



# City of Cambridge

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

**SHUO WANG**  
Assistant Purchasing Agent for  
Goods & Services

**NATALIE SULLIVAN**  
Assistant Purchasing Agent for  
Design & Construction

**Elizabeth Unger**  
Purchasing Agent

**TO: All Bidders**

**FROM: City of Cambridge**

**DATE: March 5, 2024**

**RE: File No. 11431 Street Sweeping Services for the City of Cambridge 2024-2027-  
Addendum No. 2**

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**This addendum is comprised of:**

**CHANGES TO SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Please note the inclusion of the attached Leaf Blower Regulations and Leaf Blower Ordinances.

Further details regarding the Cambridge Leaf Blower Permits can be found at:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Services/leafblowerpermit>

**All other details remain the same.**

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**Elizabeth Unger**  
Purchasing Agent

**Addendum No. 2**





## **CITY OF CAMBRIDGE** **LEAF BLOWER REGULATIONS**

***Notice: Pursuant to Cambridge Municipal Code 8.16.081.4, the following Regulations were adopted on 9/12/16 by Public Works Commissioner Owen O’Riordan and License Commission Chair Nicole Murati Ferrer. These are effective immediately and are subject to changes and amendments.***

- (1) All provisions of Cambridge Municipal Code (the “Code”), Noise Control, Chapter 8.16 are incorporated herein and made a part hereof.
- (2) Unless explicitly exempted, all persons and municipal contractors or commercial leaf blower operators and their employees must comply with all provisions of Chapter 8.16 of the Code, including but not limited to 8.16.081 (“Ordinance”), and the Regulations (the “Regulations”) herein.
- (3) Only leaf blowers that are portable, handheld or back style powered by fuel or electricity are regulated by the Ordinance.
- (4) Commercial leaf blower operators, as defined by the Ordinance, must be permitted by the License Commission prior to operating, or allowing any of its employees to operate, leaf blowers in Cambridge.
  - (a) The permit must be applied for annually.
  - (b) The permit is subject to conditions, revocation, suspension and/or fines.
- (5) Any company or person, including the property owner, who violates, or allows any other to violate, the provisions of the Code or these Regulations, may be subject to fines of \$300.00 per violation.
- (6) All leaf blowers must meet current EPA emissions standards and cannot emit noise greater than 65 decibels, as rated by the manufacturer.
- (7) The user of a leaf blower must make all reasonable efforts to use it at the speed/throttle which emits the least sound and is least disturbing but can still accomplish the work to be performed.
- (8) Only one leaf blower can be used in parcels of 10,000 square feet or smaller.
- (9) Multiple leaf blowers can be used on parcels of land larger than 10,000 square feet so long as the leaf blowers are at least 10,000 square feet apart from each other.
- (10) When employees of the same commercial leaf blower operator are servicing adjacent parcels, the employees must not operate them simultaneously unless they are at least 10,000 square feet apart from each other.
- (11) Leaf blowers can only be used March 15 – June 15 and September 15 – December 31. The proper hours of operation during these periods are: Mondays through Fridays, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Indigenous Peoples’ Day, 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; and Veterans’ Day, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. They cannot be operated on Sundays or any other legal holiday. This Regulation does not apply to municipal employees or municipal contractors working at Danehy Park, Fresh Pond Reservation, Fresh Pond Golf Course, Municipal Cemetery, Old Burial Ground, or after an emergency after a storm.
- (12) Commercial leaf blower operators must submit their employees to any training offered by the License Commission or submit an affidavit attesting they have trained all employees on the provisions of the Code and the Regulations.

- (13) Leaf blowers cannot be pointed at persons or animals. There must be a distance of at least fifty (50) feet between the user and any person or animal.
- (14) It is prohibited to blow towards open windows or doors. When possible, leaf blowers are not to be used within 10 feet of windows or doors.
- (15) Private citizens/individuals and commercial leaf blower operators are prohibited from blowing debris onto adjacent property, the street, catch basins, gutters, vehicles, people or animals.
- (16) Municipal employees or Municipal contractors may blow leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings and trimming from trees and shrubs on a municipal street or sidewalk for collection and pick-up, during municipal street and sidewalk sweeping and cleaning operations.
- (17) The leaf blower operator should use the longest possible nozzle for the equipment at maximum extension and orient the nozzle to reduce the sound.
- (18) The leaf blower equipment must be checked regularly to ensure proper operation and compliant sound emissions.
- (19) When feasible, prior to using a leaf blower, the operator must spray dusty areas with water.
- (20) Leaf blowers may never be used for construction dust, plaster dust or dry garden topsoil.
- (21) Leaf blowers may never be used to move large mounds of debris. Rakes and brooms should be used whenever possible and always when loosening heavier debris.
- (22) Employees must use ear protection while operating a leaf blower. The ear protection must be provided by the employer at no cost to the employee.
- (23) Leaf blower operators should use respiratory protection while operating the leaf blower. Any employee who requests respiratory protection from their employer, must be provided one at no cost to the employee.
- (24) Leaf blower operators should use eye protection gear while operating the blower. Any employee who requests such gear from their employer, must be provided one at no cost to the employee.
- (25) Commercial leaf blower operators and municipal contractors must provide each employee with a copy of the Regulations.

*The Commissioners for the Public Works Department and License Commission thank you for your compliance with the Code and these Regulations. We trust that you will ensure all employees are properly trained, provided protection gear and informed that that responsible use of a leaf blower includes using common sense. If there are any complaints or violations, please report them immediately to the City of Cambridge through Commonwealth Connect, via email at [License@cambridgema.gov](mailto:License@cambridgema.gov) or by phone at (617) 349-6149.*

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## **8.16.081 Leaf blowers ("Leaf Blower Ordinance").**

### **8.16.081.1 Statement of purpose.**

The City Council hereby finds that the reduction of noise and emissions of particulate matter resulting from the use of leaf blowers is a public purpose that protects the public health, welfare and environment of the City of Cambridge and its citizens. The City Council recognizes that a total ban on the use of such equipment would have a severe adverse impact on the ability of the City to effectively remove leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings and trimmings from trees, shrubs and other types of litter and debris from streets, sidewalks, cemeteries and large recreational facilities and other open spaces and to clean and maintain such facilities without relaxing restrictions on the use of such equipment for maintenance operations of such facilities.

### **8.16.081.2 Use Regulations.**

The use of leaf blowers shall be regulated as follows:

1. Definitions.
  - a. Definition of leaf blower. Leaf blowers are defined as portable, handheld or back pack style power equipment that is powered by fuel or electricity and used in any landscape maintenance, construction, property repair, or property maintenance for the purpose of blowing, moving, removing, dispersing or redistributing leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings and trimmings from trees and shrubs or any other type of litter or debris.
  - b. Definition of commercial leaf blower operator. Any entity or organization that employs two (2) or more employees that receives income, remuneration or compensation of any kind, whether as a fee, a charge, a salary, wages or otherwise, for operating a leaf blower, except that municipal operators and municipal contractors are excluded from this definition.
2. Limitations on use.
  - a. The use of leaf blowers is prohibited except between March 15 and June 15 and between September 15 and December 31 in any year. The provisions of this subsection 8.16.081.2.2(a) do not apply to the use of leaf blowers in accordance with the provisions of this Leaf Blower Ordinance and regulations promulgated hereunder by municipal operators and municipal contractors performing leaf blower operations in Mayor Thomas W. Danehy Park, Fresh Pond Reservation, Thomas P. O'Neil, Jr. Municipal Golf Course at Fresh Pond, Cambridge Municipal Cemetery, Old Burial Ground or performing emergency operations and clean-up associated with storms, hurricanes and the like or by operators performing leaf blower operations on one or more adjoining parcels of land in common ownership that together comprise a total of two (2) acres or more, so long as the owners of such land comply with the provisions of subsection 8.16.081.2.2(c).
  - b. The use of leaf blowers is further prohibited on Sundays and legal holidays except Columbus Day and Veterans' Day and prohibited on other days except between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Saturdays, Columbus Day and Veterans' Day. Commercial leaf blower operators may operate leaf blowers between the hours of 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m. only on Columbus Day and between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. only on Veterans' Day, consistent with the provisions of G.L. c. 136, §13 as it may be amended. The provisions of this subsection 8.16.081.2.2(b) do not apply to the use of leaf blowers in accordance with the provisions of this Leaf Blower Ordinance and regulations promulgated hereunder by municipal operators and municipal contractors performing leaf

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blower operations in Mayor Thomas W. Danehy Park, Fresh Pond Reservation, Thomas P. O'Neil, Jr. Municipal Golf Course at Fresh Pond, Cambridge Municipal Cemetery, Old Burial Ground or performing emergency operations and clean-up associated with storms, hurricanes and the like or by operators performing leaf blower operations on one or more adjoining parcels of land in common ownership that together comprise a total of two (2) acres or more, so long as the owners of such land comply with the provisions of subsection 8.16.081.2.2(c).

- c. Commercial leaf blower operators and owners of one or more adjoining parcels of land in common ownership that together comprise a total of two (2) acres or more seeking to operate leaf blowers on such land shall not be permitted to operate leaf blowers, but may be exempted from the prohibition of this subsection 8.16.081.2.2(c) if they submit an operations plan to the City Manager or his or her designee for review and approval. At a minimum, the operations plan shall: address the owner's or operator's efforts to mitigate the impacts of noise and emissions upon citizens and the occupants and owners of nearby property, include an inventory of all leaf blowing equipment owned and to be used by the owner or operator in its operations program, which shall comply with the noise and emission restrictions set forth in this Leaf Blower Ordinance and regulations promulgated hereunder, and include the owner's or operator's plan for educating users of its equipment on the proper use of equipment as well as the need to mitigate impacts upon others. The operations plan shall be reviewed by the City Manager or his or her designee, who shall ensure that it complies with the applicable provisions of this Leaf Blower Ordinance and regulations promulgated hereunder, and shall impose any conditions that may be required in order for the owner or operator to comply with the provisions of this Leaf Blower Ordinance and regulations promulgated hereunder. No operations plan submitted by owners of one or more adjoining parcels of land in common ownership that together comprise a total of two (2) acres or more seeking to operate leaf blowers on such land shall be approved by the City Manager unless there has been a showing of significant hardship.
  - d. Leaf blower operations shall not cause leaves, dirt, dust, debris, grass clippings, cuttings or trimmings from trees or shrubs or any other type of litter or debris to be blown or deposited on any adjacent or other parcel of land, lot, or public right-of-way/property other than the parcel, land, or lot upon which the leaf blower is being operated. Leaves, dirt, dust, debris, grass clippings, cuttings or trimmings from trees or shrubs or any other type of litter or debris shall not be blown, swept or raked onto or into an adjacent street or gutter, except by municipal employees or municipal contractors or leaf blower operators placing leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings and trimmings from trees and shrubs on a municipal street or sidewalk for collection and pick-up, during municipal street and sidewalk sweeping and cleaning operations. In no event shall leaves, dirt, dust, debris, grass clippings, cuttings or trimmings from trees or shrubs or any other type of litter or debris be blown, swept or raked onto or into catch basins or onto vehicles, persons or pets. Deposits of leaves, dirt, dust, debris, grass clippings, cuttings or trimmings from trees or shrubs or any other type of litter or debris shall be removed and disposed of in a sanitary manner which will prevent dispersment by wind, vandalism or similar means.
  - e. All leaf blowers shall satisfy the emissions standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and noise level standards as follows: the sound emitted from any leaf blower shall be rated by the manufacturer to be no greater than 65 decibels.
  - f. On parcels of 10,000 square feet or less, only one leaf blower at a time may be used, and on parcels larger than 10,000 square feet, only one leaf blower may be used within each 10,000 square foot area.
3. Fees. A fee for the City to recover all costs connected with emission or sound testing and enforcement may be charged in an amount set by the License Commission and approved by the City Manager.

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4. Regulations. The License Commission and the Commissioner of Public Works shall have the authority to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this Leaf Blower Ordinance.
  5. Enforcement Officials. In addition to the Police Commissioner, the Commissioner of Inspectional Services Department and the Chairperson of the License Commission as provided in section 8.16.040 of this Chapter, the Commissioner of Public Works and his or her designee shall be authorized enforcement personnel charged with the enforcement of this section pursuant to the provisions of section 8.16.040 of this Chapter.
  6. Severability. The provisions of this Chapter are severable. If any section, provision or portion of this Chapter is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Chapter shall continue to be valid.
  7. Effective Date. The provisions of this Leaf Blower Ordinance shall be effective commencing on March 1, 2008 except as to City of Cambridge contracts now in effect, as to which the provisions of this Leaf Blower Ordinance shall be effective commencing on September 15,2008.

(Ord. No. 1311, 12-10-2007)