

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Utilities of the City of Springfield, Missouri (the “Board”), has all powers necessary, desirable or convenient to manage, control and operate certain public utilities, including the power to do all things needful for the successful operation of City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri (“City Utilities”);

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board on May 27, 2021, states that City Utilities will maintain affordability by continually seeking opportunities to gain efficiencies and improve utilization of its resources, achieve excellence in every interaction with its customers, community and coworkers by providing positive experiences and world-class services, and reinforce its position as an industry leader through active evaluation of performance metrics, benchmarking and a commitment to continuous improvement;

WHEREAS, City Utilities’ management has recommended adoption of certain revisions to City Utilities Policy 4.57 – Tree Management in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “Revised Policy”), including to retitle the policy “Vegetation Management”; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that adoption of the Revised Policy is in the public interest and in furtherance of the public purposes of City Utilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, that adoption of the Revised Policy is hereby approved, and City Utilities’ President-CEO and his designees are hereby granted the powers set forth therein and authorized and directed to implement the same.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned, Kristin Carter, Secretary of the Board of Public Utilities of the City of Springfield, Missouri, does hereby certify under her hand and the seal of the Board that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at its regular meeting held on the 18th day of August, 2022, pursuant to notice of time and place duly given to all members of the Board, at which meeting a quorum was present and voted throughout.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2022.

Kristin Carter, Secretary



APPROVED BY: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE ISSUED: 01/29/1987

DATE LAST REVIEWED: 08/18/2022

DATE REVISED: 08/18/2022

TARGET REVIEW DATE: 07/31/2027

CONTACT: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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I. PURPOSE

A. City Utilities trims, removes limbs, and removes trees along easements and public rights-of-way so that trees do not come in contact with, or prevent access to, high voltage electric wires or equipment, fiber optic cables or equipment, or any other City Utilities facilities or equipment. This is done for the purposes of public safety and reliability of electric service. City Utilities must meet all applicable safety standards including those pertaining to electrical safety. City Utilities seeks to limit vegetation related service interruptions to its customers.

B. The objective of this policy is to guide vegetation management practices toward responsible management of the urban environment and to affirm City Utilities' management responsibilities to maintain and operate its systems in a safe, reliable, and cost-effective manner while still being sensitive to our customers' expectations. Work performed will be consistent with the practices described in this policy, City Utilities Policy 5.47 (Service Rules and Regulations and in Missouri law.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. For this policy, the following words shall have the definition which follow the word. All other words shall be given their ordinary meaning.

1. **Arborist(s)** means a specialist in the cultivation and care of trees and shrubs, including tree surgery, the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of tree diseases, and the control of pests who is working on behalf of City Utilities.



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III. POLICY

A. Practices

1. City Utilities will maintain a customer-based approval system for discretionary tree removals. If a tree is removed, City Utilities will clean up brush and small limbs from the removed tree, and, leave wood suitable for burning for the customer's use or remove it if requested. City Utilities will protect the urban forest and with a goal of maintaining Springfield's tree canopy based on a twenty year growth cycle. Tree replants may be offered to customers based on the removal of mature, quality trees or tree trimming performed on their property. In situations where customers do not desire replant trees on their property, the replants may be offered to governmental or non-profit organizations throughout the service area. Notification of trimming will be responsive to reasonable customer expectations. Aspects such as timeliness of contact, written documentation where appropriate, follow-up evaluations, distribution of educational material, and description of trimming work scope will be emphasized.

2. The Utility will provide the public with educational information regarding the maintenance and operation of its systems within the urban forest. Informational topics will include: modern trimming techniques, environmentally responsible landscaping, and tree planting.

3. Trimming will be performed by **Arborists** Tree trimmers will be given latitude to make site-by-site decisions regarding trimming of trees to maintain aesthetics and environmental responsibility while achieving appropriate electric system clearances. Ongoing training will be conducted to maintain professional tree trimming skills and standards of performance.

4. Electric transmission vegetation clearances and practices will be in accordance with Missouri law. Vegetation under or near 69 kV transmission lines may be trimmed or removed to obtain up to 50 feet horizontal clearance from the centerline with no vegetation overhang of wires. Vegetation under or near 161 kV transmission lines and 345 kV transmission lines will be trimmed or removed to obtain up to 75 feet of horizontal clearance, measured from the centerline. Agreements regarding vegetation management that were established during right-of-way acquisition will be maintained per acquired easement agreements. Vegetation located outside of utility rights-of-way, which is determined by City Utilities to be a source of danger or potential interference, may also be removed in accordance with Missouri law.



CU Policy 4.57 – Vegetation Management

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5. Vegetation under or near primary electric distribution lines or City Utilities owned fiber optic cables may be trimmed to obtain safe and responsible clearance of at least 10 feet plus one half the length of any attached crossarm. **Arborists** may trim up to 15 feet plus one half the length of any attached crossarm from electric distribution lines, but only to make a proper cut to enhance the health of the tree per International Society of Arboriculture guidelines. Any vegetation clearance or removal in excess of these parameters will require customer approval. Vegetation which overhangs electric distribution lines or City Utilities owned fiber optic cables, which are within easements or rights-of-way, may be removed if they are a specie which will impede access or interfere with City Utilities facilities in the future. City Utilities may also remove vegetation outside of the clearances established in this policy in accordance with Missouri law if the vegetation poses an immediate threat to public safety or the safe and reliable operation of City Utilities facilities.

6. Vegetation near secondary distribution lines may be trimmed to obtain safe and responsible clearance of 4-6 feet. Vegetation near electric service lines to the home will remain the responsibility of the customer, or may be trimmed by City Utilities to obtain safe and responsible clearance of at least 2 feet during outage restoration scenarios. Low growing trees directly under lines may remain if, in the discretion of City Utilities, they do not pose a future threat to the lines.

7. Goals of the Vegetation Management program will be to pursue a 5 year trimming cycle for City Utilities' overhead facilities and continue to maintain the Tree Line USA designation that is awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation.

8. Continual review of present day standards for more responsible trimming practices will be performed. The reference for this evaluation will be applicable International Society of Arboriculture standards, electric utility industry best practices, American National Standards Institute guidelines, and Missouri law.



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IV. RESOURCES

A. Policy 5.47 – Service Rules and Regulations

Legal Approval: _____

Name:

Board Approval: _____

Name: