

# VEGETATION MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

## Helping to ensure reliable electric service to all our customers.

ComEd has a number of programs in place to help prevent power outages caused by trees and vegetation that have the potential to interfere with power lines or electrical equipment. All work is performed free of charge by professionally trained and certified arborists.



### Customer Notification

We mail postcards or deploy doorhangers to customers in areas where tree maintenance is planned or has occurred.

## DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS



Distribution lines

### Regularly Scheduled Maintenance

Every four years, neighborhoods with overhead power lines are visited to maintain trees and vegetation as needed. Spot trimming is performed more frequently when necessary.

### Tree Removal

In some cases, trimming is not enough to prevent hazards or outages and tree removal is required. We will leave larger logs for the property owner, but all other branches and debris will be chipped and disposed of. Remaining tree stumps are treated with an approved herbicide to prevent future regrowth.

### Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB)

EAB beetles are invasive pests that infest ash trees by laying eggs under the bark, ultimately killing the trees. To help prevent safety hazards and power outages, we trim and remove infested ash trees that have the potential to interfere with power lines.

## Maintenance around Service Lines

Service lines are the wires that run directly from the pole to the customer's electric meter. We do *not* perform non-emergency tree trimming around these lines. If a customer wants to trim around these lines themselves, or hire a contractor to perform the work, we will disconnect the service wire and then re-connect it by request. Customers should not attempt to trim or remove a tree near power lines running between two utility poles. They should call ComEd at 800-Edison-1 (800-334-7661) to report an issue and we will send a representative to investigate and provide advice.

## Storm Maintenance

When storms occur, our first priority is to restore power safely and quickly to customers. Crews remove any damaged trees or tree limbs from power lines and equipment to prevent additional hazards. Both ComEd and customers have responsibilities after a storm.

### ComEd Responsibility –

Cutting, trimming or removing trees or branches from equipment in an effort to restore service

### Customer Responsibility –

Proper disposal of branches, logs or other debris associated with trees damaged by storms, ice, winds or other natural causes

## RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE

**CUSTOMER TIP:** Proper tree selection can help prevent trimming near power lines.

**PLAN FIRST!** Look up to check for electrical equipment. Our online planting guide can help you choose the right tree for the right location.

[ComEd.com/SmartPlanting](http://ComEd.com/SmartPlanting)

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## TRANSMISSION & SUBSTATION PROGRAMS



Transmission lines

### Regularly Scheduled Maintenance

Transmission lines are inspected annually to ensure there are no vegetation issues that could result in power outages. Preventative maintenance is conducted every five years to remove or trim trees that may grow into the transmission lines and allow acceptable vegetation to thrive.

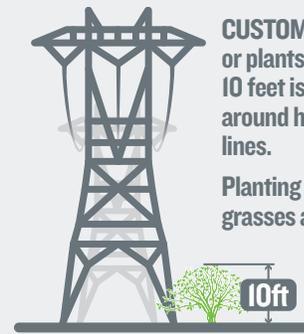
### Mowing & Grounds Maintenance

Maintenance around substations includes grass cutting and trash pick-up, approximately once per week between April and October, as well as hedge or bush trimming once per year.

Grass cutting around select right of ways is conducted once per month between April and October and includes mowing and grass trimming. Maintenance is weather dependent and performed by commercial mowing equipment that may leave a rough or uneven cut. In some cases, a right of way may be left un-mowed and native vegetation and flowers are planted to help support the pollinator population.

**NOTE:** We do not always own or manage the property around transmission lines. In these cases, grounds maintenance is the responsibility of the property owner or lessee.

## RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE



**CUSTOMER TIP:** Planting of trees or plants that can grow taller than 10 feet is not allowed underneath or around high-voltage transmission lines.

Planting of small shrubs or perennial grasses and flowers is acceptable.



## COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

We support our communities and our environment by proudly partnering with several local organizations throughout the areas we serve. Just a few examples include Brookfield Zoo, Chicago Botanic Garden, Morton Arboretum and Arbor Day Foundation.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [ComEd.com/Trees](http://ComEd.com/Trees) or call us at 800-Edison-1 (800-334-7661)



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