

Keep Durham Beautiful Inc.
2011 Fay St.
Durham, NC 27704

Nov. 8, 2021

Mr. Thomas Feyer
The New York Times
620 Eighth Ave.
New York, NY 10018

Dear Mr. Feyer:

Earlier this week, you published a piece highlighting the detrimental effects of using leaf blowers. The article discussed the harms of loud noises, pollution and displacing animals threatened by the machines. However, the biggest problems with leaf blowing are not associated with the use of a leaf blower itself.

Removing leaves from your yard greatly reduces local biodiversity. Even if people choose to use a rake rather than a leaf blower, removing leaves will inhibit environmental protection from flooding, eliminate the nutrient benefits of leaf decomposition, and decrease pollinator protection in natural habitats. At Keep Durham Beautiful, a nonprofit environmental group in Durham, North Carolina, we urge residents to leave their leaves as a way to mutually benefit their environment and the creatures inhabiting it.

Instead of ditching just the leaf blower this fall, maybe ditch collecting leaves altogether. The best thing we can do with your leaves is absolutely nothing. For more information, visit <https://keepdurhambeautiful.org/leaveyourleaves>.

Sincerely,

Tania Dautlick
Executive Director
Keep Durham Beautiful
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