



## CITY OF RYE

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To General Code:

The enclosed laws were adopted by the Council of the City of Rye at a regular meeting on February 11, 2026

### **Local Law No. 2-2026**

Please send a receipt acknowledgment for our files. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

*Noga Ruttenberg*

Noga Ruttenberg  
City Clerk

Enclosure

CITY OF RYE

LOCAL LAW NO. 2- 2026

**A local law to repeal sections of Chapter 133 “Noise” § 133-7 “Lawn maintenance equipment regulations” in its entirety and amend Chapter 122 “Leaf Blower Regulations” of the Code of the City of Rye to prohibit the use of gas leaf blowers with certain exceptions and to amend the penalties for violations of the Chapter as follows:**

**Section 1. Repeal § 133-7 in its entirety.**

**§ 133-7 “Lawn maintenance equipment regulations.”**

~~It is the policy of the City of Rye to minimize noise created by lawn maintenance equipment. The following rules are intended to help accomplish that goal.<sup>2</sup> In addition to these restrictions, operators should exercise courtesy and take reasonable steps to minimize the noise creation at all times.~~

- ~~A. No person shall operate within the City of Rye any gasoline or electric leaf blower between May 1 and September 30 every year with the exception that this ban does not take effect until June 1, 2008. As used in this subsection, "leaf blower" shall be defined to include any device powered by a electricity, gasoline, diesel or similar fuel engine which is used, designed or operated to produce a current of air for the purpose of pushing, propelling or blowing leaves, dirt, gardening and grass clippings and cuttings, refuse or debris.~~
- ~~B. The head of the Rye Department of Public Works may permit the use of leaf blowers from May 1 to September 30 for a period of time not to exceed seven days after significant storm events or during other emergency situations circumstances.~~
- ~~C. Additional rules for any person operating any leaf blower between the dates of October 1 and April 30 are as follows:
  - ~~(1) No leaf blower shall be operated simultaneously on the same lot with any other type of machine powered lawn equipment.~~
  - ~~(2) Two or more leaf blowers shall not be operated simultaneously except in R-1 Residence Districts as indicated on the City of Rye Zoning Map.~~~~
- ~~D. This section shall not apply to the following entities and activities: municipal, schools, religious institutions, membership clubs, golf courses, hospital and retirement communities, cemeteries, and driveway/road paving and sealing activities, except that any leaf blower use shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable in proximity to residences.~~
- ~~E. The use of power or leaf blowers to move leaves or yard debris to City streets, public property, storm drains or abutting lots is prohibited at all times.~~
- ~~F. Between January 1 and March 1 of 2009, the City Council shall place on its agenda for~~

~~public comment a discussion of § 133-7 to evaluate the City's experience concerning the provisions of this section. Exempt entities in § 133-7D shall file a report with the City Manager by December 31, 2008 describing their efforts to reduce and minimize leaf blower use within their institutions.~~

## Section 2. Amend Chapter 122 “Leaf Blowers” as follows:

### § 122-1. Purpose.

The City Council finds that motorized landscaping activities generate noise, and more specifically the use of gas-powered ~~and certain types of electric~~ leaf blowers can significantly increase the level of noise, particularly in the higher-density neighborhoods of Rye. Gas-powered leaf blowers also create pollution and contribute to global warming through the release of carbon emissions. Accordingly, it is the intent and purpose of this chapter to **prohibit** ~~place limits on~~ the use of gas-powered ~~and certain types of electric~~ leaf blowers, **with certain exceptions, and allow year round use of battery powered electric leaf blowers to allow for** while promoting the use of quieter electric powered leaf blowers, with the ultimate objective of eliminating the use of gas-powered leaf blowers at the time when a more suitable and **a quieter environment** technology becomes available.

### § 122-2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**BATTERY POWERED LEAF BLOWER — a moveable, portable, backpack style, handheld, tow behind or other device or unit powered by battery (not a cord or a generator) and used for the purpose of blowing, moving, removing, dispersing, vacuuming, or redistributing leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings, and trimmings from trees and shrubs or any other type of litter or debris.**

ELECTRIC LEAF BLOWER — A moveable, portable, handheld, backpack-style, tow-behind or other device or unit powered by electricity ~~is a cord attached to a generator or other power source or battery~~ and used for the purpose of blowing, moving, removing, dispersing, vacuuming, or redistributing leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings, and trimmings from trees and shrubs or any other type of litter or debris. **An electric leaf blower may be powered by a battery, or a cord plugged into an electric wall outlet or battery power bank. However, an electric leaf blower being used while plugged into an operating generator which is powered by an internal combustion engine shall be deemed an internal combustion leaf blower and use of such machine is prohibited.**

**GAS LEAF BLOWER (also referred to as an INTERNAL COMBUSTION LEAF BLOWER)** — A moveable, portable, handheld, backpack-style, tow-behind or other device or unit powered by an internal combustion engine using gasoline or other hydrocarbon fuel and used for the purpose of blowing, moving, removing, dispersing, vacuuming, or redistributing leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings, and trimmings from trees and shrubs or any other type of litter or debris.

LANDSCAPER — Any person, corporation, partnership, or business entity of any form who tends, plants, installs, maintains, or repairs lawns, or performs general yard maintenance work or leaf collection of any kind, on real property which such person does not own or at which s/he

does not reside.

MOTORIZED LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT — Electric, battery or internal combustion engine powered equipment commonly used for general yard maintenance work, including cutting grass, aerating and seeding lawns, planting, digging holes, trimming hedges and shrubs, collecting and removing leaves and other common yard maintenance activities.

§ 122-3. Use of ~~battery powered~~ electric leaf blowers.

Effective ~~January 1, 2023,~~ **May 1, 2026, only battery powered** electric leaf blowers may be used for landscaping activities on a year-round basis.

§ 122-4. Use of gas **and certain electric** leaf blowers.

Effective ~~May~~ **January 1, 2026,** **the use of gas leaf blowers is prohibited unless such use falls within the exceptions listed in §122-5(D)** ~~gas leaf blowers may only be used during the Fall and Spring cleanup seasons defined as from October 1 to December 15 and from March 1 to April 30. At all other times of the calendar year, the use of gas leaf blowers is prohibited. Except in R-1 Residence Districts, and on lots greater than one acre in size, only one gas leaf blower may be utilized per lot during the Fall and Spring cleanup seasons as defined above.~~

§ 122-5. Days and hours of operation of motorized landscaping equipment.

- A. The use of motorized landscaping equipment, including lawn mowers, leaf blowers and other outdoor machine-powered equipment, is permitted only between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekends. ~~The permitted hours described in this subsection will apply to the use of gas leaf blowers during the Fall and Spring eCleanup sSeason when the use of gas leaf blowers is permitted.~~
- B. The use of motorized landscaping equipment, including lawn mowers, leaf blowers and other outdoor machine-powered equipment, is not permitted on holidays, ~~Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur.~~ **[Amended 6-14-2023 by L.L. No. 9-2023]**
- C. The ~~City Manager~~ **head of the Rye Department of Public Works** may permit the expanded use of gas ~~and electric~~ leaf blowers, ~~or use of motorized landscaping equipment, on holidays,~~ for a period not to exceed 14 days after significant storm events or during other emergency situations.
- D. The restrictions regarding the use of motorized landscaping equipment, including gas leaf blowers and other outdoor machine-powered equipment, in this chapter shall not apply to the following entities and activities: municipal, schools, religious institutions, membership clubs, golf courses, hospital and retirement communities, cemeteries, **and non-residential lots greater than three acres in size** ~~and driveway/road paving and sealing activities.~~
- E. The above restrictions **in 122-4 (A through D)** shall not apply to snowblowers or use of motorized equipment for the purposes of snow or ice removal.
- F. Moving leaves or yard debris to City streets, **private streets**, public property, storm drains or abutting lots is prohibited at all times.

§ 122-6. Enforcement.

The provisions of this chapter shall be enforced by the City of Rye Police Department, the Rye Building Department or any other City employee designated by the City Manager.

§ 122-7. Penalties for offenses.

- A. The following parties shall have committed a violation of this chapter if it is not complied with:
- (1) The party(ies) operating the illegal leaf blower(s); and **or**
  - (2) The party who employed the person(s) who operated the illegal leaf blower(s) at the time of violation; and **or**
  - (3) The party who owns, rents or otherwise controls the property where the violation occurs.
- B. Conducting motorized landscaping work outside of permitted hours or on holidays. The following parties shall have committed a violation of this chapter if it is not complied with: **[Amended 6-14-2023 by L.L. No. 9-2023]**
- (1) The party(ies) operating the motorized landscaping equipment; and **or**
  - (2) The party who employed the person(s) who operated the motorized landscaping equipment at the time of violation; and **or**
  - (3) The party who owns, rents or otherwise controls the property where the violation occurs.
- C. Failure of commercial landscapers to comply with the provisions of Westchester County Law §§ 863.312 through 863.330. Commercial landscapers who fail to comply with WCC §§ 863.312 through 863.330, including working without a valid Westchester County license or failure to display license decals and required identification information on its vehicles, shall also be in violation of this chapter.
- D. Any person **found in violation** ~~violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a violation~~ **City Code infraction** and, ~~upon conviction thereof,~~ shall be punished by a fine not to exceed the sum of \$250 for the first offense. A second **infraction** ~~violation~~ shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed the sum of ~~\$350~~ **1,500** and a third **infraction** ~~violation~~ shall **result in a minimum fine of \$2,500** and a maximum fine not to exceed the sum of **\$10,000**. **Repeat offenders may be issued a court appearance ticket(s) and be subject to subsequent court orders including civil forfeiture of property.**

**Section 3. Severability.**

The invalidity of any word, section, clause, paragraph, sentence, part, or provision of this Local Law shall not affect the validity of any other part of this Local Law that can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

**Section 4: Effective Date.**

This local law will take effect on May 1, 2026.