

ORDINANCE NO. ORD-23-35

First Reading: December 4, 2023      Approved:  
Public Hearing: December 18, 2023      Published:

CHAPTER 75  
(LEAF BLOWERS)

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 75 (LEAF BLOWERS) TO TITLE VI OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

The City of Ann Arbor ordains:

Section 1. That Chapter 75 (Leaf Blowers) of Title VI of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor be added as follows:

6:700. – Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to protect the peace, health, safety, and welfare of persons in the City of Ann Arbor and to promote the City's sustainability goals by reducing noise, pollution, and other negative effects from leaf blowers.

6:701. – Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings described in this section:

- (1) *Gas-powered* means powered by an internal combustion engine, including gasoline, kerosene, diesel, propane, or other volatile fuel.
- (2) *Leaf Blower* means a powered portable, handheld, or backpack vacuum or blower used outdoors for the purpose of blowing or vacuuming light materials, such as dust, dirt, leaves, grass or plant clippings, stones, trash, or debris. It does not include snowblowers.
- (3) *Electric* means not Gas-Powered and powered from an electrical outlet or from batteries.
- (4) *Turbine Blower* means a towed or wheeled Leaf Blower powered by a four-stroke internal combustion engine.

6:702. – Regulation of Gas-powered Leaf Blowers.

- (1) *Summer ban.* The use of Gas-powered Leaf Blowers is prohibited in the City from June 1 to September 30. Electric Leaf Blowers may be used during this time.

(2) *Seasonal use and phase-out.* The use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers is permitted from October 1 to May 30 through the year 2027. Beginning January 1, 2028 the use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers is prohibited at all times in the City.

6:703. – Regulation of Leaf Blowers Generally.

~~(1) *Hours of operation.* Leaf Blowers may only be used during the following hours:~~

~~a. Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.~~

~~b. Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.~~

~~(2)~~(1) *Blowing off-property prohibited.* It is prohibited to blow or sweep debris, trash, leaves, plant clippings, or yard waste into a neighboring property, street, sidewalk, drain, or public right-of-way.

6:704 - Exceptions.

(1) Any Leaf Blower may be used at any time:

- a. in an emergency to protect health, safety, or property; or
- b. to restore property immediately after an emergency, such as to clear a walkway, driveway, or street from debris following a storm or other natural disaster.

(2) Any Leaf Blower may be used in street, sidewalk, or other paving construction or repair at any time when such work is otherwise permitted, including under Chapter 119 (Noise Control) of this Code.

(3) Turbine Blowers may be used at any time of year regardless of Section 6:702 and Leaf Blowers may be used outside of the hours of operation stated in Section 6:703 when necessary to prepare recreational facilities for use, such as golf courses or playing fields, or to maintain public facilities.

6:705. – Penalties.

A violation of this chapter is a civil infraction punishable by a civil fine of not less than \$100 plus costs for a first offense and not less than \$250 plus costs for a subsequent offense, up to \$500.00 plus costs and which may be assessed against an individual who violates this chapter or the employer that permits or directs such individual to violate this chapter.

Section 2. That Section 1:17 of Chapter 1 of Title I of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor be amended as follows:

1:17. - Code violation citations.

The administrators of the following services areas [and units](#) and the persons holding the positions or performing the functions listed within each services area [or unit](#) are authorized to issue citations for violations of the indicated chapters of this Code. This designation of authority is in addition to that otherwise provided by law.

(1) *Community services area.*

(a) Planning and development services unit (Chapters 2, 26, 27, 28, 33, 38, 47, 50, 55, 65, 79, 82, 94, 99, 100, 101, 103, 105, 106, 116 and 119):  
Building Official.

City Planner.

Development Services Inspectors.

Project & Programs Manager.

Senior City Planner.

Zoning Coordinator.

(b) Community television network – Public information services unit (Chapter 32):  
Cable Administrator.

[\(c\) Parks and public space maintenance services unit \(Chapters 26, 27, 28, 33, 38, 39, 40, 47, 49, 82, 106 and 119\):](#)

[Deputy Parks Manager](#)

[Parks and Public Space Maintenance Supervisor](#)

[Parks and Public Space Maintenance Technician](#)

[Natural Area Preservation Manager.](#)

[Natural Area Preservation Technician.](#)

[Conservation Worker.](#)

[Outreach Coordinator.](#)

Conservation Crew Leader.

Field Biologist.

(2) *Public services area.*

~~(c) Field operations services unit (Chapters 26, 27, 28, 33, 38, 39, 40, 47, 49, 82, 106 and 119):~~

~~Field Operations Manager.~~

~~Field Operations Supervisor.~~

~~Field Operations Technician.~~

~~Natural Area Preservation Manager.~~

~~Natural Area Preservation Technician.~~

~~Conservation Worker.~~

~~Outreach Coordinator.~~

~~Conservation Crew Leader.~~

~~Field Biologist.~~

(a) Wastewater treatment services unit (Chapters 27, 28 and 33):

Wastewater Treatment Services Manager.

Administrative Assistant to Wastewater Treatment Services Manager.

(b) Systems planning unit (Chapters 26, 27, 28, 33, 40, 47, 55, 69, 70, 71, 72, 100, 106, 116 and 119):

Systems Planning Unit Manager.

Environmental Coordinator.

Fertilizer Program Administrator.

Urban Forestry and Natural Resources Planning Coordinator.

Stormwater and Floodplain Programs Coordinator.

Land Development Coordinator.

Water Quality Manager.

Solid Waste & Recycling Coordinator.

(c) Project management services unit (Chapters 27, 28, 33, 38, 40, 47, 49, 50, 55, 59, 100, 106, 119, and 126):

Project Management Manager.

Senior Project Manager.

Project Manager.

Senior Project Engineer.

Project Engineer.

Civil Engineer Specialists' Supervisor.

Civil Engineer Specialist.

(3) *Safety services area.*

(a) Fire services unit (Chapters 27, 93, 99, 100, 101, 105, 106, 111, 115, 116 and 126):

Fire Chief.

Assistant Fire Chief.

Battalion Chief.

Captain.

Lieutenant.

Driver Operator.

Fire Fighter.

Fire Marshal.

Fire Inspectors.

(b) Police services unit.

Police Service Specialists (Chapters 38, 39, 47, 49, 70, 72, [73, 75](#), 82, 85, 106, 107, 111, 114, 115, 119, 120, 126 and 127).

Community Standards Officers (Chapters 26, 30, 40, 47, 49, 55, 59, 61, 70, 72, [73, 75](#), 79, 82, 105, 106, 111, 120 and 126).

Telecommunicator (Chapter 93).

(4) Human resources services unit (Chapters 23 and 112):

Human Resources Manager.

Human Rights Coordinator.

Human Rights Investigator.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect ten days after publication.

**As Amended at First Reading by Ann Arbor City Council on December 4, 2023.**