

Tree Trimming Helps Trim the Risk

Why My Property?

Your property is located near a powerline right-of-way. Some vegetation bordering your property may hamper safe and efficient power line use because:

- Trees and branches touching power lines are the leading causes of electric service interruptions.
- Trees and brush interfere with repair crew safe access to power lines.
- Trees that children or animals might be tempted to climb can serve as bridges to electrical lines. Keeping tree limbs a safe distance from power lines keeps your family and environment safe and assures a continuous flow of electricity.

BWL Tree Power Program

The BWL's Tree Power Program is a two-pronged initiative. It promotes stewardship of trees to maintain Lansing's urban forest, in addition to providing a systematic, professional approach to vegetation management that assures safe, reliable electric service. The BWL has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Line USA Utility. To qualify, utilities must provide quality tree care and adhere to specific guidelines and standards for work practices. Utilities must also conduct annual vegetation management worker training, use the services of a certified arborist to oversee the program, plant trees, educate the public and sponsor annual Arbor Day events.

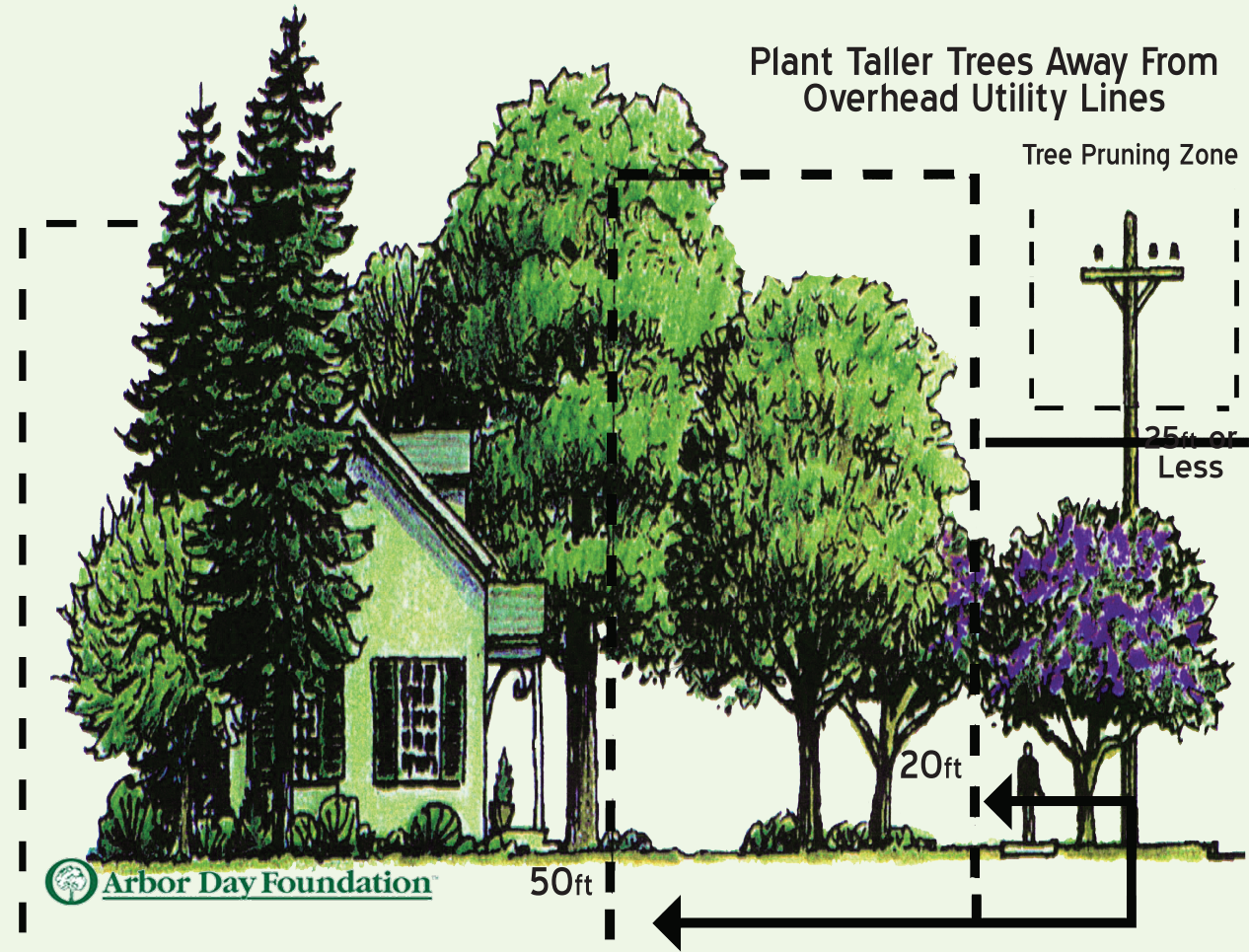
How Will I Be Notified?

The Board of Water & Light vegetation maintenance is directed by the utility's certified arborists. Prior to the arrival of work crews, all power lines are inspected in the service area to determine the work that is required. Door cards are left to notify customers and trees are marked for trimming or removal. Situations may arise when vegetation maintenance will be performed without prior notification. This may occur when a tree has caused a power outage or poses an imminent safety hazard.

How Can I Help?

You can help by planting the right tree in the right place. There's no doubt trees are an important part of our community. They clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. They add beauty to our surroundings and provide shelter and food for birds, small animals and insects. Planted in the right locations, they can save up to 25 percent of your household energy consumption for heating and cooling, by protecting your home from wind in the winter and by providing shade from the sun's heat in the summer. Check out Tree Planting on the BWL's Vegetation Management Web site at lbwl.com/Vegetation.aspx for more information about the kinds of trees to plant and where to plant them.

Plant the Right Tree In the Right Place



For More Information:
Contact the Forestry Department
Lansing Board of Water & Light
517-702-6552

Visit our Website at
lbwl.com/Vegetation.aspx

Tall Trees Such As:

- Maple
- Spruce
- Oak
- Pine

Medium Trees Such As:

- Washington Hawthorn
- Golden Raintree

Small Trees Such As:

- Redbud
- Dogwood
- Crabapple
- Flowering Plum
- Callery Pear
- Hawthorn
- Horn Bean

Why Manage Vegetation?

Trees and other vegetation growing too close to electric wires present risks for fire and electrocution, as well as inconvenience to customers from interrupted electricity supply. That's why the BWL is committing more than a million dollars a year to provide professional vegetation management to keep electric lines clear in its service area.

The BWL manages vegetation in the public rights of way along its electric power lines to provide line clearances for safety and reliability. The BWL strives to complete routine vegetation maintenance for its entire system of power lines every five to seven years. The program is directed by the utility's certified arborists. The work is performed by contract professionals, trained in modern tree maintenance techniques and BWL maintenance and clearance standards. At each site, decisions regarding vegetation maintenance are based on sound environmental practices and tree health, while achieving proper clearances for electric lines.

For More Information Contact the Following:

County

- Ingham Conservation District
www.inghamconservation.com

State

- Global ReLeaf of Michigan
www.globalreleaf.com
- Michigan Forest Association
www.michiganforests.com
- Michigan Green Industry Association
www.landscape.org
- Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association
www.mnla.org
- Michigan State University Department of Forestry
www.for.msu.edu
- Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council
www.mi.gov/dnr/0,4570.7-153-65134_65144---,00.html

National

- American Society of Consulting Arborists
www.asca-consultants.org
- International Society of Arboriculture
www.isa-arbor.org
- National Arbor Day Foundation
www.arborday.org
- USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry
www.fs.fed.us/ucf

Plant the Right Tree In the Right Place

LANSING **BWL**

Plant a Tree & Save Energy

Trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Trees and vegetation control erosion, protect water supplies, provide food and create habitat for wildlife.

Follow these basic tree-planting rules to help save energy and money.

- Plant deciduous (leaf shedding) trees on the south and west sides of your home.
- Plant evergreen trees on the north and west sides of your home.
- Before you plant remember to:
 - contact your nursery or garden professional for help.
 - call us before you dig to avoid hazards underground.
 - locate your trees the proper distance from your home.
 - avoid placing trees under power lines.

arborists