Current CL&P Tree Trimming /Possible PURA Standard

Enhanced Tree Trimming
Enhanced Tree Removal

Maintenance Clearance

UI’s New Plan -- One Standard: ETT/ETR
V or U cut Directional Pruning
(used by UI in the past)

Tree Removal Required by ETT/ETR
Used by CL&P, but not on all lines, and proposed for use by UI on all distribution lines
CL&P ETT Pruning

Before, Canaan, CT

After ETT, Canaan, CT

Photos by Tom Zetterstrom

Courtesy of Google Earth
Routine Maintenance by CL&P
Photos by Branford residents
The Benefits of Street Trees

**Aesthetic:**
community character
increased property values

**Economic:**
reduced energy costs
increased property values
increased business income
protection of street pavement

**Environmental:**
reduced flooding, stormwater runoff and erosion problems
improved air quality
habitat and food for birds and animals
reduction of carbon

**Societal/Health:**
improved mental and physical health
noise reduction
safer communities
traffic calming (reduction in traffic speed)
Exceptions filed by SVMTF to Draft Decision in 12-01-10 as inconsistent with SVMTF report and Section 60.

Section 60: Established Utility Protection Zone (UPZ), and (1) protects compatible trees from removal; (2) requires notice to abutting property owners and a right to object and consult tree warden; (3) requires adherence to professional pruning standards.

GCNH has kept Garden Clubs throughout CT informed of all developments.

Secs. 8 & 9 of PA 13-203 require training of tree wardens

Section 60: PA13-298

2014 Session: HB 5408
THE GARDEN CLUB OF NEW HAVEN SUPPORTS

- A balanced approach to securing electric power reliability by removing hazardous trees and branches that pose a risk to the electric utility infrastructure and retaining healthy tall and tall-growing trees. When trees must be removed, the stumps should be ground or removed and the trees should be replaced with “right tree/right place” trees.

- Data collection prior to and after major storms to determine the extent to which apparently healthy trees cause power outages, what caused each such tree to fail, how long the power outages lasted and how the failure could have been predicted prior to the storm.

- Undergrounding of distribution wires where feasible as a long term solution, for which planning should begin.
Summary of Points

(for detailed information, visit www.gardenclubofnewhaven.org)

• The State Vegetation Management Task Force envisioned a long term transition to a “right tree/right place” roadside forest, recognizing the many benefits of healthy large trees, which should not be prematurely lost. It did urge removal of hazardous trees on both sides of the road that risk damage to utility infrastructure -- trees that are dead, extensively decayed or structurally weak (statutory definition for utility pruning and removal). PURA found that 78% of tree-related outages were caused by trees from outside the wire zone during Irene and the Nor’easter. In some towns it was 90%. Observers have reported that from 50 to 70% of outages from storms since then were caused by trees falling on wires from outside of the UPZ.

• The data indicating some improvement in power reliability from use of ETT/ETR lumps together hazardous trees and healthy trees. There is no solid evidence that removal of healthy trees is essential to power reliability.

• One size does not fit all: utility tree pruning and removal should vary based on
  • the species, condition and growth rate of trees, and
  • the location of the trees – in a rural, suburban or urban municipality, in a neighborhood with few street trees or in a neighborhood with a dense roadside forest.

• Fixed line clearance standards undermine the intent of Section 60 of PA 13-298 (amended Sec. 16-234 C.G.S.) to permit tree wardens and abutting property owners to work with the utilities to ensure that utility tree pruning or removal is appropriate and necessary, and conflicts with the State Vegetation Management Task Force recommendations for vegetation management. Electric utilities need to be flexible in order to accommodate a reasonable objection to proposed pruning or removal.
Take Photos of Street/Roadside Trees Before the Utilities Start

Damages & Penalties for Unauthorized Pruning and Removal

Visit: Actions You Can Take
www.gardenclubofnewhaven.org
To Get Alerts --
State and Local

E-mail request to
gardenclubnh2@gmail.com

List your name and city/town