

# Why Aren't More Lawn Services Using Electric Tools?

Gas lawn mowers, trimmers and leaf blowers are annoyingly loud, contribute to air pollution and are generally unhealthy for landscape workers and anyone nearby. Electric versions of these tools are available, yet only a few companies working in Ansley Park have made the switch to the quieter, cleaner, and healthier modern alternatives.

I walk frequently in our neighborhood and therefore encounter many lawn crews at work. A few are using electric tools and I give them a smile and a thumbs up. Most, however, are using gas tools. If it's not too loud for conversation, I'll sometimes ask if they plan to start using battery electric tools. Not surprisingly, most of the workers I meet don't choose which tools they use. To quote one, "That's above my pay grade". So I spoke with a few owners and managers to learn why they have not switched to electric tools. Here are a some of their answers:

- Electric tools aren't powerful enough for the work
- Batteries have limited power and changing/charging them is too inconvenient
- Electric tools are too expensive (or "I just bought a bunch of gas blowers")
- We don't like them (no further details)

With more and more companies able to provide quiet electric lawn care and many communities limiting the use of small gas engines, these supposed deficiencies of electric tools deserve examination.

- Power - The power of battery electric blowers has increased dramatically in recent years. There are now more than a dozen backpack style models, several with power comparable to mid-level gas blowers. (And according to the industry, gas blowers should not be used at full power in residential areas anyway.)

- Battery limitations - The best battery packs will operate an electric blower for 80-90 minutes before needing to be switched out. This is enough for 4 or more average yards, or about half a day's work. It doesn't seem unreasonable to have to switch the battery once or even twice a day. The gas system requires trips to the filling station, making up the gas/oil mixture and keeping a gas can on hand for refills, not to mention periodic maintenance of gas blowers that electric tools don't need.

- Expense - Electric blowers are priced similarly to gas machines, mostly around \$300-\$600. The cost of extra batteries is an added expense with electric, but modern batteries are long lasting and over time there is savings by not buying gas and oil which costs much more than electricity.

- Prejudice - My response to your company not liking electric tools is my own prejudice. I don't like loud noise and smelly fumes polluting my neighborhood and I hope you will stop doing this soon.

So, do you want a cleaner and quieter neighborhood? If you do, please contact your gas dependent lawn service. Tell them that you know alternatives are available and that if they want your continued business you expect to see a transition to battery electric tools. If that doesn't happen, contact one of the battery electric companies listed on the ansley.org website and give them your business. They deserve it!

- John Long, Contributor



## NEIGHBORHOOD DINERS 2023 SIGN UP

Come Join the in the FUN with Ansley's in home dining group.

It's that time of year when Neighborhood Diners 2022 groups are having their last dinner together and saying their good byes. But it is also time to sign up to participate with a new group of your neighbors for another year of fun in 2023. Every year is a fresh start with a new group of neighbors to share 5 dinners together every other month. All adult couples and singles whether cooks or non-cooks are enthusiastically welcome. Participants agree that Neighborhood Diners is the best way to meet and get to know your neighbors while enjoying delicious food. The organizational Kick Off Party will be on January 28th so save the date, more details when you sign up.

**To participate in the fun for 2023, You must:**

1. be a current APCA member (this event is sponsored by the APCA , go to [www.ansleypark.org](http://www.ansleypark.org) to join)
2. be signed up in advance by Elizabeth Clarke (call/text 404-210-9494 or email [ebclarke@comcst.net](mailto:ebclarke@comcst.net))

3. Receive a confirmation email

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