

TOWN OF VIENNA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Colbert and Vienna Town Council

FROM: Christine Horner, Acting Director of Public Works
Leslie Herman, Director of Parks and Recreation

CC: Mercury Payton, Town Manager

DATE: April 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Update on Town's Handheld Leaf Blower Equipment

This memorandum provides an overview of the Town's current handheld leaf blower inventory and identifies future opportunities and considerations in expanding the use of electric-powered leaf blowers. Both the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) utilize handheld leaf blowers to accomplish seasonal and ongoing tasks including maintenance of Town-owned properties, parks, and infrastructure.

Current Leaf Blower Inventory

The Town currently has 12 handheld leaf blowers in our small tools inventory. Of the 12 blowers, 10 are gas-powered and 2 are electric-powered. The Department of Public Works operates and maintains 3 of the gas-powered blowers to assist with leaf season and general maintenance activities. The Department of Parks and Recreation operates and maintains 7 gas-powered and 2 electric-powered blowers for the maintenance of Town facilities and parks.

The Town's gas-powered leaf blower equipment varies in service age from 1 year to 6 years. The estimated service life of a routinely maintained gas-powered leaf blower is approximately 10 years. The Town's two electric-powered blowers were purchased in 2022.

Future Leaf Blower Opportunities and Consideration

To better understand the functionality of electric-powered leaf blowers, DPW and DPR recommend a pilot program in which the Town purchases 3 additional electric-powered blowers. This pilot program provides both departments with an opportunity to utilize the electric-powered equipment on daily tasks performed throughout the year. A pilot program also allows each department to develop a better understanding of operational considerations such as battery life, maintenance, and airflow/power to ensure the new equipment meets the Town's service needs.

The anticipated cost to purchase 3 electric-powered commercial-grade backpack blowers is approximately \$9,000 (\$3,000/blower). This estimate includes the purchase of a backup battery for each unit and associated charging equipment.