

TREES & POWERLINES

DRAFT

WHAT PROPERTY OWNERS CAN DO



WHAT IF I THINK I HAVE A TREE THAT COULD TAKE OUT A POWER LINE?

It is good to pay attention! Trees and other vegetation (like vines and brush) near electrical lines and poles can result in power outages and fires, creating costs for you and the community. Keeping vegetation under control keeps costs down and will make restoring power much faster, if needed.

WHO CAN HELP?

Grand Rapids Public Utilities has trained professionals who can trim or remove trees and other vegetation (like vines or brush) within utility easement areas at no cost to you. Call 218-326-7024 to schedule an evaluation by our trimming team.

If the problem tree is in a public right-of-way, call the City of Grand Rapids Public Works department at 218-326-7481, and the City forester can come and inspect it.



HOW DOES CLEARING WORK?

If, after evaluation, trees and other vegetation present a danger to public utility lines, the following are possible:



If located on utility easements, we will trim or cut down the tree(s), leaving the stump (down to 3 inches), and remove the material.



If located on a public right-of-way, we will refer the situation to the City of Grand Rapids Public Works to address.



If not located on public right of way or utility easements (for example, a service line to your residence or business), we will not cut down the trees, but will temporarily drop/re-route/de-energize the lines for you if you or your contractor choose to cut and remove the trees/vegetation. We also can “top” your trees so that you or your contractor can cut down the remainder. The material to be cleaned up is your responsibility.



COMMON QUESTIONS

What is a “utility easement?” A utility easement is a designated parcel of land that gives utility companies the right to access private property for the good of the community. Utility easement will be clearly noted on your property deed. You also may contact [who?] to identify any utility easements on your property.

What is a “public right-of-way?” The area on, below, or above a public roadway, highway, street, alley, cartway, bicycle lane, or public sidewalk which the city, county or state maintains or otherwise has an interest, and other easements dedicated to the public or to use for utility service.

What if it's an emergency? Tree(s) interfering with providing power will be cleared by GRPU staff as quickly as possible. If the tree was on public property (easement or right-of-way), we'll be back later to clean up debris.

What if I'm a renter? Please work with your property owner to identify easements or rights-of-way. If they are not reachable, feel free to contact Grand Rapids Public Utilities.



Grand Rapids Public Utilities Commission (GRPUC) is a municipal utility established by the City of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Utilities under the jurisdiction of the GRPUC include electric distribution, water treatment and distribution, and wastewater collection and treatment.

218-326-7024 | Website: cityofgrandrapidsmn.com/utilities | Facebook: [grpucmn](https://www.facebook.com/grpucmn)