

## **Eversource Transmission Line Clearing**

### **Improving Reliability While Minimizing Impacts on Residential and Private Properties**

- Reduce the clearing limits from 150' outside of the conductor to 100'; except for trees that have the potential to grow 80' or higher at maturity.
- Visit impacted residential and other impacted abutters' properties to do a cursory inventory to identify any plants that don't need to be removed.
- Divide 150' clearing limit into 2 Zones
  - 0'-100' from the conductor: Leave small, native shrubs and selected trees with a mature height not to exceed 15' within 15 feet of outermost conductors including grasses, shrubs, and other plants beneficial to wildlife. Allow for taller growing shrubs and trees from 15' outside the conductors to the limit of clearing. Examples include mountain laurel, milkweed, forbs, grasses, juniper, blueberry, red twig dogwood, viburnums, and rhododendron. Reference UCONN's Plant Data Base of trees 15'-30' in height.
  - 100'-150' from conductor: Leave larger trees such as sourwood, tupelo, Serbian spruce, Vanderwolf Pine, Kentucky Coffee tree; anything that stays under 80' height at maturity including those from the lists above. Remove and do not replant white pine, Norway spruce, oaks, maples, hickories, sycamores, tulip trees, etc. UConn's Plant Database lists 19 species in the category of 80'+ in height.
- To the extent possible, eradicate or hold woody non-native invasive species in check –, Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive, Barberry, Honeysuckle, etc. At a minimum, this project should not result in increased pressure from non-native woody invasive plants. Management of invasives will take place during routine scheduled maintenance applications. However, properties that restrict the method for vegetation control which prevents eradication of the invasive plants will not be held to this standard.
- Use equipment that is adaptable to residential areas. Forestry equipment is not appropriate in all places.
- Remove stumps in maintained easement areas.
- Work with individual property owners to determine appropriate plantings for screening with planting of selected species specified above on a case-by- case basis.
- Where necessary, provide seeding in areas where bare mineral soils are left exposed following tree removal operations.

### **Town Property and Road Crossings within the Right of Way**

- Identify all vegetation desired to be removed.
- Meet on site with Town staff/Tree Warden and discuss alternatives.
- Eversource staff to work with Town staff/Tree Warden to post tree removal notices as directed by Town.
- Grind all stumps in maintained areas. Grind, remove grindings, fill, grade, and seed or plant as directed.
- On low maintenance and natural areas, grade and fill all ruts, and seed as directed.
- Follow tree clearing guidelines within 150' clearing limits.
- To the extent possible, limit work in school areas to summer and vacation break periods. Coordinate with School Safety Officer before bringing equipment on grounds.

- Conduct a 2017 Arbor Day Event to include community/school education packet that could include topics such as right tree, right place; using energy corridors to support the environment, storm impacts or “resiliency” goals.
- Provide town staff (Kathryn Kell) with weekly schedule updates for the town website.