of Medina ("City") has the authority to adopt policies to protect and promote public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, data has revealed the environmental and public health impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers; and

WHEREAS, gas-powered leaf blowers most commonly have two-stroke internal combustion engines that incompletely combust their fuel, resulting in the emission of toxic and carcinogenic substances, such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds, which contribute to the formation of ozone, smog, and acid rain; and

WHEREAS, best available data indicate that the use of gas-powered leaf blowers can cause direct harm to people within the vicinity by contributing to localized air pollution, creating excessive noise, and causing other negative health impacts to their operators; and

WHEREAS, gas-powered leaf blowers with two-stroke engines emit particularly low-frequency sound waves, including ultra-low frequency, which cause the sounds to travel longer distances and more easily penetrate walls and other barriers, magnifying the impacts of nuisance noise; and

WHEREAS, initial research shows that current electric leaf blower models produce similar noise levels to gas powered leaf blowers, but that electric motors have more potential to reduce noise pollution and electric leaf blower technology is anticipated to improve in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, electric leaf blowers are quieter than gas-powered versions and do not emit low frequency sound waves or toxic emissions, reducing harm to operators and other people nearby; and

WHEREAS, in response to the considerable negative impacts from gas-powered leaf blowers, over 100 cities across the nation have instituted policies limiting or banning them from use; and

WHEREAS, the City public works department currently uses gas-powered leaf blowers.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council recognizes that the use of gas-powered leaf blowers causes adverse environmental and health impacts, including noise and establishes the following goals to support the transition away from their use:

Resolution No. 435

Page 1 of 3

- A. By January 2028, or later if necessary, the City, and its contractors will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers; and
- B. By January 2028, or later if necessary, institutions located in Medina, businesses operating in Medina, and Medina residents will phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

Section 2. To accomplish the goals in Section 1 of this resolution, the Council requests that City departments (as suggested below) pursue the following actions:

A. Medina Public Works is recommended to:

- 1. Evaluate their current practices related to the use of leaf blowers and explore options to reduce reliance on leaf blowers, both gas-powered and electric, either by allowing leaves to naturally decompose or clearing them using non-motorized methods; and
- 2. To replace gas-powered leaf blowers with electric or battery operated when feasible; and
- 3. Develop and implement plans to ensure that City facilities and employees are adequately equipped with infrastructure and equipment to use electric-powered leaf blowers rather than gas-powered leaf blowers.

Section 3. To further accomplish the goals in Section 1 of this resolution, Council directs staff to work with residents, institutions located in Medina and businesses operating in Medina to pursue to following actions:

- A. All residents, institutions located in Medina, and businesses operating in Medina are encouraged to:
 - 1. Evaluated their current practices related to the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and explore options to reduce reliance on leaf blowers, both gas-powered and electric, either by allowing leaves to naturally decompose or clearing them using non-motorized methods; and
 - 2. To replace gas-powered leaf blowers with electric or battery operated when feasible.

Section 4. Nothing in this resolution should be construed to preclude or impede the City's ability to phase out gas-powered leaf blowers more quickly.

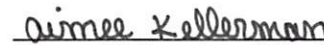
Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective upon its adoption by the City Council.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
AND SIGNED IN AUTHENTICATION OF ITS PASSAGE ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2023.


Jessica Rossman, Mayor

Approved as to form:
Ogden Murphy Wallace, PLLC

Attest:


Scott M. Missall, City Attorney
Aimee Kellerman, City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 9/12/2023
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 9/11/2023
RESOLUTION NO. 435

Ryan Osada

From: Jessica Rossman
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2025 12:09 PM
To: Jeff Swanson; Jennifer Robertson; Randy Reeves; Ryan Osada; Dawn Nations
Cc: Mac Johnston
Subject: Fw: Leaf Blowers

Chronology of leaf blower directions below, for use in preparing meeting materials.

MAC — Including you for one-way FYI as the author of the most recent email on this subject. Please do not reply.

From: Jessica Rossman <jrossman@medina-wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 3:52 PM
To: Jeff Swanson <JSwanson@medina-wa.gov>
Cc: Jennifer Robertson <jrobertson@insleebest.com>
Subject: Leaf Blowers

Hi Jeff, Thanks for the chat yesterday.

And hi Jennifer, I'm adding you because I realized that you joined Medina after a lot of the leaf blower conversation had already taken place, and I don't know how much of this background you have.

This is my effort to figure out how to re-establish some continuity in the city's efforts to manage leaf blower impacts, and how to make sure there are no surprises in the conversation when next Council next discusses the issues. Per my conversation with Jeff, I'm trying to provide some of the relevant documents & background, especially the Resolution, to give context to my questions.

Before the Council adopted the resolution, we had a lot of discussion about the need for public education. Council directed an education and outreach plan in fall

2022: <https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/medinawa-pubu/MEET-Minutes-e2e231fc1037486fb16479552ef4e7d0.pdf>

MEDINA, WASHINGTON

MEDINA, WASHINGTON MEDINA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING Hybrid - Virtual/In-Person Monday, November 14, 2022 – 5:00 PM MINUTES 1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net

Then, we talked about what that would look like:

<https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/medinawa-pubu/MEET-Packet-240002469a564385b2b24e74d15c9a5a.pdf>

We got as far as staff reporting development of a webpage. Here is a summary from the 4/10/23 in the City Manager Report:

"Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Education Plan – City staff has created an education and resource page on the city's website. This page includes an introduction to what Medina is looking into, FAQ's, and links to other cities that have banned or are considering a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. This is part of the education and outreach regarding gas-powered leaf blowers that the Council directed to staff. City staff will be holding an Open House at City Hall on May 11, 2023, from 5pm to 6:30pm. Staff is working on a survey that will go out city wide to get feedback regarding resident opinion about gas-powered leaf blower restrictions."

Source: <https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/medinawa-pubu/MEET-Packet-5d727abd42f94986b4708c4699a4e86e.pdf>

Then, the city also moved forward with other things: an open house, a survey, eventually Resolution 435 (which was discussed in summer 2023 and passed on consent at 9/11/2023 meeting). Here's a link to the resolution.

<https://library.municode.com/wa/medina/munidocs/munidocs?nodeId=62391af19819a>

Municode Library

MunicodeNEXT, the industry's leading search application with over 3,300 codes and growing!

library.municode.com

Which brings me to my present day concern: there's a desire to move forward with an ordinance along the lines of the phase-out specified in the Resolution. I had thought the outreach, education and info efforts were intended to be ongoing — to be of service to the community, provide objective information, help reduce issues & conflict, and keep residents up to date on any additional conversations the Council has on the subject. And also to make sure the City moved step-by-step toward the phase-out date in the Resolution in a transparent way. However, as far as I can tell, none of the City's education/outreach/update work on this issue has been ongoing. I can't find anything by searching the city website for "gas" or "lawn" or "blower". I can't find (and don't remember) any formal reporting on the City's efforts to implement Resolution 435, or anywhere that's being tracked.

There's a really long history and a lot of city work on this subject that I'm truncating here. Yet tracing just this much has taken me at least an hour — and that's despite having a pretty good memory of what happened.

In fact, the city's efforts to grapple with the health & noise impacts of leaf blowers started back when Sauerwein was Manager. He led a community forum to hear concerns on both sides that turned out to be an interesting conversation in which different viewpoints heard each other more than usual and engaged with each other's concerns (I think the recording was posted on the website for a while). If I recall correctly, the forum was online in June 2021 and he did a presentation to Council the following

Fall. Then Sauerwein left, and there was a pause, and eventually we picked back up with Burns about a year later in 2022.

I'm raising this well in advance of future discussions on potential leaf blower regulation because it's going to be important to me to be able to ask about it in those future meetings.

Happy to discuss.

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica L. Rossman
Mayor, Medina City Council
JRossman@medina-wa.gov
(M) 206-321-0603

- 9.5 Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Follow-Up Brief
Recommendation: Discussion and direction.
Staff Contact: Stephen R. Burns, City Manager

City Manager Steve Burns gave a presentation on research staff did on gas-powered leaf blowers. Council discussed, asked questions, and staff responded.

ACTION: By Consensus, Council directed staff to move forward with the following action items:

Plan 1 - Public awareness, education, outreach and input specific to the current noise code.

Plan 2 - Draft a plan for outreach education specific to gas-powered leaf blowers



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

Monday, January 9, 2023

Subject: Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Education and Outreach Plan

Category: City Council Business

Staff Contact: Stephen R. Burns, City Manager

Summary

At the November 14, 2022, Medina City Council Meeting, Council directed staff to move forward with the following action items:

Item 1 - Public awareness, education, outreach and input specific to the current noise code.

Item 2 - Draft a plan for outreach education specific to gas-powered leaf blowers

City Staff is bringing forward the following proposal as a starting point to gather information and feedback from the community to determine the level of interest in restricting or banning gas-powered leaf blowers. Staff would like further recommendations or suggestions from Council prior to moving forward on this plan.

1. The “Public Awareness Plan” will use the following resources to remind our residents of the current noise ordinance:
 - a. Newsletter – recently the noise ordinance reminder was sent out in the December 2022 newsletter.
 - b. Social Media Outlets – ongoing.
 - c. Postcards – first quarter of 2023
 - d. Open House – tentatively set for Thursday, March 16, 2023, from 5:30pm to 7pm.
2. Use “**Engage Medina Platform**” to have items that include background from the last community forum, key dates, upcoming meetings, and events.
3. Outreach and Education Plan for Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers:
 - a. Survey – Anticipate sending out the first part of February 2023
 - i. Survey key stakeholders (Multiple languages – English, Chinese, Spanish and Russian):
 1. Residents
 2. Landscaping companies that serve Medina

- ii. Send postcard with QR code link to survey.
 - iii. A-frame boards with QR code.
 - iv. Flyers at City Hall, Parks, and Post Office.
- 4. Possible Survey Questions:
 - a. Should the city put a ban on all leaf blowers (gas, battery, electric)?
 - b. Should the city put a ban on only gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - c. Should the city ban the following:
 - i. Commercial use gas-powered leaf blowers.
 - ii. Residential use gas-powered leaf blowers.
 - iii. Or both a and b
 - d. Should the city further restrict hours of operation? (Currently landscaping noise is only permissible weekdays from 7am to 7pm, Saturday from 9am to 5pm, and Sundays/holidays it is not allowed.)
 - i. Yes
 - ii. No
 - iii. Other input/ideas (allow for a suggestion box).
- 5. Hold an Open House on March 16, 2023, from 5:30pm to 7pm to educate residents about current noise ordinances and gather feedback about banning or restricting hours of operation for gas-powered leaf blowers.
- 6. Presentation to Council with feedback from Survey and Open House at the April 10, 2023 City Council Meeting.
 - a. At the April 10 City Council meeting, Council should expect to provide further direction to staff based on input from the survey.
- 7. The creation of Frequently Asked Questions page on the City Webpage - FAQs with the following:
 - a. What is happening?
 - b. Why is it happening?
 - c. When is it happening?
 - d. Who does this apply to?
 - e. Are other cities banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - f. Is the state or county planning to ban gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - g. What is the current noise ordinance?
 - h. What are the risks of banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - i. What are the benefits of banning gas-powered leaf blowers?
 - j. What are the differences between gas, electric, and battery-powered leaf blowers?

Attachment(s)

Budget/Fiscal Impact: Postcard and mailings for survey and open house - \$2,000. Central Services 2023 budget can accommodate this expense.

Recommendation: Council discussion and direction.

City Manager Approval: 

Proposed Council Motion: N/A

Time Estimate: 20 minutes

COMMERCIAL BATTERY VS GAS LEAF BLOWERS

Model:	Stihl BRA 600	\$1,069.99 ea	RedMax EBZ8500	\$669.99
Battery		\$481.99 ea		Gas
Charger		\$192.99 ea		
Sound Rating		64 dba		113 dba
Air Volume		253 mph w/nozzle		220 mph
Air Flow		883 cfm		1,000 cfm
Blowing Force		34 newtons		47 newtons
Runtime		17 min (two batteries)		80-90 min
Weight		32 lbs		25.5 lbs
Charging Time		40 min / 55 min		refuel

**Manufacturers use different testing standards and practices for their results. This makes comparisons confusing and potentially misleading. Based on Blowing Force (newtons) the data suggests a 33% efficiency loss. This could be conservative due to the power curve of battery and real-world performance.*

When deciding between gas-powered and battery-powered leaf blowers, there are several factors to consider. Noise, power, convenience, environmental impact, and the type of work required. Both types have strengths and weaknesses that make them better suited for the end users.

Gas Leaf Blowers:

Gas blowers have long been the industry standard for professionals and those with large properties. They offer superior power, longer runtime, and greater versatility for heavy-duty tasks like moving wet leaves, sticks, and debris over large areas. Their ability to run continuously, refuel quickly, and handle tough conditions makes them a favorite for commercial landscapers. However, gas blowers are loud, heavy, require regular maintenance, produce emissions, and can frustrate users with hard starts (pull cords, choke, etc.). They are increasingly facing restrictions in cities focused on noise and pollution reduction.

Battery Leaf Blowers:

Battery-powered blowers have advanced significantly in recent years. For homeowners with small to mid-sized yards, they're often the better choice. They are quieter, lighter, easier to start, produce no emissions during operation, and require almost no maintenance. Modern lithium-ion batteries deliver adequate power for most residential needs, though runtime is limited by battery capacity. Swapping batteries or waiting for recharge can interrupt work on larger properties. While not yet matching gas in brute force, high-end battery models can rival some gas blowers for typical yard cleanup.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Noise

Performance

Productivity / Efficiency

Emissions

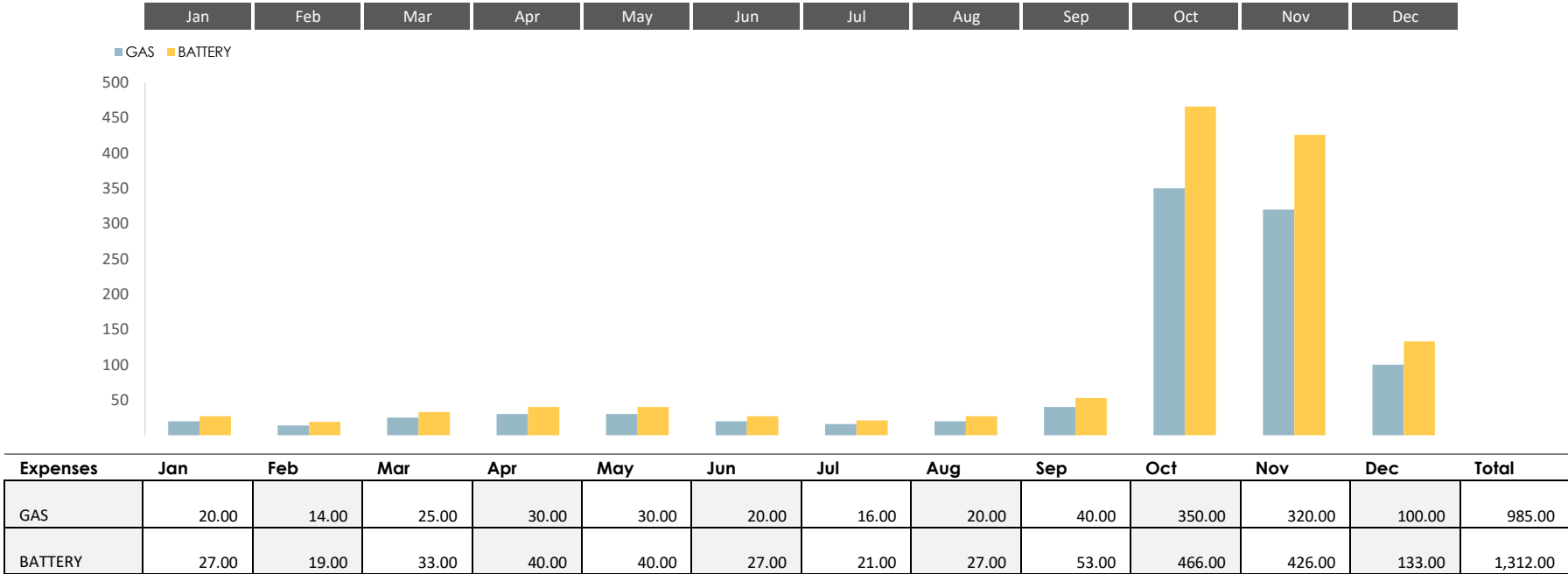
Upfront Cost

Ongoing Cost (fuel, power, maintenance)

Weight / Vibration

Enforcement

ESTIMATED GAS VS BATTERY HOURS



*based on blowing force (newtons) the assumption is a 33% efficiency loss.

Scenario 1:

Assuming gas and battery blowers are equal in terms of performance. What is the cost difference? (based on 985 hours per year)

Gas Blower	\$699.99
Fuel 173 gallons (\$4.00g)	\$692.00
Maintenance	\$150.00
Total	\$1,541.99

Battery Blower	\$1,069.99
Batteries 8 each	\$3,855.92
Fast Chargers 6 each	\$1,157.94
Gas Generator to Charge Batteries in the field	\$4,499.00
Fuel 784 gallons (\$4.00g)	\$3,136.00
Generator Maintenance	\$150.00
Total	\$13,868.85



Ultra Quiet EU7000iS 7000-Watt Electric Start Gasoline Powered Inverter Generator

Limit 10 per order
\$4,499⁰⁰ [Top](#)

Honda ★★★★★ (6) [Heart](#)

Product Details Specifications Questions & Answers Customer Reviews

CO Shutoff Capable	Yes	Color Family	Red
Engine Displacement (cc)	389	Engine Make	Honda Engine
Features	Auto Idle Control, Automatic Voltage Regulation, Built-in Fuel Gauge, Built-in Hour Meter, CO Shutoff, Electric Start, Extended Handles, Fuel Gauge, Hour Meter, Low Oil Shutdown, On Indicator Light, On/Off Switch, Overload Protection, Replaceable Battery	Fuel Tank Capacity (gal.)	5.1 gal
Fuel Technology	Single Fuel	Full load fuel consumption (gallons/hour)	.8
Generator Voltage	120/240	Half-Load Run Time (Hours)	8
Horsepower (hp)	11.7 hp	Included	Battery, Wheel Kit
Number of Receptacles	6	Operational Volume (dB)	58
Outlet Type	120/240 Single Phase	Power/Fuel Type	Gasoline
Product Weight (lb.)	261 lb	Returnable	7-Day
Running Wattage	5500	Start Type	Electric Switch, Push Button, Recoil Start
Starting Wattage	7000	Suggested Uses	Bench Tools, Halogen Work Light, Large Appliances, Lights, Mobile Devices, Power

Scenario 2:

Operational change for Battery Leaf Blower use. Field blowing tasks would be limited to 1 hour intervals plus 1 hour of charging time. Charging would be performed at the Public Works Facility or where power outlets are available.

Battery Blower	\$1,069.99
Batteries 6 each (.337 kwh)	\$2,891.94
Fast Chargers 6 each	\$1,157.94
Electricity Cost (\$0.14 kwh)	\$164.01
Total	\$5,283.88



Seasonal Blower Use Policy

April through September (Spring Summer Months):

- The Public Works Department will not use gas-powered blowers during this period.
- Battery-powered blowers will serve as the standard equipment for all operations.

October through March (Fall Winter Months):

- Gas-powered blowers may be used as the primary equipment due to wet conditions, heavy leaf accumulation, and reduced performance of battery-powered units.
- Battery-powered blowers may still be used for light-duty work or in noise/air-quality sensitive areas when conditions allow.



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

October 27, 2025

Subject: Small Works Roster Policy Update

Category: City Business

Staff Contact: Ryan Osada, Public Works Director

Summary

The City utilizes the MRSC Small Works Roster for soliciting bids and awarding public works contracts under RCW 39.04.155. Periodic updates to the City's Small Works Roster Policy ensure compliance with state law and maintain clear, consistent internal procedure.

State law was updated in 2023 with the passage of SSSB 5268 which enacted changes to increase both equity and efficiency in public works procurement, including streamlining the delivery of small public works projects, and setting forth requirements for utilization of small businesses and businesses owned by women and minorities, and allowing for direct contracting with small businesses, which became effective July 1, 2024. In updating the smalls work roster process, it is recommended that this be removed from the code and adopted by resolution which makes the policy and procedures more manageable. Therefore, there are two pieces of legislation for this change:

1. **Ordinance No. 1038** – This repeals Chapter 2.52 from the Medina Municipal Code; and
2. **Resolution No. 452** – This adopts updated small works roster procedures that are consistent with State law.

Together, these proposed updates clarify direct contracting thresholds and use of limited public works processes as well as establishing a rotation policy for selecting contractors from the roster to promote fairness and transparency and updates references to MRSC Rosters and electronic records practices.

This update meets and supports Council's priorities 1 & 3:

1. Financial Stability and Accountability
2. Quality Infrastructure
3. Efficient and Effective Government
4. Public Safety and Health
5. Neighborhood Character

Attachment(s)

Ordinance No. 1038

Resolution No. 452

Budget/Fiscal Impact: N/A

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Council approve the updated Small Works Roster Policy to align with current RCWs, MRSC roster procedures, and the City's contracting practices and that Ch. 2.52 be repealed from the Medina Municipal Code as these policies will now be in a resolution.

City Manager Approval:



Proposed Council Motions:

MOTION 1: Ordinance No. 1038:

"I move adoption of Ordinance No. 1038 relating to public works contracting, repealing Chapter 2.52 of the Medina Municipal Code; providing for severability and corrections, and establishing an effective date."

MOTION 2: Resolution No. 452:

"I move adoption of Resolution No. 452 approving the updated Small Works Roster Policy as presented, establishing procedures for contractor selection, rotation, and documentation consistent with state law."

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON

Ordinance No. 1038

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING, REPEALING CHAPTER 2.52 OF THE MEDINA MUNICIPAL CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CORRECTIONS, AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020, the City of Medina (“City”) is authorized to adopt ordinances of all kinds relating to the regulation and good governance of municipal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City previously enacted Chapter 2.52 of the Medina Municipal Code (“MMC”) establishing procedures for public works purchasing and contracting, and adopting use of the MRSC small works and consulting rosters; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, with the adoption of SSSB 5268, the Washington State Legislature enacted changes to increase both equity and efficiency in public works procurement, including streamlining the delivery of small public works projects, and setting forth requirements for utilization of small businesses and businesses owned by women and minorities, and allowing for direct contracting with small businesses, which became effective July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, RCW 39.04.151-.154 and other laws regarding contracting for public works by authorized local governments allow certain contracts to be awarded using a small works roster process; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the small works roster and process, the City is required to adopt legislation establishing reporting procedures that are publicly available; and

WHEREAS, many of the rules and regulations related to purchasing, procurement, and small works are prescribed by state and federal government and are subject to regular updates by those agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that the small works contracting and purchasing policies are more easily managed as administrative policies adopted by resolution, rather than being included in the Medina Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, as a companion to this Ordinance, the City Council has adopted Resolution No. 452 which adopts updated small works roster procedures consistent with State law; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN
AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Repeal. Chapter 2.52 MMC is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 3. Publication. This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

Section 4. Corrections. Upon the approval of the city attorney, the city clerk, and/or the code publisher is authorized to make any necessary technical corrections to this ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect five days after publication as provided by law.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON THIS 27th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025 BY
A VOTE OF ___ FOR, ___ AGAINST, AND ___ ABSTAINING, AND IS SIGNED IN
AUTHENTICATION OF ITS PASSAGE ON THE 27TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.**

Jessica Rossman, Mayor

Approved as to form:
Inslee Best Doezie & Ryder, P.S.

Attest:

Jennifer S. Robertson, City Attorney

Dawn Nations, Acting City Clerk

PUBLISHED:
EFFECTIVE DATE:
ORDINANCE NO.: 1038/ AB

CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON

Resolution No. 452

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTING, ADOPTING PROCEDURES FOR A SMALL PUBLIC WORKS ROSTER AND AUTHORITY TO USE THE ROSTER PROCESS TO AWARD SMALL PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS, A CONSULTANT SERVICES ROSTER FOR GENERAL CONSULTING AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, AND A VENDOR ROSTER FOR GOODS AND SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020, the City of Medina (“City”) is authorized to adopt ordinances of all kinds relating to the regulation and good governance of municipal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City previously enacted Chapter 2.52 of the Medina Municipal Code (“MMC”) establishing procedures for public works purchasing and contracting, and adopting use of the MRSC small works and consulting rosters; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, with the adoption of SSSB 5268, the Washington State Legislature enacted changes to increase both equity and efficiency in public works procurement, including streamlining the delivery of small public works projects, and setting forth requirements for utilization of small businesses and businesses owned by women and minorities, and allowing for direct contracting with small businesses, which became effective July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, RCW 39.04.151-.154 and other laws regarding contracting for public works by authorized local governments allow certain contracts to be awarded using a small works roster process; and

WHEREAS, in order to implement the small works roster and process, the City is required to adopt an legislation establishing reporting procedures that are publicly available; and

WHEREAS, many of the rules and regulations related to purchasing, procurement,

and small works are prescribed by state and federal government and are subject to regular updates by those agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that the small works contracting and purchasing policies are more easily managed as administrative policies as stated herein, than by ordinance of the City Council and codification in the MMC; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has repealed Chapter 2.52 of the Medina Municipal Code via adoption of Ordinance No. 1038, and seeks to adopt updated procedures via this Resolution; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, WASHINGTON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. The recitals above are hereby adopted as findings of the City Council in support of this resolution.

Section 2. MRSC Rosters. The City hereby elects to use the statewide small works roster established under RCW 39.04.151(2) and administered by the Municipal Research Services Center of Washington (MRSC).

Section 3. Small Works Roster. The City adopts the following to use in the management and awards of small public works projects as allowed under RCW 39.04.152. The City will maintain separate procedures and contracting templates for small works roster contracts.

- A. **Small Works.** Small Works, as defined by RCW 39.04.152 are public works projects estimated to cost \$350,000 or less, excluding sales tax, for the construction, renovation, remodeling, repair, or improvement of real property.
- B. **Small Works Roster.** A Small Works Roster is a pre-established list of properly licensed contractors, registered to do business with the City under selected project types and work categories.
- C. **Small Works Roster Process.** The Small Works Roster process is an alternative to publicly advertising public work projects.
- D. **Small Works Contracts.** Every small works contract is subject to the same public works bidding, award, and compliance requirements of chapter 39.04 RCW unless specifically included in RCW 39.04.151-.154, this ordinance, or the incorporated policies or procedures.

- E. Small Works Contract Procurement. Small Work Roster contract procurements will be bid electronically through the City's procurement processes using email, electronic bidding, etc., except as may be used in small works roster direct contracting process. (RCW 39.04.152(4)).
- F. MRSC Rosters Registration Required. Only those contractors registered with MRSC Rosters will be invited to bid on small works roster projects.
- G. Invitations to Bid; Negotiations. Invitations for bid or direct contracting negotiations shall include an estimate of the scope and nature of the work to be performed as well as materials and equipment to be furnished. However, detailed plans and specifications need not be included in the invitation.
- H. Responsible Contractor. Small Works contracts will be awarded to a responsible contractor (RCW 39.04.350) submitting the lowest responsive bid, unless using direct contracting where a contract will be awarded to a responsible contractor submitting a competitive bid or negotiated bid.
- I. Reporting. Small Works bidding and award information will be entered by the City into the statewide small works roster platform immediately upon conclusion of each small works roster award.
- J. Data. Small Works bidding and award data will be part of the City's procurement files and records and all documents will be available for review with the City Clerk's office.
- K. Annual Notification and Invitation. At least once a year, MRSC shall, on behalf of the City publish in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality's jurisdiction a notice of the existence of the small works roster and invite contractors to register on the statewide small works roster. Additionally, as required by RCW 39.04.151(1)(c), MRSC will notify the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (OMWBE) directory of certified firms and invite small businesses to apply to the roster.
- L. MRSC Procedures. MRSC shall add responsible contractors to the small works roster at any time that a contractor completes the online application provided by MRSC and meets minimum State requirements for roster listing.
- M. Direct Contracting. The City intends to use the direct contracting option (RCW 39.04.152(4)) whenever practicable for small works projects estimated to cost \$150,000 or less, excluding sales tax. The City has developed additional policies and procedures to ensure the city uses Direct Contracting with the spirit and intent of the statute; and are attached to this resolution and incorporated herein as follows:

1. Direct Contracting Procedures (including rotation and negotiation options); and
2. Business Utilization Plan.

The City delegates authority to oversee and manage the use and outcomes of the small works roster to the Public Works Director. As the delegated authority, the Small Works Roster Program Manager will be responsible for ensuring all necessary policies, procedures, templates, contracts or similar are developed and used in accordance with the applicable statutes and guidance provided by MRSC.

Further, the Small Works Roster Program Manager will be responsible for establishing and implementing the City's Business Utilization Plan and reporting annually on the utilization and improvements needed to the policy or contracting processes to meet or exceed the established goals for small business utilization through the Direct Contracting opportunities.

The Small Works Roster Program Manager will also be responsible for data collection, reporting, and similar on all activities, uses, and awards for small works and will ensure all information is provided to MRSC, the state, or the public as required or requested.

Section 4. Consultant Services Roster. The City adopts the use of the MRSC Rosters Consultant Roster (vendor list) to be used for the procurement and award of consultant services.

- A. Consultant Services. Consultant services can be "personal services" such as technical expertise, studies, project management, planning, or similar, or "architecture and engineering services" or "professional services" services as defined by chapter 39.80 RCW. For all services, the City reserves the right to procure using methods other than formal sealed bidding (low bid) as afforded under RCW 39.04.190.
- B. Soliciting to join the Consultant Roster. MRSC Rosters, as provided as part of their membership service, will publish twice a year, in a newspaper of general circulation within King County, a notice of the existence of the Consultant Roster and solicit consultants to join on our behalf. (RCW 39.04.190(2)).
- C. Procuring Consultants. The City adopts the following as policies, procedures or similar when contracting for consultant services:
 1. *Personal Services.*
 - a. Personal consultants, firms and individuals that provide subject matter expertise, or services more intellectual in nature such as studies, accounting, legal, project management, or similar shall

be procured using a Request for Proposal (RFP). Selection should be based on the best value provided to the City and include scoring on experience and expertise in the field or industry needed, a proposed approach to completing services, capabilities of the businesses staff, time, and cost to complete the work.

2. *Professional Services.*

- a. Professional architecture and engineering services shall be procured under the requirements of chapter 39.80 RCW, using the MRSC Consultant Roster. Procuring professionals will be through a Request for Qualification (RFQ) and/or Request for Proposals (RFP) with Qualifications. Price and/or the cost of the professional services will be 10% or less of the overall score. Selection criteria should clearly define the scope of services and the details on how the City will determine the most qualified professional (or firm), which will be different depending on the City's needs. Further, selection criteria shall include a plan, as appropriate, to include minority and women-owned firms, small business, and veteran-owned firms to the maximum extent practicable.

3. *Electronic Submissions.* As required by RCW 39.04.190(2), the City establishes the following procedure for securing written proposals or submittals for consultant services.

- a. Unless otherwise adopted, through establishment of an e-procurement tool, the City will use email communications to request and receive submissions.
- b. An RFQ or RFP shall be developed that will include at a minimum a description of the services needed, the time of performance, the scoring criteria with descriptions and relative weighting, the schedule with due dates, and any other relevant information. Attached to each RFQ or RFP shall be the intended contract to be signed.
- c. A selection committee will be formed with at least 3 staff members to review and score the submissions. The selection committee will sign statements attesting they have no conflicts of interest in the matter and all proceedings will be confidential until Award.
- d. A list of businesses will be pulled from the MRSC Rosters consultant roster under the category of need, and an

email request will be sent only to the businesses on the roster list of businesses.

- e. Once submittals are received, the selection committee will review, score, and recommend award to the consultant scored the highest.
- f. Records. The original request, responses, scoring, and award documentation will be kept in the City's records and will be available upon request.

4. *Award of Consultant Contracts.* There may be two methods for awarding consultant services contracts.

- a. The city reviews and scores all proposal(s) or statements of qualifications received, negotiates or similar and then awards the contract; or
- b. If the City Council delegates the authority to award contracts to the City Manager for consulting services costing less than or equal to \$50,000.00, the City Manager shall have the authority to award contracts for consulting services without City Council approval, provided that the City Council shall ratify the City Manager's signature and delegation of authority through the City's standard process for such matters. For consulting services with an anticipated value more than \$50,000.00, the City Council shall review and award all contracts for consulting services.

D. Posting of Awards. In accordance with RCW 39.04.200, all consultant/services contract awards will be posted to the City's website at least every other month.

Section 5. Vendor Roster. The City adopts the use of the MRSC Rosters Vendor Roster (vendor list) to be used for the procurement and award of materials, supplies, equipment or similar. The following vendor list roster procedures are established for use by the City pursuant to RCW 39.04.190:

- A. Purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment not connected to a public works project. The City is not required to use formal sealed bidding procedures to purchase materials, supplies, or equipment not connected to a public works project where the cost will not exceed \$50,000.00 as provided in RCW 39.04.190. The City will attempt to obtain the lowest practical price for such goods and services.
- B. Publication. At least twice per year, MRSC shall, on behalf of the City, publish in a newspaper of general circulation within the municipality's jurisdiction a

notice of the existence of the vendor list roster and solicit the names of vendors for the vendor list roster. MRSC shall add vendors licensed to do business in the State of Washington to the Vendor Roster at any time when a vendor completes the online application and meets minimum requirements.

- C. Electronic Quotations. The City shall use the following process to obtain written quotations from vendors for the purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment not connected to a public works project:
1. A written Invitation (to Bid or Quote) with description shall be drafted for the specific materials, supplies, or equipment to be purchased, including the number, quantity, quality, and type desired, the proposed delivery date, together with any evaluation criteria and any relevant information of the purchase. The contract intended to be signed by the successful vendor is also to be included in with the invitation.
 2. The Public Works Director or their designee, shall make a good faith effort to contact at least three (3) of the vendors on the roster to obtain written quotations from the vendors for the required materials, supplies, or equipment;
 3. The Public Works Director or their designee, shall not share written quotations received from one vendor with other vendors soliciting for the bid to provide the materials, supplies, or equipment;
 4. A written record shall be made by the Public Works Director or their designee, of each vendor's bid on the material, supplies, or equipment, and of any conditions imposed on the bid by such vendor;
- D. Determining the Lowest Responsible Bidder. The City shall purchase the materials, supplies, or equipment from the lowest responsible bidder, provided that whenever there is reason to believe that the lowest acceptable bid is not the best price obtainable, all bids may be rejected, and the City may call for new bids.
- E. Award. All of the bids or quotations shall be collected by the Public Work Director or their designee. The Public Works Director or their designee, shall create a written record of all bids or quotations received, which shall be made available by request after the award of the contract.
1. The Public Works Director or their designee, shall then present all bids or quotations and their recommendation for award of the contract to the City Council. The City Council shall consider all bids or quotations received, and award the contract; or

2. If the City Council delegates authority to award bids to the City Manager for materials, supplies, or equipment costing less than or equal to \$50,000.00 threshold, provided in RCW 39.04.190, the City Manager shall have the authority to award public works contracts without City Council approval, provided that the City Council shall ratify the City Manager's approval at the next scheduled council meeting by means of the consent agenda. For materials, supplies or equipment costing more than the statutory threshold of the City as provided in RCW 39.04.190, the City Council shall award all vendor contracts.

F. Posting of Awards. In accordance with RCW 39.04.200, all vendor contract awards will be posted to the City's website at least every other month. The posting will include the vendor awarded the contract, the amount of the contract, a brief description of the items purchased, and the date it was awarded.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Council and signature of the Mayor.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA ON THE 27th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025 BY A VOTE OF ____ FOR, ____ AGAINST, AND ____ ABSTAINING, AND SIGNED IN AUTHENTICATION THEREOF ON THE 27th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.

Jessica Rossman, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Inslee, Best, Doezie & Ryder, P.S.

ATTEST:

Jennifer S. Robertson, City Attorney

Dawn Nations, Acting City Clerk

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
RESOLUTION NO. 452

Attachments:

Exhibit A – Direct Contracting Procedures (including rotation and negotiation options)

Exhibit B - Business Utilization Plan



MEDINA, WASHINGTON

AGENDA BILL

Monday, October 27, 2025

Subject: Discussion re: Legislative Direction on Phasing-Out Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Category: City Business

Staff Contacts: Jeff Swanson, City Manager; Ryan Osada, Public Works Director; Jennifer Robertson and Randi Shaffer, City Attorney's Office

1. **Executive Summary.**

Gas-powered leaf blowers (GPLBs) have become a standard tool for landscapers in recent decades, yet they pose several significant issues related to public health and safety, including emission of toxic chemicals and noise. They are a nuisance to residents and pose a danger to operators. Many municipalities and larger regions, including Seattle, Portland, Multnomah County (Oregon), and the State of California, have begun the process to phase out or completely ban the use of GPLBs. Medina wishes to consider moving forward with legislation that will reduce or eliminate GPLB use within the city. Multiple policy options are available to accomplish this goal which the City Council will consider, discuss, and provide direction to staff.

One options that some jurisdictions have implemented is a seasonal ban on the use of GPLBs, disallowing use in warmer months when landscaping debris is dry and easily cleared by electric leaf blowers, before moving to a full ban on use. Other jurisdictions have relied on noise ordinances to curb the use of GPLBs, which are louder than their electric counterparts; while many jurisdictions use both methods to control daily and seasonal use.

The City also has options for enforcement of any legislation that curbs or eliminates the use of GPLBs ranging from notices of violations of the noise code, which is already available in the Medina Municipal Code , to operators of GPLBs to issuance of violations to property owners who hire the operators. However, enforcement could be a challenge as the nature of landscaping businesses is to move from property to property.

In 2023, the Medina City Council adopted Resolution No. 435, expressly stating the City's intent to fully phase out the use of gas-powered leaf blowers ("GPLBs") in the city limits by 2028.

This evening, the City Council is invited to discuss this topic and provide staff with further direction to staff on next steps, including:

- (1) proposed legislation; and
- (2) an associated outreach plan.

Following the direction, staff will prepare the relevant legislation and submit for Council review and approval.

2. Resolution No. 435 – Phasing out of GPLBs.

As this is a Council-driven initiative, staff has no suggested method for implementation. However, in order to facilitate the Council's discussion, staff offer the following suggested parameters as part of implementing Resolution No. 435:

- a. Conduct community outreach, including educating residents about the dangers of emissions from GPLBs and inviting public input on proposed regulations and proposed deadlines for compliance;
- b. Utilize a phased implementation approach to allow time for the City, residents, and local landscaping companies to replace equipment with a full phase-out by 2028; and
- c. Incorporate the prohibition into the City's existing complaint-driven code enforcement model, focusing enforcement efforts in response to received complaints.

3. General information about GPLBs.

a. Comparison and Use of Leaf Blowers:

Leaf blowers have been widely available since the 1950s and have gained popularity with residential and commercial users since the 1970s. Leaf blowers make up approximately 10% of the gas-powered lawn and garden equipment in use today.

i. Availability and Styles.

Leaf blowers are available to commercial and residential users in a variety of forms, including gas-powered two-stroke and four-stroke engine versions, GPLBs with noise reduction technology, and corded or cordless electric leaf blowers (ELBs). Styles for both GPLBs and ELBs primarily consist of handheld, backpack, and wheeled types. Handheld and backpack versions are more widely used as they are lighter and easier to maneuver than wheeled leaf blowers; backpack versions are seen more often in commercial use because they are more comfortable for extended use in larger areas.

ii. Typical Use of GPLBs in Residential and Commercial Settings.

GPLBs are used in both residential and commercial settings by both individual residents and landscaping companies. A study conducted in 2015 showed annual residential use of GPLBs was around 10 hours per individual per year. Commercial users, including

employees of landscaping companies, averaged approximately 280 hours per year, equivalent to over 7 weeks of full-time (40 hours/week) work spent using GPLBs.

iii. Effectiveness by type.

The overall effectiveness of leaf blowers depends on their air velocity output, which is measured in cubic feet per minute (CFM). Higher airflow equates to a better ability to move leaves and debris. Handheld and backpack GPLBs move 400-900 CFM, at speeds of 150-250 miles per hour. In comparison, ELBs 200-600 CFM, at speeds of 100-270 miles per hour. The higher airflow provided by GPLBs comes at the cost of heavier equipment and a higher price. Additionally, the health risks posed by emissions from GPLBs are not present in ELBs, which have little to no emission effects. Further, some cordless ELBs are nearly as effective as GPLBs in terms of air velocity and most models are less costly than gas-powered versions. The technology is also changing quickly for ELBs and improvements in battery life and capacity are aiding in improving air speeds, power (in CFM), and price for ELBs. However, ELBs also require additional infrastructure for battery charging, including stations.

Table 1. Comparison of Gas vs. Electric Leaf Blowers

Type	Airflow	Speed	Weight	Price	Coverage Area
Gas – Handheld	400-600 CFM	150-230 MPH	8-12 lbs.	\$100 - \$300	Small - Medium (<1/4 acre)
Gas – Backpack	500-900 CFM	180-250 MPH	15-25 lbs.	\$200-\$600	Medium – Large (>1/4 acre)
Electric – Corded Handheld	200-700 CFM	100-270 MPH	4-12 lbs.	\$75-\$200	Small - Medium (<1/4 acre)*
Electric – Cordless Handheld	250-450 CFM	120-200 MPH	5-10 lbs.	\$100-\$300	Small - Medium (<1/4 acre)
Electric – Cordless Backpack	400-600 CFM	150-200 MPH	10-15 lbs.	\$200-\$500	Medium – Large (>1/4 acre)

*limited by cord length

b. Health & Environmental Concerns:

i. Noise Pollution.

The two-stroke engines used in most GPLBs emit a sound that often exceeds the acceptable decibel (dB) levels set by the World Health Organization (WHO), CDC, EPA, and the State of Washington, with WHO and EPA cautioning that consistent environmental noise above 70 dB could lead to hearing loss. Additionally, the Washington State Legislature has established maximum sound levels that are appropriate for different localities. Residential areas have a maximum of 60 dB, while commercial dining, retail, business, and other areas have a limit of 65 dB. Industrial, manufacturing, and agricultural areas have a maximum of 70 dB. Medina has established maximum levels of 55 dB for residential areas and 60 dB for commercial areas which are reduced to 45 dB and 50 dB between 10 PM and 7 AM. *However*, the current noise code specifically permits the use of GPLBs between 7 AM and 7 PM on weekdays and between 9 AM and 7 PM on weekends, exempting them from the noise code requirements. GPLBs produce sound at an average level for the operator between 85 and 100 dBs, with higher quality machines using noise reduction closer to 85 dBs, and mid- to low-quality devices emitting sound up to 110 dBs for the operator. For comparison, a household vacuum cleaner emits levels of 60 to 80 dBs. Even at ranges of 50 feet, GPLBs emit sound at levels between 70-80 dBs.

Therefore, while these machines exceed current noise limitations, the Medina Municipal Code contains a noise exemption applicable to GPLBs and other similar powered equipment, therefore, any legislation will also need to amend the City's noise code to remove this exemption.¹ The Medina noise code provides, in pertinent part:

8.06.140. - Exemptions—Sounds exempt during daylight hours.

The following sounds are exempt from this chapter between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekends, unless different hours are specified:

...

D. Sounds created by powered equipment when used by a resident or by the Overlake Golf and Country Club for the temporary or periodic maintenance or repair of their property or its appurtenances, including lawnmowers, leaf blowers, powered hand tools, and snow-removal equipment, provided such use is between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekends;

...

¹ Amending the City noise code will require SEPA processing and a 90-day review/comment period from the Department of Ecology prior to passage. RCW 70A.20.060(3).

The potential health effects from the high-decibel output of GPLBs range from mild to serious. Longer exposure to high-decibel noise increases the likelihood of hearing damage and hearing loss for operators. On average, landscapers use GPLBs for 2.1 hours per day, which equates to long exposure. Further, sound at 85dBs or higher can cause irreversible damage to the inner ear. Finally, exposure to continued high-decibel noise by operators and nearby residents can also cause stress, anxiety, depression, high blood pressure, sleep disturbances, and other behavioral changes.

In addition to the high decibel levels, GPLBs produce low-frequency sound waves that travel far and permeate barriers, walls, and many types of hearing protection, affecting both operators and residents inside neighboring homes. One study illustrated the different impact to the community from the noise of GPLBs against ELBs. The ELBs had manufacturer decibel ratings of 56 dB and 70 dB, while the GPLBs had ratings of 65 dB and 75 dB. The ELBs affected up to 6 homes, with a smaller noise radius, compared to the GPLBs which affected more than 23 homes over a much larger area.

Image 1. Community Impact of Electric and Gas Leaf Blowers



ELBs, on average, are quieter than GPLBs, emitting sounds between 40-75 dB, and have frequencies that are less penetrative, travel shorter distances, and blend in better with ambient noise. Increased use of ELBs may reduce the harmful effects of high-decibel noise for operators and residents alike.

ii. Environmental Pollutants.

In addition to noise pollution, GPLBs emit high levels of localized chemical pollutants during use. GPLB engines operate on a mixture of gasoline and oil of which only two-thirds are combusted during operation. The other third of the fuel is emitted directly into the air surrounding the operator; these emissions contain high levels of carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and volatile organic compounds (VOC) and other carcinogenic substances which pose health risks to the public, including cardiovascular

disease, stroke, respiratory disease, cancer, neurological conditions, premature death, and effects on prenatal development.²

These emissions also create ground-level ozone which contributes to the creation of smog in urban areas. One study conducted in 2010 equated emissions from one hour of GPLB use to the same level of smog-forming pollutants as driving from Los Angeles to Denver, approximately 1,100 miles. Another estimate was conducted by an engineer editor at Edmunds.com who compared emissions of GPLBs to vehicles, finding that idling the two-stroke GPLB engine for 10 minutes produced the same emissions as driving a Ford Raptor 235 miles.³ The localized nature of the emissions creates an increased risk not only to the operators but also to people in the area where the use occurs, which can include public schools and parks where larger backpack equipment is used.

There is also research related to increased levels of particulate matter that is ‘kicked up’ during use. This particulate matter can contain pesticides, pollen, animal dander, and other substances that settle on sidewalks and roadways. These particles are lifted off the ground and can remain suspended in the air for several days.

d. *Equity considerations.*

Many of the health and environmental risks associated with the use of GPLBs directly impact the operators of the equipment. Demographic surveys from 2021 indicate that 49% of landscaping services workers are between the ages of 22-44; 61% are of Hispanic, Latin, or Spanish origin, and 92% are men. Compared to the workforce at large, landscapers are slightly younger and are predominantly Hispanic and male. However, while the landscapers would likely see the health benefits from lower emissions and sound risks more directly, there has historically been pushback from this group based on concerns that removal of GPLBs will lead to even lower wages and longer hours for landscaping workers. In areas where bans have been adopted, landscapers have been the primary source of opposition against such policies, arguing that less effective tools make it more challenging to get the same amount of work done in a day, leading to lower profits and possibly closure of some businesses. Little data is available to show whether these negative effects have occurred.

4. Approaches of other jurisdictions in regulating GPLBs.

As summarized below, various agencies have utilized a myriad of approaches to address this issue. Over 170 jurisdictions in 26 states and the District of Columbia have instituted policies restricting or banning them from use. Policies vary by municipality and include different enforcement mechanisms, and a review of the policies in nearby jurisdictions is included here.

² Environmental Protection Agency, [National Emissions from Lawn and Garden Equipment](#); 2015.

³ Edmunds, [Emissions Test: Car vs. Truck vs. Leaf Blower](#), last accessed March 30, 2025.

a. City of Kirkland.

The City of Kirkland has created an “Electric Leaf Blower Initiative” that aims to have a three-year approach to eliminate GPLBs, including extensive community engagement, public town hall discussions, trade-in events and vouchers for electric leaf blowers, and targeted outreach to landscapers.⁴ The City of Kirkland is currently evaluating an implementation plan that may include (1) seasonal / time-of-day restrictions (rather than a total prohibition); and/or (2) electric-only pilot zones / geographic restrictions.

b. City of Seattle.

In 2022, the Seattle City Council unanimously adopted a resolution to eliminate the use of GPLBs by city departments and contractors by 2025, and for businesses and residents by 2027.⁵ A directive issued by the mayor in May 2023 also required that all new leaf blower purchases by city departments be electric, with the goal of transitioning half of the city’s leaf blowers to electric models by 2025, 75% by 2026, and achieving full electrification by 2027. The city council has not moved forward with any other legislation limiting GPLBs to seasonal use or implementing a phase-out plan for use by the city or its residents. It is also unclear how the city plans to enforce the restrictions on use of GPLBs once the phasing out plan is completed; for now, it appears the city is focusing on education and incentives to facilitate the transition to ELBs.

c. City of Portland and Multnomah County, Oregon.

In 2021 and 2022, Multnomah County and the City of Portland, respectively, passed resolutions declaring an intent to phase out the use of GPLBs.⁶ The resolutions require a transition to ELBs by county-owned facilities by 2025, call for expanded charging infrastructure throughout the county, require community outreach to educate citizens about the harms of GPLBs and the phase out process, and mandate the creation of a workgroup that includes the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association to discuss, plan, and implement the countywide phase-out. The city and county also agreed to create incentives to offset costs for small businesses through rebates or reimbursements.

In March 2024, the city and county co-authored an ordinance which limits GPLB use to October-December, beginning January 1, 2026, with a year-round ban to begin in 2028.^{7,8} The ordinance prohibits property owners from allowing the operation of GPLBs on the owner’s property from January – September, with use allowed during the wet leaf season between October and December. A full prohibition will take effect January 1, 2028. Enforcement will be complaint-based, and violations include a code enforcement warning

⁴ See Kirkland webpage: [The Electric Leaf Blower Initiative – City of Kirkland](#)

⁵ City of Seattle, Resolution No. 32064, September 6, 2022.

⁶ Portland City Council, Resolution No. 37463, December 5, 2019; Multnomah County, Resolution No. 2021-094, December 16, 2021.

⁷ Portland City Council, Ordinance No. 191653, April 12, 2024.

⁸ Portland Municipal Code (PMC) 17.101, Leaf Blowers (formerly at Chapter 8.80 PMC).

for the first violation, followed by increasing fines beginning at \$250 up to \$1,000 for subsequent violations.

Multnomah County agreed to support the transition by providing funding for education and community outreach, implementing a pilot program to reimburse or provide rebates to landscaping businesses for the cost of ELBs, and funding enforcement measures. However, last month it was announced that the county is currently facing a \$15.5 million budget shortfall, and it is not clear whether there will be adequate funding for educational outreach and rebate programs.

d. *State of California and multiple California municipalities.*

In 2021, the State of California passed legislation requiring the California Air Resources Board to phase out the sale of new gas-powered small off-road engines, requiring them to be zero-emission by 2024.⁹ Notably, the legislation does not prohibit the use of *existing* gas-powered engines in the state, and California has set aside \$30 million to support the transition to electric alternatives for landscaping businesses.

In addition to the statewide prohibition on the sale of small engines, dozens of California municipalities have adopted ordinances limiting or prohibiting the use of GPLBs.¹⁰ Some cities have extended regulations to electric leaf blowers, limiting the use of any type of blower to certain periods of the day, for specific lengths of time, or at a decibel level lower than 65 dB.¹¹

5. Enforcement Options.

Two primary mechanisms for enforcement of municipal codes are through civil infraction tickets, issued by city police officers, or through use of civil code enforcement. Civil infractions require a higher standard of proof and officers would either need to be present to witness the GPLB use and/or have a noise meter to test the decibel level of the equipment before issuing an infraction (and would need training on use and regular calibration of this equipment). The transient nature of the use of GPLBs will make enforcement by infraction difficult. In contrast, enforcement through code violations requires a less stringent standard of proof and may provide opportunities for enforcement after the use occurs. Seattle's Department of Construction and Inspections operates in this manner and the department will enforce a code violation based on evidence of use that includes a time stamp (e.g., a photo of the alleged violation from a resident, city employee, or other citizen.) Civil violations can also be set up to include a warning for a first violation, with fines levied for subsequent violations.

The City also has the option of enforcing violations against the users of GPLBs or against the property owner using or allowing the use on the property. As discussed below, considerations of equity suggest that levying a penalty against a property owner who uses

⁹ California AB 1346, October 19, 2021.

¹⁰ See, [Coronado, CA Municipal Code § 36.24.020](#); [Calistoga, CA Municipal Code § 8.21.020](#).

¹¹ See, [Pasadena, CA Municipal Code § 9.37.030](#).

or hires a company to use GPLBs may be more effective and reduce claims of bias or discrimination in enforcement.

6. Direction requested.

Council is invited to share feedback to direct staff with the requested elements for a potential ordinance to be presented to Council. If Council desires to regulate or to disallow the use of GPLBs going forward, please give direction to staff on the following:

a. *Scope of Legislation considerations.*

- i. Whether to disallow the use of GPLBs seasonally (i.e., ban during dry season, but allow during the wet and winter season when leaves are heavier and harder to move) or year-round;
- ii. The timing for when compliance with any complete or seasonal ban would take effect and whether there is a period of education or warning before enforcement begins;
- iii. Whether the enforcement is against the party using the GPLBs, the property owner, or both;
- iv. Whether you want to modify hours of operation for GPLBs or other small gas-powered equipment; and
- v. If the city operations will have a different (earlier) deadline than the rest of the city, what that deadline will be.

b. *Procedure; Community Outreach.*

Please provide direction to staff on the process you would like to use on this legislation and the timing, including:

- i. Community outreach in relation to timing of enacting legislation, including educating residents about the dangers of emissions from GPLBs and accepting public comments in support of and in opposition to the proposed regulations;
- ii. Whether the Council wants to direct additional outreach to landscaping companies, larger property owners, etc.;
- iii. Whether the Council wants to hold a public hearing on the ordinance; and
- iv. Whether an educational campaign should be undertaken prior to or after passage of legislation to make residents and landscaping companies aware of the legislation and the deadlines for compliance.

Attachment(s)

The materials cited above are attached.

Budget/Fiscal Impacts The cost of legislation prohibiting the use of GPLBs include cost of enforcement and the costs converting the Medina equipment from GPLBs to electric. The cost of an electric leaf blower with 1 hour of batteries is ~\$5,000. The City would need to purchase four of the electric leaf blowers to replace the GPLBs in stock. Operational changes will be necessary to accommodate efficiently loss.

Costs associated with enforcement would be a general fund expense, and as code enforcement is complaint-driven, the expenditures would vary based on the volume of complaints/calls.

Staff Recommendation: Engage in Council discussion and provide staff with additional direction on drafting legislation.

City Manager Approval:



Proposed Council Motion: I move to direct staff to bring forward legislation regarding gas powered leaf blowers, to include [describe legislative desired].

Time Estimate: 60 minutes