

## Keeping the Lights On

### Kirkwood Electric: Pruning and Tree Removal

Kirkwood Electric partnered with Kirkwood's Forestry Division to develop and monitor their electric line's more sustainable vegetation management system. This new system is a more aggressive approach than we have had in the past but is planned to be beneficial not only to Kirkwood electric but more importantly to the residents of Kirkwood and the City as a whole.

#### **Purpose:**

Trees and Vegetation can be the main factors in the loss of power. By creating a working relationship between the two departments, including a detailed vegetation management plan and approach, Kirkwood Electric is attempting to reduce power outages associated with storms and weather, while also addressing long-term maintenance costs in a sustainable way.

#### **Action Items:**

- Establish a pruning standard for line clearance: Kirkwood Electric has set an official clearance standard of 8'. This will ensure that a cyclical pruning program will address vegetation issues within the minimal 8'.
- Establish a pruning cycle: Kirkwood Electric has established a 3-year pruning cycle. The goal will be to inspect, identify, and perform necessary tree pruning throughout the entire coverage area every 3 years.
- Commit to responsible tree removal within electrical easements: Responsible tree removal based on species specifics as it relates to nuisance, hazardous, and dead trees that may impact power lines.
  - (a) Nuisance tree removal: Identifying species that have characteristics that lead to enhanced power outage risk. Identify specific trees and areas where Kirkwood Electric has reoccurring power outages and conflicts. Included in nuisance removals is identifying species that are included in statewide or city-approved invasive and or undesirable lists and sustainably addressing them.
  - (b) Hazardous and dead tree removal: Continuing to address hazardous tree issues that may impact power outages. This will also include determining if long-term cost impact can be mitigated by removal as opposed to pruning.
- Performing Integrated Vegetation Management directly under power lines: Kirkwood Electric is committed to looking at all vegetation management approaches that fall directly under their lines. This approach will impact and help reduce the future cost associated with maintenance and management.
- Promoting and utilizing the practice of "right tree, right place:" Right tree, right place is a concept of planting proper tree species that correlate within a space and location that is the right place. Ex; planting a small tree with a max height of 10' underneath a 12' high power line.
- Oversight: Using qualified contractors that will be held to industry standards. Following the guidelines and standards established through an organization like the American National

Standards Institute (ANZI) and International Society Arboriculture (ISA). Adopting and implementing an in-house staff training and development program.

- Customer service and outreach: Kirkwood Electric is committed to providing superior customer service and acknowledging that vegetation management for reliable utility services may differ from aesthetic and citizen vegetation expectations. Kirkwood Electric is committed to performing community outreach and engagement in regard to vegetation management. This may include updates to websites, brochures, informational bulletins, and or direct communication with the residents of Kirkwood. The ability to provide power to Kirkwood is a team effort; the residents of Kirkwood are part of that team.

Program Contacts:

If you have any vegetation management questions as it relates to Kirkwood electric, please contact Kirkwood's Forestry Division.

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