

Ban the Blowers!

by Gail Sears

Member, Noise Free America: A Coalition to Promote Quiet

Working at home has been eye-opening and ear-opening. Sweet bird sounds compete with the piercing blasts of gas-powered leaf blowers. Here's why leaf blower noise is not only annoying—it's physically harmful.

Effects of Noise

Public Health

A gas-powered leaf blower with a two-stroke engine can emit as much gaseous fumes in one hour as a car drive for 1100 miles.

Wildlife

Exposure to the barrage of noise from gas-powered leaf blowers harms wildlife.

Worker Safety

The use of gas-powered leaf blowers poses serious risks for lawn care company employees, who are constantly exposed to toxic fumes and dangerous noise levels.

Mental Health

Noise degrades quality of life and creates levels of frustration and aggravation that last even when the noise has ceased.

What Can You Do?

- Use a cordless electric leaf blower or a rake. If economic do not permit a purchase, considering talking to your neighbors about buying one to share.
- If you have a lawn service, ask them to consider switching to battery-operated lawn equipment.

-Many cities have banned gas-powered leaf blowers. Use a forum such as Nextdoor to start a discussion.