

Trees and Our Transmission Lines

What You Need to Know



conEdison

More than nine million people in New York City and Westchester County rely on our electric system to deliver the power they use every day. We are committed to providing customers with the reliable electric service they expect and deserve.

Electricity moves from distant power plants to our service area through high-voltage transmission lines. How we operate the transmission network is essential to our ability to reliably deliver energy, which includes managing the trees and plants that can cause power outages and create hazardous conditions.

Contact us 1-888-814-1928 or transmissionforestry@coned.com



Work is Scheduled for Your Neighborhood

We expect to begin trimming and removing trees and plants on the property we own or lease in your neighborhood within one-to-six months.

The information presented here is for our neighbors — the people who live next to or near our transmission network — to understand what we must do, and why, to keep the electricity flowing safely and reliably.

Why Trees and Transmission Lines Should Never Meet

There are two reasons why trees and other plants should never get too close to transmission lines:

Reliability — Trees and other vegetation growing into or falling on transmission lines cause power outages. Remember the August 2003 Blackout, an event that affected nearly 50 million

people in eight states in the eastern United States and Canada and cost an estimated \$6 billion? Overgrown trees near transmission lines were one of the two causes of this event.

Your Safety — If a tree falls on or a branch gets too close to a transmission line, the tree and nearby ground become electrified. Anyone touching the tree or ground can be seriously injured or killed. In addition, sparks from high-voltage lines can jump to nearby branches or plants and start a fire.

In 2006, a new law was enacted requiring energy companies to meet tougher reliability standards for transmission lines and to develop a Transmission Vegetation Management Program. We now remove all trees, shrubs, and other plants that have the potential to touch the lines or grow too close to our transmission line right-of-ways for safety.

Did You Know:

- Typically, we operate our transmission lines at 345,000 volts.
- Trees and branches falling on transmission lines cause more than 90 percent of power outages on New York State's transmission network.
- Trees are good conductors of electricity.



The Land Included in a Transmission Line Right-of-Way

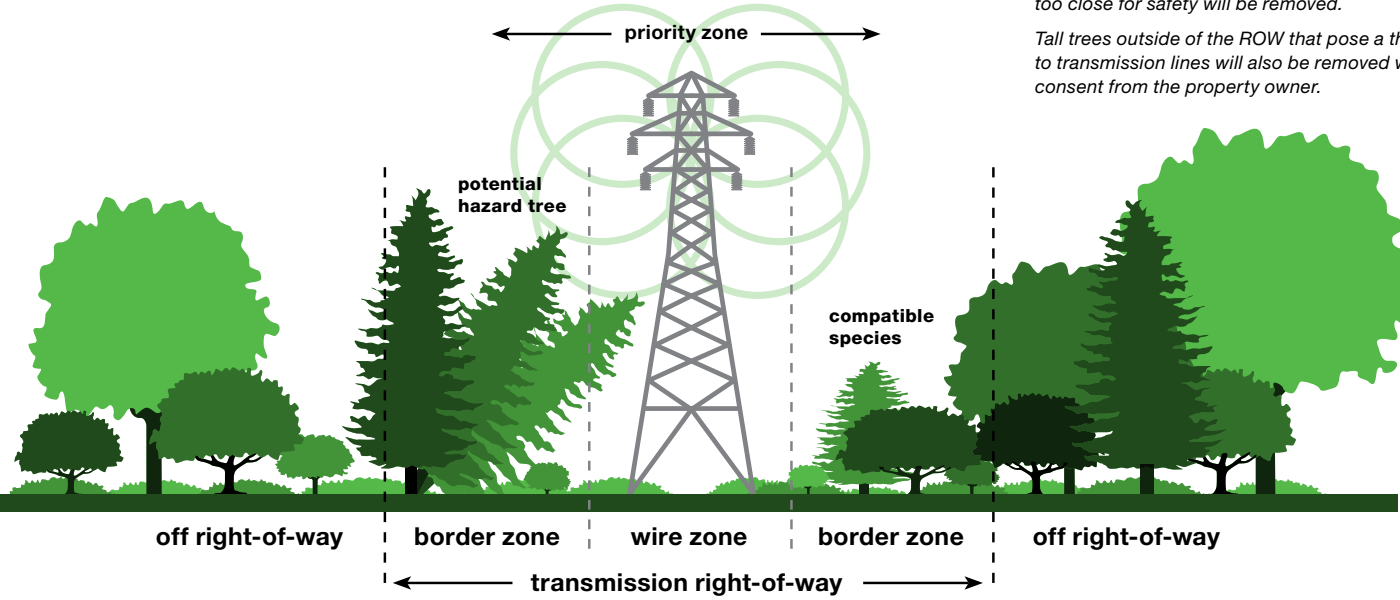
Our transmission line right-of-ways include the land directly underneath the transmission wires, (the wire zone), and the land on either side of the wires

(the border). While the more stringent requirements have improved reliability and public safety, they have also dramatically changed the landscape for

many of the neighbors whose property is next to or near our transmission line right-of-ways.

For public safety and electric system reliability, trees and other vegetation within the transmission ROW with the potential to contact the lines or grow too close for safety will be removed.

Tall trees outside of the ROW that pose a threat to transmission lines will also be removed with consent from the property owner.



When it is Time to Manage Vegetation in Your Neighborhood

We maintain the right-of-ways in an environmentally responsible manner and, whenever possible, preserve the landscape and provide wildlife habitats. When it is time to work in your neighborhood, we:

- Provide several weeks notice in neighborhoods along our right-of-ways where we will be trimming and removing trees and plants. Typically, we perform this work every three years, although in locations where the right-of-way is narrow we visit more often.
- Use professional tree service contractors who are experienced in quality tree-care practices. They evaluate each right-of-way and identify appropriate vegetation-management techniques.
- Remove all trees and brush around the transmission tower's base so our employees can safely inspect and maintain the equipment.
- Clear plants and brush, including small trees, growing along access roads so workers can safely cross the right-of-way.

- Remove trees and plants growing between the wire zone and our right-of-way property line (the border zone), including trees that could grow tall enough to disrupt power or create a hazardous situation, even if it is not yet tall enough to be a problem.
- Remove trees and other vegetation directly below the transmission wires (the wire zone) that could grow tall enough to create a problem for our transmission lines.
- Ask for written permission to remove a tree on your property if it is diseased, weak, or leaning toward the transmission wires because they are more likely to fall.
- Apply herbicides on tree stumps and branches in the right-of-way that can regrow and interfere with the system. Our licensed contractors use herbicides that have been approved by the U.S. EPA, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

- Clean up the cut trees and branches by chipping them on the site. To keep your property and neighborhood looking good we remove the wood chips or place them strategically along the right-of-way.
- Leave low-growing shrubs and grasses that benefit native wildlife.
- There are limited instances when we replant after removing trees or plants that have the potential to interfere with transmission lines. For a complete list, go to conEd.com.



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Did You Know:

- *We maintain 113 miles of transmission line right-of-ways in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, and Richmond counties.*
- *In 2009, 2010 and 2011, the Arbor Day Foundation named us a Tree Line USA Utility for our ongoing tree-trimming efforts to improve electric reliability.*
- *Chipping trees on site keeps nutrients in the ecosystem, protects soil, and controls erosion.*

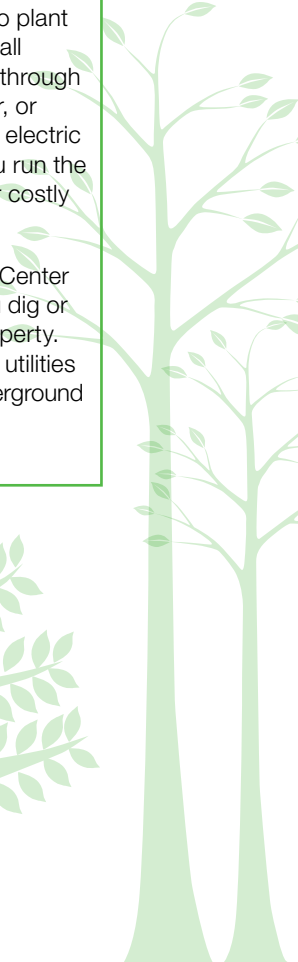
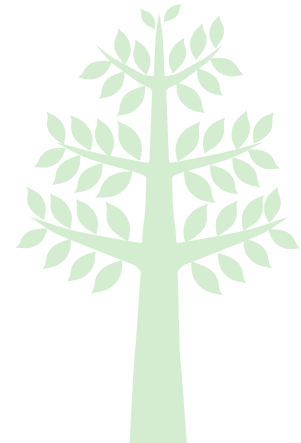
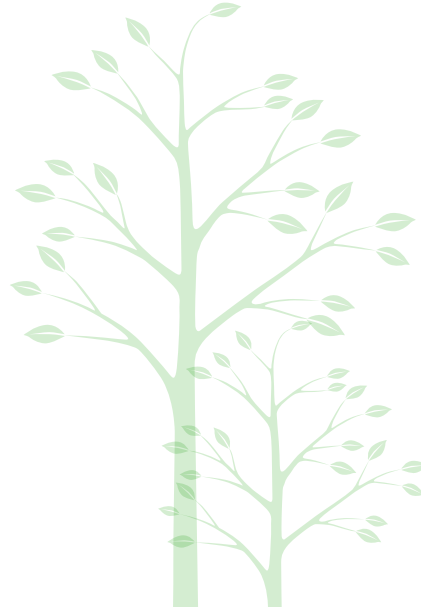
Trees on Your Property

We need to cut branches that have grown too close to our transmission lines back to the property line, even if that tree is on your property. There are times when cutting the branch at the property line may hurt the tree, so we will ask permission to come on your property to make a more appropriate, tree-friendly cut. If a tree on your property outside of the right-of-way poses a threat to transmission lines, we will ask your permission to remove it.

Call Before You Dig

Before you take out that shovel to plant a tree, make sure you're clear of all underground utility lines running through your property. If your shovel, tiller, or backhoe strikes an underground electric cable or natural-gas pipeline, you run the risk of serious accident, injury, or costly property damage.

You must call the local One-Call Center at **811** two to 10 days before you dig or excavate on public or private property. The service will contact member utilities who will mark the location of underground facilities for you at no charge.



Trees That Go Well With Transmission Lines

Trees, shrubs, and other plants beautify and add value to your property. Here are lists of trees and shrubs you can plant on your property that are compatible with our transmission line right-of-ways.

Compatible Trees* Vegetation that grows less than 20 feet tall

Flowering Almond	<i>Prunus triloba</i>	6' – 10'
Star Magnolia	<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	10' – 20'
Hopa Crabapple	<i>Malus 'Hopa'</i>	12' – 18'
Mary Potter Crabapple	<i>Malus 'Mary Potter'</i>	10' – 15'
Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis Canadensis</i>	15' – 20'
Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	15' – 18'
White Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	15' – 20'
Red Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus rubra</i>	15' – 20'
Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	16' – 18'
Purple Leaf Flowering Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	15' – 20'
Dwarf Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies 'Compacta'</i>	8' – 12'
Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens 'R. H. Montgomery'</i>	10' – 15'
Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	5' – 6'
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	6' – 8'
Redosier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	7' – 9'
Nanking Cherry	<i>Prunus triloba</i>	6' – 10'
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	6' – 10'

*Situational and topographical conditions may not allow for selected species to be used in some locations. Contact us at 1-888-814-1928 for planting limitations at your site.

Compatible Shrubs* Vegetation that grows less than 20 feet tall

Japanese Flowering Quince	<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	8' – 10'
Siberian Pea Shrub	<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	10' – 15'
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	8' – 10'
Royal Purple Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus coggygia 'Royal Purple'</i>	10' – 15'
Burning Bush	<i>Euonymus alata</i>	8' – 12'
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia X intermedia</i>	8' – 10'
Siberian Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis 'Wareana'</i>	12' – 18'
Hatfield Yew	<i>Taxus X media 'Hatfieldii'</i>	6' – 12'
Upright Japanese Yew	<i>Taxus cuspidate 'Capitata'</i>	10' – 12'
Blue Hollies	<i>Ilex X meserveae 'Prince/Princess'</i>	10' – 15'
Chinese Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis mollis</i>	10' – 15'
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron (Various species)</i>	10' – 20'

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For More Information

If you want additional information including trimming schedules, call 1-888-814-1928, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or e-mail us at TransmissionForestry@conEd.com. Visit coned.com/transmission.

Other Resources:

**New York State Public Service Commission
Vegetation Management Info and
Frequently Asked Questions**

dps.state.ny.us/Vegetation_Management.html

North American Electric Reliability Corporation

nerc.com

nerc.com/files/FAC-003-1.pdf

U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

ferc.gov

Utility Arborist Association

utilityarborist.org

Arbor Day Foundation

arborday.org

