

Shrubs and Trees

In order to protect all overhead electric lines, the City of Grand Island recommends planting only shrubs with a mature height of 15 feet or less near electric lines. Shrubs offer color and variety, enhance wildlife habitat, and will service as a noise barrier.

Below is a partial list of the wide variety of shrubs available and suitable for Nebraska Planting.

*American Plum Mock Orange Chokecherry
Viburnum Honeysuckle Forsythia Sumac
Filbert Privet Mugo Pine Dogwood
Arborvitae Cotoneaster Taxus Hicks Yew
Smooth Hydrangea*

Small Trees (mature height 20' or less) should be planted no closer than 20' of a power line.

*Dwarf Fruit Trees Flowering Crab Amur Cork
Tree Dwarf Mountain Ash Hawthorn Amur
Maple Russian Olive*

Medium Trees (mature height 35' or less) should be planted between 20' and 50' of a power line.

*Pinyon Pine Mountain Maple Gambrel Oak
Red Cedar Serviceberry Eastern Redbud
Canadian Red Cherry Purple Leaf Plum*

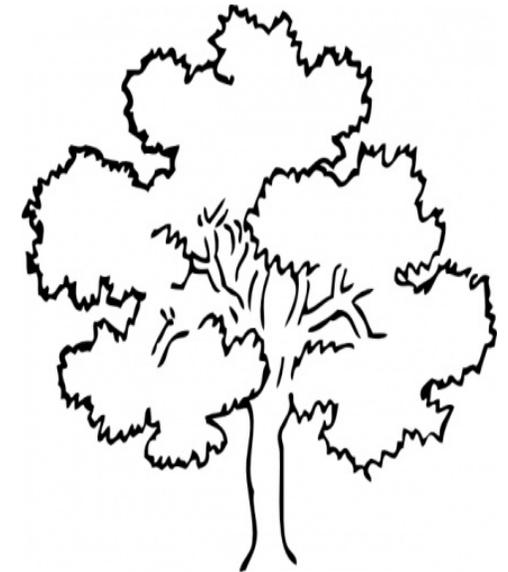
Large Trees (mature height 35' or more) should be planted no closer than 50' from a power line.

*Maple Fir Sugar Maple Spruce Oak
Weeping Willow Pine Aspen Yellow
Birch Hackberry Cottonwood Walnut
Cypress*

This is only a partial listing of suitable shrubs and trees. For additional information consult your local nursery, County Extension Office, Nebraska Forest Service, or professional arborist.



Tree Trimming, Removal, and Replacement Program



City of Grand Island Utilities Department

100 E. 1st Street

P.O. Box 1968

Grand Island, NE 68802

www.grand-island.com



**Taking care of
our resources**

Keeping trees healthy and beautiful is important to the City of Grand Island. Adequate clearance between trees and electric lines is also important for safe and reliable electric service. It is the City's goal to provide safe, dependable electric service while keeping our customer's trees as healthy as possible. Trimming trees is a necessary and expensive part of providing this service.

The electric company would prefer to completely remove trees which continue to interfere with electric lines. As a part of the responsibility to City customers and the environment, the Utilities Department will contribute up to \$100 toward the replacement cost of trees. The following information provides details on trimming, removal, and replacement guidelines.

TRIMMING OF TREES

Where possible, the City uses trimming methods approved by the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Arborist Association for electric line clearance. "heading" or "topping" a tree is not a recommended practice, but in some cases it is necessary depending on the tree shape, type, and location of the tree. When trimming, it is important to remove the branches correctly. The correct procedure is to cut branches back to where they join with the parent branch. This method is referred to as directional trimming. Directional trimming minimizes volunteer growth and trains normal tree growth away from electric lines. It is the best trimming method for the health and structural strength of the tree.

The City will dispose of all brush and wood that results from non-emergency tree trimming at no cost to the customer. Also, the Electric Line Crews will clear power lines of broken or damaged limbs caused by storms, but removal of brush and wood from storm damage is the responsibility of the customer.

The City uses professional tree service contractors to help compensate for excessive amounts of tree trimming and removals each year. All contractors representing the City of Grand Island are required to follow the City's guidelines.

REMOVAL OF TREES

As in the trimming program, the City of Grand Island will dispose of brush and wood that results from non-emergency tree removals. The customer may request to keep all of a portion of the wood. The wood will be cut in lengths as necessary to facilitate handling. Stumps will be cut as close to the ground as practical and treated with an approved herbicide. Stump grinders will be used to remove the stump to below grade to allow mowing.



If you need to prune or remove a tree that is near electric lines, please call the City in advance at **308-385-5461**. The City's Electric Line Crews will help with the removal or turn off the electricity in the lines to reduce the risk of electrical hazards. If you do not call and electric lines are damaged, the cost of damage repair will be charged to the responsible party.

REPLACEMENT OF TREES

In order to reduce or eliminate problem areas that require repeated trimming, the City of Grand Island Utilities Department has initiated a Tree Replacement Program. The objective of this program is to replace trees located in the direct vicinity of overhead electric lines with smaller trees or shrubs that are more compatible with required clearances or to replace problem trees with ones located from 20 to 50 feet from the electric line.

Trees near individual services into homes or businesses or near street light wires are not eligible for the replacement program. Proper planning at tree planting time should eliminate future problems.

Any tree that requires repeated trimming to maintain adequate clearance between the tree and the primary high-voltage electric lines will be considered for replacement. If the replacement tree or shrub must be planted in the proximity of the lines, the replacement tree must be a species which, at mature height, will not interfere with the electric lines. In the case of relocation, the replacement tree must be placed in accordance with the "Shrubs & Trees" section of this brochure. In no case should a tree be planted within City easements or rights-of-way.

The Electric Department will remove a problem tree according to the guidelines listed in the "Removal of Trees" section of this brochure. As soon as a mutually approved replacement species of tree is purchased and planted in a location agreed to by the City Electric Department and the customer, a tree replacement coupon will then be awarded to the customer. The customer may redeem their coupon at the Utility Administration Office located at City Hall, 100 E. 1st Street, or mail to P.O. Box 1968, Grand Island, NE 68802.

The Electric Department will pay up to \$100 for each approved replacement tree or shrub. Some approved species are listed on the

backside of this brochure. The customer has the responsibility to plant and provide care for the new tree or shrub.

For further information on tree trimming, removal, and replacement services, contact Overhead Distribution Superintendent, Bryan Fiala, at **308-385-5472**.

