



# VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION



Thursday, August 19, 2021  
Terrace Room – Second Floor  
Village Hall – 1225 Cedar Lane

## AGENDA

### 7:00 P.M.

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Review of Minutes – July 15, 2021 Meeting
- 3) Hear From the Audience – Items not on the agenda
- 4) Community Planning Report
- 5) Leaf Blower Update
- 6) Green Steward Spotlight
- 7) Updates on Other Items:
  - a) Communication Initiatives & Messaging
  - b) Solar Permit Data
  - c) Recycling & Waste Data – Solid Waste, Recycling, Compost, E-waste, Textiles
- 8) Old Business
- 9) New Business
- 10) Remarks for the Good of the Order
- 11) Next Scheduled Meeting – October 21, 2021
- 12) Adjourn.

The Village of Northbrook is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of this meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact Greg Van Dahm or Debra J. Ford (847-664-4014 and 847-664-4013, respectively) promptly to allow the Village of Northbrook to make reasonable accommodations for those persons. Hearing impaired individuals may call the TDD number, 847-564-8465, for more information.

***Jeremy Reynolds, Chair of the EQC***



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**MEMORANDUM  
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK  
DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**TO: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION**  
**FROM: TESSA MURRAY, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR**  
**DATE: AUGUST 19, 2021**  
**SUBJECT: LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE**

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At the July 2021 EQC meeting, Commissioners continued reviewing ordinance details relating to gas-powered lawn equipment from other surrounding communities. Following this discussion, Village staff compiled information from questions raised during the meeting that may aid in Commissioner's research and deliberation.

1. Does Northbrook currently require landscaping companies to register or provide certification of insurance to do business within the Village?

No. Changing this would require Board consideration and approval.

2. Are golf courses and the Park District included in Northbrook's current noise ordinance for lawn equipment?

No. Changing this would require Board consideration and approval.

3. With Northbrook's coal tar ban, who is penalized?

Anyone found in violation of the ban: "Any commercial sealcoat product applicator, residential or commercial developer, industrial or commercial owner, retailer or any other person who violates this section, shall be subject to a fine of two hundred fifty dollars." (Sec 16-15 of Municipal Code).

Commissioners noted the following differences between local policies to consider for Northbrook:

- Require landscaping business registration?
- Prohibit seasonally or year-round? (Ex.: May 1 – Oct. 1 ban).
- Noise-based (Ex.: 65 decibel threshold), emissions-based (Ex.: 2-stroke engine ban), or outright ban?
- All gas-powered lawn equipment or only blowers?
- Who gets fined? (Ex: Homeowner fined if operating, landscaping company fined if worker operating and homeowner notified of violation).
- Village-wide or locational exceptions? (Ex: Excluding golf courses and Park District)

GoGreen's database of local ordinances is updated and attached to this report for review. If Commissioners reach a consensus on the above questions, staff will draft potential ordinance language to review at the next Sustainability Commission meeting.

Communities	Ordinance? (Y = yes, N = no, U = unknown, P = pending)	Fine? (Y/N)	Fine amount?	Who is fined?	Notes
Evanston	Noise + leaf blower ordinances	First violation letter, but if second offense	For second offense, fine is \$100. Fines remain \$100 each time no matter how often person offends	Person using leafblower - homeowner or worker	Prohibited May 16-Sept. 29 as well as after first Thursday in December until March 29. When allowed, M-F 7am-9pm and S/S/Holidays 9am-5pm
Glen Ellyn	Only nuisance regulation	N/A	N/A	N/A	Restricts the use of tools for home and lawn maintenance to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and sunset. Arguably, a leaf blower would fall under that regulation.
Glencoe	Noise + leaf blower ordinances	Yes - no first warning	\$250 each time	Landscaping company	Gas-powered leaf blowers permitted between March 15-May 15 and Sept. 15 - Dec. 15.
Glenview	Noise ordinance	Yes - determined by police department	Determined by police department	Determined by police department	Noise ordinance exists.
Highland Park	Leaf blower ordinance	Yes	Between \$200 and \$500	Landscaper company	Only electric leaf blowers allowed between May 15 and October 1 on M-F between 7am-9pm and Saturday between 9am-5pm. No leaf blowers allowed on Sundays.
Kenilworth	Leaf blower ordinance				Village's ban on gasoline-powered leaf blowers from May 15 - September 30. The ban includes electric leaf blowers connected to portable gasoline-powered electric generators. Until that time, residents may continue using their leaf blower between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday - Friday, and between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Leaf blowers, regardless of power source, may not exceed 75 decibels when in use.
Lake Bluff	Noise Ordinance	Yes	\$25-\$750	Contractor or company	M-F 8am-6pm; S/S/Holidays 9am-6pm.

Lake Forest	Noise Ordinance	Yes	\$10-\$750 per offense	Determined by police department when citation is written - case by case basis	M-F 7:30am-7:30pm. Sat. 8:00am-5:30pm, Sun./Holidays 10am-5pm.
Lake Zurich	Noise Ordinance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Libertyville	Probably none				
Lincolnshire	Noise Ordinance only for contactors, not homeowners	Stop work order and potential fine - ONLY contractors will get fined, homeowners can use leafblowers whenever (outside of any noise ordinance times)	Up to \$500	Homeowners never fined - contract companies may be fined depending on police decision	Permitted 7am-7pm M-F; 8am-6pm Sat.; no work Sunday or holidays.
Lincolnwood	Noise + usage ordinances	Speak to contractor + homeowner, give violation notice. Second offense = citation.	Judge gives fine; village suggests fine	Contractor definitely - but also perhaps homeowner (both have been cited for breaking construction ordinances in the past, just not leaf blowers)	When permitted, can be used between 7am-6pm M-F or 7am-12pm Saturday. Not permitted between May 15 and September 30

					Response from Gia: When we discussed this organizing opportunity/possible ordinance within our group there were lots of questions about enforcement. Who is enforcing these regulations/ordinances and who is targeted by these ordinances? When we discussed current regulations in other municipalities it seems those targeted with ticketing and violations/fines are those doing the work - not the home owner or business owner. This brings up sticky social justice issues for us and we have major concerns as a social justice group with the implications of such an ordinance on the workers getting the fines and situations. Likewise in Morton Grove the village staff is a very small group so it's likely the enforcement would fall to the police department. Our group actively advocates for downsizing the police budget and the relocation of funds to other services within a social justice framework, so adding additional tasks or getting the MG police involved would definitely be a major concern for our group members.
Morton Grove	Noise ordinance	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Mount Prospect	Noise ordinance	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear - the person I spoke with was not very willing to help
					Permitted Between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Mondays through Fridays, inclusive, and between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and nationally recognized holidays; No specific ordinance for leaf blowers; the ordinance is for all power lawn equipment; the fining is rarely given at 750\$, and this is subject to the assessment of the Hearing Officer
Northbrook	Noise ordinance	Yes, if person refuses to comply with citation	Up to \$750/day/offense	The person holding the leaf blower	

Oak Park	Noise + leaf blower ordinances	Yes	Determined by judge	Homeowner if homeowner is operating; landscape company if worker is operating	The use of gas-powered leaf blowers emanating more than 65 decibels or failing to meet federal emission regulations is prohibited from June through October. The ban applies to both landscapers and homeowners. Gas-powered blowers that emanate fewer than 65 decibels and meet emission standards may be used during the ban if they have been tested and approved by the Village.
Park Ridge	Noise ordinance	Yes, after warning	Determined by police	Unclear - case by case basis	Allowed on M-F 7am-7pm; Sat 8am-5pm
Riverwoods	Noise ordinance	Yes	\$75-\$750	Person holding leafblower.	Allowed between M-F 7am-7pm; Saturday 8:30am-5pm
Skokie	Noise ordinance	No	N/A	N/A	Can be used any day of the week between 9am-8pm. If someone using outside of that time frame, can call non-emergency police. No ticket guaranteed.
Vernon Hills	Noise ordinance	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Allowed between M-F 7am-7pm; Saturday 8:30am-5pm
Wilmette	Noise + leaf blower ordinances	First offence: 80\$ to user and company owner Second offence and above: 160\$ to user and company	Not determined by village	Person holding leafblower - homeowner or worker. If worker from landscaping company, then the company also gets charged.	Between May 15 and September 30, the Village of Wilmette prohibits the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Between October 1 and May 14, the Village of Wilmette permits the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers, however use of a gasoline-powered leaf blower during that time.
Winnetka	Noise + leaf blower ordinances	Yes	Increasing fine over multiple offenses, but the police create the fines. At least \$100.	Unclear - determined by police	Oct 1 - May 31, M-F 8-7; S/S 9-6. Can't use gas between June 1 and Sept 31



**MEMORANDUM**  
**VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK**  
**DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**TO: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION**  
**FROM: TESSA MURRAY, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR**  
**DATE: AUGUST 19, 2021**  
**SUBJECT: GREEN STEWARD SPOTLIGHT**

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At the April 2021 EQC meeting, Commissioners recommended the Green Steward Spotlight as an alternative to the Green Awards program to extend recognition of community members' sustainable practices through a year-round communications initiative.

Interested individuals must submit electronically to [Sustainability@Northbrook.il.us](mailto:Sustainability@Northbrook.il.us) providing their name, address, write-up, and pictures explaining their green initiative(s). Village staff will review submissions, maintain a log on the Village Environmental Sustainability webpage, and occasionally post spotlights to Northbrook's social media channels to foster a community where members can celebrate and learn from each other's achievements in environmentalism.

Please review the following attachment of a draft webpage to host the Green Steward Spotlight. Village staff will begin coordinating to include information on the updated program in upcoming print and e-newsletters and to interested parties.

Home › Living & Visiting › Environmental Sustainability › [DRAFT] Green Steward Spotlight

# GREEN STEWARD SPOTLIGHT

## Program Overview

Northbrook is a committed partner to improving the environment and encouraging sustainable practices. To this end, the Village recognizes the importance of government, community members, and businesses working together. Since 2018, the Village has awarded leadership annually through the Green Business and Green Resident Awards.

The Village appreciates our community's sustained commitment to the climate issues and solutions. In 2021, Environmental Quality Commissioners recommended the Green Steward Spotlight as an alternative to the Green Awards program to extend recognition of community members' sustainable practices through a year-round communications initiative.

## Submissions Welcome

Interested individuals must submit the following information electronically by emailing [Sustainability@Northbrook.il.us](mailto:Sustainability@Northbrook.il.us) with the subject line "Green Steward Submission".

Only attach supporting images to this email that you are comfortable being shared widely on Village communications platforms. In a Word document, please include:

- 1) Name
- 2) Address
- 3) A summary of the sustainable practices incorporated into your daily life and operations.
- 4) Outcomes of these actions (ex: reduction in landfill contribution, monetary savings, reduction in carbon footprint).
- 5) What you think everyone should know or could learn from your green initiatives.

Village staff will review submissions, maintain a log on this webpage, and occasionally post spotlights to Northbrook's social media channels to foster a community where members can celebrate and learn from each other's achievements in environmentalism.