

# Landscaping

## near underground and overhead power lines



The following are guidelines for the City of Fairbanks landscape ordinance for multi-residential and commercial projects.

GVEA will approve planting in easements as long as the landscaping won't adversely affect our underground or overhead utility equipment.

Landscape plans need to incorporate existing and planned electrical equipment locations and must show all existing utility easements.

GVEA needs to inspect these plans, whether public utility easements or private GVEA easements, before granting a waiver of the landscaping ordinance. This allows GVEA to determine potential conflicts before they arise.

Guidelines for landscaping near **underground** power lines to assure access to GVEA facilities:

- Call GVEA to locate cables before digging. This includes landscape contractors.
- Digging by hand is required within five feet of located primary underground lines.
- Plant large trees, such as birch and spruce, at least eight feet from transformers and underground cables, so roots can't grow into the equipment. Appropriate distance is specific to tree species.
- Plant shrubs at least five feet away from GVEA's underground equipment.

To prevent interference with **overhead** power lines and equipment, when selecting trees for planting within or adjacent to utility easements:

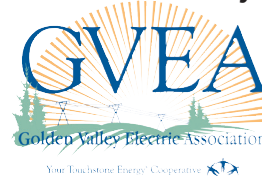
- Consider the height of the tree at maturity in relation to conductor height, which varies from site to site.
- Consider the spread of mature trees in relation to the location of utility lines and poles.
- Plant trees at least 15 feet from the center line of the power line, a power pole or where they will not interfere with guy wires or other equipment.
- Plant small trees and shrubs in a way that allows access to the right of way by utility personnel and vehicles for constructing, operating, or maintaining utility equipment.

Examples of some small trees and shrubs that may be acceptable are listed in the approximate order of growing height from smallest to largest. These include: Muhgo Pine; Nanking Cherries; Rose Tree of China; Lilac; Crab apples; Chokecherry (Shubert and Canadian Red); Common Chokecherry (Prunus Virginia); Showy Mountain Ash (Sorbus Decora);

GVEA, as well as other utilities, may exercise their rights to access, construct and maintain utility equipment within easements for overhead and underground facilities at any time.

For more information, contact Alex Olesen, Right-of-Way Maintenance Superintendent or visit GVEA's web site at: <http://www.gvea.com/resources/treemgmt/plant-smart>

**Golden Valley Electric Association**



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