

To the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From Lorraine Johnson on behalf of Project Swallowtail ([www.projectswallowtail.ca](http://www.projectswallowtail.ca);  
admin@projectswallowtail.ca)

October 28, 2025

Re: Item 25.13 High Pollution Days and Two-Stroke Engines

Dear Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of Project Swallowtail, a volunteer-led organization in Toronto with 2,000+ members who work to support pollinators by planting native plants and creating habitat.

Project Swallowtail urges the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to vote in favour of Councillor Saxe's motion regarding two-stroke gas-powered equipment. Councillor Saxe's motion makes eminent sense. The City should be taking the measures it can to reduce emissions when Toronto's Air Quality Health Index is at high to very high-risk levels, and this motion represents one such action.

Project Swallowtail also notes two additional points with regard to this motion that we urge the Committee to consider and take into account:

- These polluting two-stroke engines are used not only for leaf-blowing but also to apply pesticides to kill mosquitoes—a practice that also kills pollinators. Unfortunately, this practice of “mosquito fogging” is on the rise, putting pollinators at risk at the same time as it harms air quality.
- Two-stroke gas-powered leaf blowers are “low-hanging fruit” and there is so much more the City could do to regulate their use and, thus, improve public health by reducing air pollution and noise pollution. Project Swallowtail urges the Committee to direct Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report on creating a Parks policy regarding leaf management in City of Toronto parks, and to do so in the context of the City's Pollinator Strategy and its multiple recommendations to “leave the leaves.”

With thanks for considering this submission,

Lorraine Johnson

On behalf of Project Swallowtail and its 2,000+ members