



STAFF REPORT ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

To: Mayor Gavin Buckley

From: Michael Mallinoff, City Manager

Date: December 4, 2024

Subject: R-58-24: Postponing Enforcement of the Ban on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Purpose of legislation

The purpose of this legislation is to direct the City Manager to postpone enforcement of the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers in the City of Annapolis pursuant to O-28-23 until June 1, 2025, due to the need for residents and businesses to transition to electric leaf blowers and the time required to establish a voucher program; and generally related to the City's noise prohibitions.

Impact of legislation on operations

Leaf blowers are used by the Department of Public Works for downtown public space maintenance and to clear right of ways after weed whacking and mowing. Leaf blowers are used by the Department of Recreation and Parks for landscaping maintenance and leaf clearing.

The proposed legislation has no impact on the Department of Public Works since the maintenance crew switched to battery operated leaf blowers in mid-2024. Two hand held units were purchased for a total cost of \$479.98 (\$239.99 per unit).

The current Recreation and Parks landscaping equipment inventory does *not* include any electric leaf blowers. A delay in enforcement will assist the Department of Recreation and Parks in transitioning its gas powered leaf blowers to battery powered/electric blowers by allowing it to budget for and acquire replacement leaf blowers.

The current Recreation and Parks leaf blower inventory includes:

3 hand held blowers

Approximate age: 2 purchased 1 year ago, 3 purchased 2 years ago, the rest are older.

Lifespan: about 5 years

Cost per unit: \$600-\$700

8 back pack blowers

Approximate age: 3 years, 2 years, 1 year

Lifespan: 3-4 years

Cost per unit: about \$380

2-3 High-powered push roller blowers

Age: 5 years

Lifespan: 13-15 years

Cost per unit: \$2,000 - \$3,500

Impact of legislation on staffing

There is no impact on staffing.

Prepared by Jacqueline Guild, Deputy City Manager for Resilience and Sustainability with information provided by Robert Couchenour, Superintendent, Public Works Services, Department of Public Works and Rodney Dillard, Division Chief, Parks and Facilities, Department of Recreation and Parks.