

REGIONAL WORKING GROUP

LEAF BLOWER REGULATION REVIEW

January, 2022

SCOPE OF WORK

A Working Group shall be convened to evaluate the need and impact for gas powered leaf blower regulations to be considered by each representative municipality. The Working Group will not develop specific recommendations, rather they will prepare a report based on a factual information for each community to consider and evaluate. The rationale for regulations is due to reported environmental and noise concerns pertaining to the use of gas powered leaf blowers.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF CONTENTS

The report with optional outcomes and impacts should be developed that takes into consideration a variety of factors, including but not limited to the following. Subcommittees will be developed based on the following topics:

- Existing regulations of other area municipalities and best practices
 - Current restrictions and exemptions in the member municipalities
 - Enforcement procedures
 - Communications with landscapers and property owners
 - Did any municipalities consider prohibitions and reject regulations?
 - Have any municipalities prohibited gas-powered leaf blowers year-round? If yes, what have been the impacts?
- Impact of Gas Powered Leaf Blowers
 - Hours of Operations
 - The number of days or time period per year for use
 - Noise/Nuisance
 - Environmental considerations
 - Feedback
 - Landscapers, small-medium-large scale companies
 - Residents
 - Experts in the technology of leaf blowers
 - Penalty/Violations
 - Which department shall be responsible for enforcement
 - Method of enforcement (proactive vs reactive)
 - Financial and operational penalties
- Alternative Equipment
 - Technical/specification review of current commercial technologies (gas, battery, electric) equipment
 - Cost(s) of various commercial equipment and necessary components (charging stations, etc).
 - Explore options to phase-in regulations to address any technology or cost burdens
 - Exemptions due to technology or other reasons may include:
 - Resident use of equipment
 - Public Property
 - Golf courses
 - Other land in excess of X acreage
 - Consider financial incentives and possible buy-back options

The Working Group shall consider a variety of factors when researching and presenting options for consideration, including but limited to the following:

- Assess all research and identify the source; identify if the research has been published and/or peer reviewed
- Explore alternate approaches and options
- Include technical/specification review of the various equipment
- Consider social equity considerations

WORKING GROUP

The Working Group should include a diverse group of representatives with various expertise and experience. The Working Group meetings are not subject to the Openings Meeting Act.

- The Working Group will be co-chaired by Highland Park City Manager Ghida Neukirch, Wilmette Village Manager Mike Braiman and Glencoe Village Manager Phil Kiraly.
- Up to two representatives from each municipality were invited to participate from the following communities. Representatives include staff, elected officials and appointed officials.
 - Deerfield
 - Assistant to the Village Manager Justin Keenan, jkeen@deerfield.il.us
 - Glencoe
 - Sustainability Task Force Member Hall Healy, hallhealy@aol.com
 - Village Manager Phil Kiraly, PKiraly@villageofglencoe.org
 - Glenview
 - Deputy Director of Public Works Joe Kenney, jkenney@glenview.il.us
 - Kenilworth
 - Trustee Alison Winslow, alisonwinslow@icloud.com
 - Lake Bluff
 - Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair Brian Rener, Brian.Rener@smithgroup.com
 - Village Administrator Drew Irvin, dirvin@lakebluff.org
 - Lake Forest
 - Supt. of Parks and Forestry Chuck Myers, myersc@cityoflakeforest.com
 - Highland Park
 - Councilmember Anthony Blumberg, ablumberg@cityhpil.com
 - City Manager Ghida Neukirch (gneukirch@cityhpil.com)
 - Lincolnshire
 - Mgmt. Analyst Sam Barghi, Public Works, sbarghi@lincolnshireil.gov
 - Northbrook
 - Trustee Heather Ross, heather.ross@northbrook.il.us
 - Sustainability Coordinator Tessa Murray, tessa.murray@northbrook.il.us
 - Wilmette
 - Environmental & Energy Commissioner Karen Glennemeier, kglennemeier@gmail.com
 - Village Manager Mike Braiman, braimanm@wilmette.com
 - Winnetka
 - Police Chief Marc Hornstein, mhornstein@winnetka.org
 - King Poor, Former Winnetka Village Trustee and member of Go Green Winnetka, e.king.poor@gmail.com

- Landscape Professionals:
 - Mariani Landscape, Fred Wacker, President, FWacker@marianilandscape.com, Lake Bluff)
 - Scopelliti Landscaping, Guy Scopelliti, 847-816-7006, Joe@guyscopelliti.com, Highland Park
 - Illinois Landscape Contractors Association, Scott Grans, Executive Director, sgrams@ilca.net
- Other Groups:
 - Jeff Nehila, Executive Director, Deerfield Park District <jeff@deerfieldparks.org
 - Beth Drucker, Go Green representative, gogreenwilmette1@gmail.com
- Legal guidance will be provided by Elrod Friedman LLP. Elrod Friedman will provide a cost proposal if any legal drafting work is requested that would result in expenses for the group.

TIMING

The Working Group should establish a work plan that will identify the work that will be conducted and the associated time frame for completion.

October 31, 2022 - A draft report should be provided to each city/village manager.

November 15, 2022 – Deadline for comments and questions from the city/village managers.

December 15, 2022 - Final report submitted to city/village managers.

Thereafter, the city/village manager will work with their respective corporate authorities to present the information.