

GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER BAN

IMPLEMENTATION AND CONSIDERATIONS

CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

AUGUST 2026

SUSTAINABILITY@WALNUTCREEKCA.GOV

AGENDA

1. SAP Adoption and Pre-Implementation
2. Lessons Learned During Early Adoption
3. How to Support Electric Leaf blowers with or without a Ban



July 2023: SAP
adopted with
GPLBB within 3
years direction

Fall 2025:
Targeted
outreach to
landscapers,
and GPLBB
adopted

April 2026: Ban
goes into effect

Fall 2023 –
Summer 2025:
City internal
transition,
general
outreach

Winter 2025 –
Spring 2026:
Broad outreach,
complaint
process
development

Spring 2026 –
ongoing:
Complaint
management
and ongoing
outreach

TIMELINE



WHY BAN USE OF GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS?

- **GHG Emission** – other actions in Sustainability Action Plan have more potential
 - EV strategies have 42 times more emission reduction potential
 - Existing buildings electrification has 14 times more emission reduction potential
 - **Local Air Pollution** – exhaust emissions from gas-powered leaf blower engines produce several harmful pollutants
 - Exposure is most severe for the operator, and sensitive populations that are nearby when the machine is operating
 - **Noise** – can exceed OSHA standards. Varies greatly by individual machine, and noise is still produced by electric models
 - **AB 1346 (2021)** - State law to prohibit engine exhaust from small off-road engines for those produced after January 2024
 - Applies to all landscaping equipment, implemented by California Air Resources Board
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OUTREACH – BEFORE ADOPTION



CITY OF WALNUT CREEK



Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Fall cleanup doesn't have to come at the cost of clean air. Gas-powered leaf blowers create pollution that can lead to health issues. An ordinance to ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in Walnut Creek is under development. To stay up to date, visit the City's Gas Powered Leaf Blower website.



Our Contact
sustainability@walnutcreekca.gov



More Information
walnutcreekca.gov/government/departments/e-c-o-sustainability/leaf-blowers





Leave Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Behind

While fall paints the landscape with vibrant colors, leaves begin to pile onto lawns, sidewalks, streets, and more. It's in this season that gas-powered leaf blowers are more commonly used. When used, they emit toxic pollutants into the air that are dangerous for our health and the environment.

Gas-powered leaf blowers emit hydrocarbons, particulates, and carcinogens into the air that can cause health problems for anyone nearby. Research has connected these pollutants to higher asthma rates, respiratory problems, and cardiovascular disease. So, while it's tempting to clear your fallen leaves, doing so with a gas-powered leaf blower may be negatively impacting your health and your surroundings. Switching to an electric leaf blower or rake are

both healthier alternatives when clearing fallen leaves. Where possible, choosing to leave the leaves on the ground also creates a blanket of leaf litter in your yard or garden. This can provide shelter for local pollinators, enrich your soil quality, prevent weeds, and keep moisture in the ground – which is especially helpful in our dry California climate.

The City of Walnut Creek is considering a Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban this fall to encourage the switch to non-polluting equipment and improve environmental and public health in the city. To find out more about this policy, visit the City's Gas-Powered Leaf Blower webpage at walnutcreekca.gov/government/departments/e-c-o-sustainability/leaf-blowers.

GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER POLICY NOTICE



The City of Walnut Creek is considering a **city-wide ban on gas-powered leaf blowers**, expected to go to City Council this Fall.

This proposal is part of a broader effort to reduce air pollution and improve health and well-being in Walnut Creek. Want to learn more about the harms of gas-powered leaf blowers and how to switch to healthier alternatives? Check out the city's website (walnutcreekca.gov/leafblowers) for resources and rebates. The website will be updated as new information is available.



Questions?
sustainability@walnutcreekca.gov

OUTREACH – AFTER ADOPTION

Print

TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS

The Walnut Creek City Council has approved a new policy that will no longer allow the use of gas-powered leaf blowers within city limits beginning April 1st, 2026.

Why the change?

Gas-powered leaf blowers contribute to air and noise pollution, which can impact both our environment and well-being. By making the switch to cleaner alternatives, we're taking a meaningful step toward a greener Walnut Creek.

Curious about the impacts of gas-powered blowers or how to make the switch?

Visit walnutcreekca.gov/leafblowers for helpful resources, tips, and guidance on eco-friendly options.



Questions?
sustainability@walnutcreekca.gov



Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban Update

WALNUT CREEK'S CITY COUNCIL ADOPTED A PROHIBITION ON the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, with the ban set to take effect on April 1, 2026. With this action, Walnut Creek has joined more than 100 other California cities that have banned or restricted the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. This marks a step towards community resilience and pollution-free air for everyone who lives, works, and plays in Walnut Creek.

Gas-powered leaf blowers produce high levels of pollution. These toxic emissions include carbon monoxide, benzene, and carcinogens that can cause health problems for people nearby, including the person using the blower.

Healthier alternatives include switching to an electric leaf blower or using a rake. Also, if you leave fallen leaves over soil or grass, this can provide habitat for local pollinators, improve soil health, help retain soil moisture, and suppress weeds.

Want to share information about Walnut Creek's gas-powered leaf blower ban with your landscapers, gardeners, or neighbors? Visit walnutcreekca.gov/leafblowers to learn more and access resources in both English and Spanish.



Starting April 1st, 2026,
the use of gas-powered
leaf blowers will be
banned in
Walnut Creek.



Why? →

CITY GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER BAN

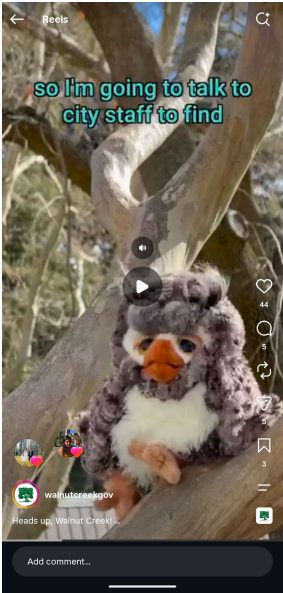
Starting April 1, 2026,
the use of gas-powered
leaf blowers will be
prohibited within the
City of Walnut Creek.



Visit walnutcreekca.gov/leaf-blowers for
more information
or scan the QR code.

Questions?

Email: sustainability@walnutcreekca.gov



YouTube



LEAVE GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS BEHIND



As of **April 1, 2026**, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited within the City of Walnut Creek.

Walnut Creek is committed to improving well-being for all those who live, work, and play in the city.

Gas-powered leaf blowers create harmful pollution. Switching to an electric leaf blower, rake, or broom improves local air quality and community health.



How can you help as a...

Landscaper

Convert to an electric leaf blower or manual tools.



Property Owner

Make an electric leaf blower available for your landscaper or provide an extra battery for their use.



Neighbor

Share this information with neighbors and landscapers who may not be aware of the change.



Visit [walnutcreekca.gov/leafblowers](https://www.walnutcreekca.gov/leafblowers) for more information or scan the QR code.

Questions? Email us at sustainability@walnutcreekca.gov or call 925-256-3596.



The City of Walnut Creek's GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWER BAN



As of **April 1, 2026**, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited within the City of Walnut Creek.

WHAT TO KNOW AS A LANDSCAPER OR GARDENER...

- Children and leaf blower operators face the greatest health risks from gas-powered leaf blower pollution.
- With low operating costs and simple maintenance, electric leaf blowers are more advanced than ever before.

WHAT CAN YOU DO...

- Convert to an electric leaf blower or use manual tools.
- Communicate with customers about their role in supporting this transition.



RESOURCES



Looking to buy new equipment? Visit or call Walnut Creek retailers to ask about financing and special deals.



Check the City's website for information on local discounts and regional rebates as they become available.



After emptying the tank, dispose of gas-powered leaf blowers for free at the following locations:

- Concord Recycling Center
- Rapid Recycle

For more information, scan the QR code or visit: [walnutcreekca.gov/leafblowers](https://www.walnutcreekca.gov/leafblowers)



Questions?

Email sustainability@walnutcreekca.gov or call at (925) 256-3596.

WEBSITE

walnutcreekca.gov/leafblowers

Leaf Blowers

[Feedback](#)

Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban in Effect on April 1, 2026

The use of gas-powered leaf blowers is prohibited in Walnut Creek, per the [City's Municipal Code](#). Property owners are responsible for ensuring compliance with the leaf blower ordinance, whether they use a leaf blower themselves or allow someone else to do so on their property. Violations of the ordinance can result in a fine.

Gas-powered leaf blowers create harmful pollution that has negative health impacts on residents and workers. Help support a healthier Walnut Creek by making the switch to cleaner equipment and encouraging neighbors and landscapers to do the same.



Making the Switch to Cleaner Equipment

Convert to Electric, Battery-Powered, or Manual Tools	-
• Avoid fines and improve local air quality by converting to an electric-powered leaf blower or manual tools. • If you hire a landscaper or gardener, share this website with them so that they are aware of the change and any resources available to ease the transition. Additionally, talk with them to see if there are ways you can help with the transition, for example consider making an outlet available or having an extra charged battery for your landscaper to use.	
Financial Incentives and Vouchers	+
How to retire old equipment	+

Sharing Information with Neighbors and Landscapers

Forward this webpage or share the flyers linked below to help keep neighbors, gardeners, and landscapers informed:

- [General Leaf Blower Flyer - English & Spanish \(PDF\)](#)
- [Landscaper / Gardener Flyer - English & Spanish \(PDF\)](#)



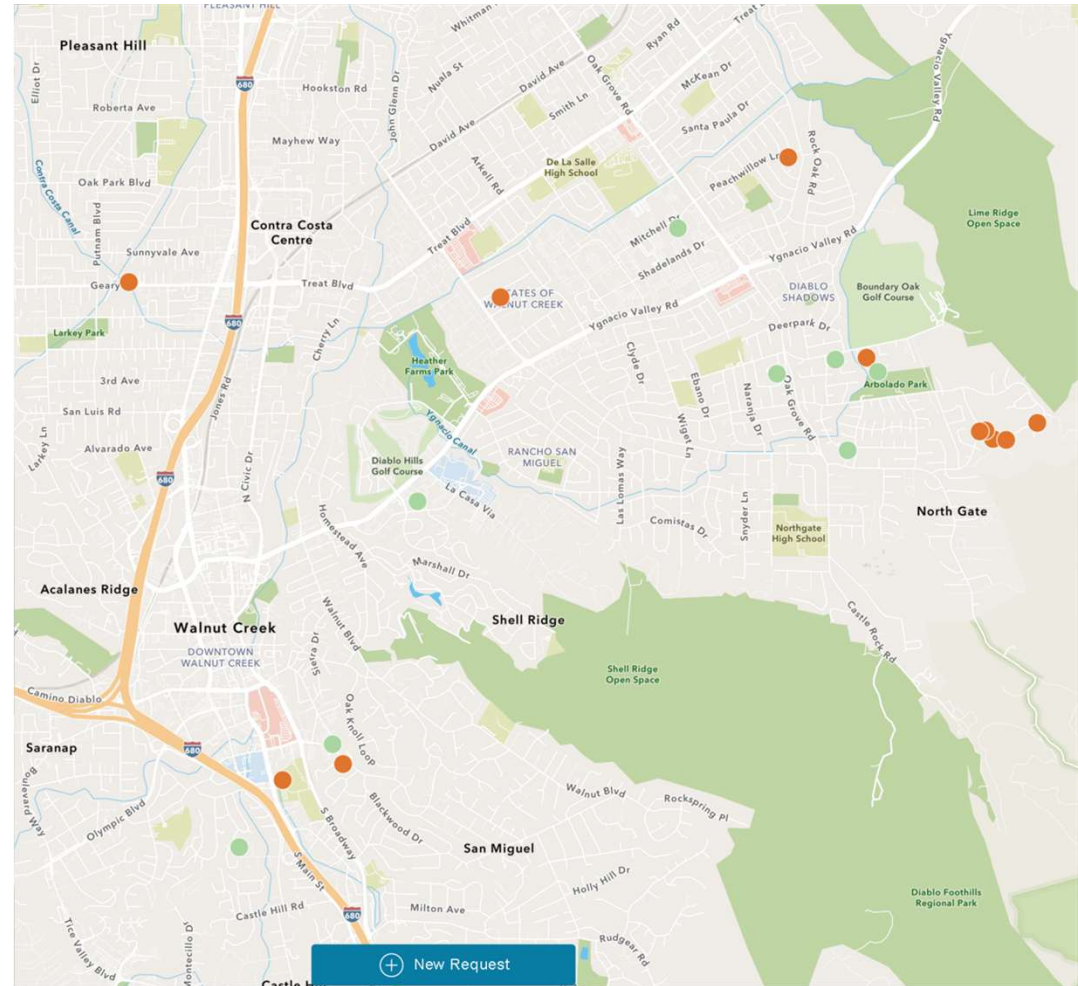
Check out and share City videos about the transition away from gas-powered leaf blowers:

English Interview: [Switching to Electric Leaf Blowers](#)

Entrevista en español: [Cambio a sopladores eléctricos de hojas](#)

COMPLAINT PROCESS

- Receive complaints
 - SeeClickFix (seeclickfix.com/walnut-creek)
 - Phone
 - Email
- Send letters with flyer to address
- If two letters are sent and the issue persists refer to Code Enforcement



IMPLEMENTATION REALITIES

ROSES

- 80%+ of properties reported only once
- Anecdotal reports of properties coming into compliance
- Better understanding of leaf blower use in City

BOTH

- Organic media/social media coverage
- Strong engagement and reactions
- Leading with education
- Prevalence of hired landscapers

THORNS

- Finding the right contact for certain properties
- Not all reports are accurate
- Usually don't receive confirmation of a switch

CLIMATE ACTION BEHAVIOR CHANGE SUPER STARS

FUNDING

- Bay Area Air District Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Exchange Pilot Program
 - Landscapers that have clients in “Richmond-San Pablo & Surrounding Communities” qualify for trade in rebates on a variety of landscaping equipment, including \$1,400 for leaf blowers

SOCIETAL NORMS

- Working directly with neighbors to encourage behavior change is the most effective
 - If you use electric landscaping equipment on your property, tell friends and family the benefits and how much you prefer it
 - If your landscaper uses electric, give them positive reviews online
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