

To Our Landscape Maintenance Company,

We are writing to request that going forward, you take care of our property without using gas-powered equipment, especially leaf blowers.

There are many reasons for this request:

We would like to reduce the amount of very loud noise in the neighborhood, and gas leaf blowers are extremely noisy. The noise is highly disruptive when one is working, studying, on a phone call, etc.

We are also concerned about the high toxic and smog-forming emissions of gas leaf blowers and the dirt and debris they blow towards our neighbors' yards and houses. These emissions are much worse than those from cars and threaten the health of landscape workers and the people living in the neighborhood, especially children and those with asthma and other health issues.

The City of Santa Cruz Parks & Rec Dept. is moving away from gas-powered equipment, and we see that more landscape maintenance companies are now offering to service properties without using gas-powered tools or without using leaf blowers.

In the future, on our property,

_____ (Please do not use any leaf blowers.)

_____ (It's OK to use low-noise electric leaf blowers, <65 dBA at 50 feet, with care)

We are happy to leave some of the leaves and other organic matter where it falls as it is good for the soil and requires less watering.

Thank you very much for your service. We appreciate that this requires a change to how you care for our property, but we feel it is important. Please let us know, and we are available if you want to discuss it with us.

Thank you,

[insert your name and address]

P.S. If you would like more information on why we are concerned about leaf blowers and other gas-powered equipment, please visit chasesantacruz.org.

