

Plan. Plant. Protect.

Tree Power

In addition to promoting smart planting to avoid conflicts between trees and utilities, PWC's Tree Power initiative also promotes how trees benefit our community and the environment.



- Planting trees enhances the natural beauty of homes, commercial properties and the community at large.
- Trees reduce carbon dioxide emissions, a common greenhouse gas that harms our environment.
- Planting trees in strategic locations can help conserve electricity, which also helps you save on your utility bills. For example, consider planting evergreen trees on the north or west side of your house; acting as a windbreak, the trees will help keep your home warmer during cool weather. Plant deciduous trees on the south and/or west side of your house; in the summer, when they have their leaves, the trees will keep your home cooler, and in the winter, when their leaves are gone, they'll allow the sun to warm your house.
- Remember to consider water conservation, too. Newly-planted trees and shrubs require about 5-10 gallons of water/week/inch of trunk diameter. After they're established, because of their deep root system, they should not require additional watering. Choices such as Crape Myrtles, Wax Myrtles, Box Elders, Mimosas, Holly, Viburnum and Tea Olives are especially drought-resistant.

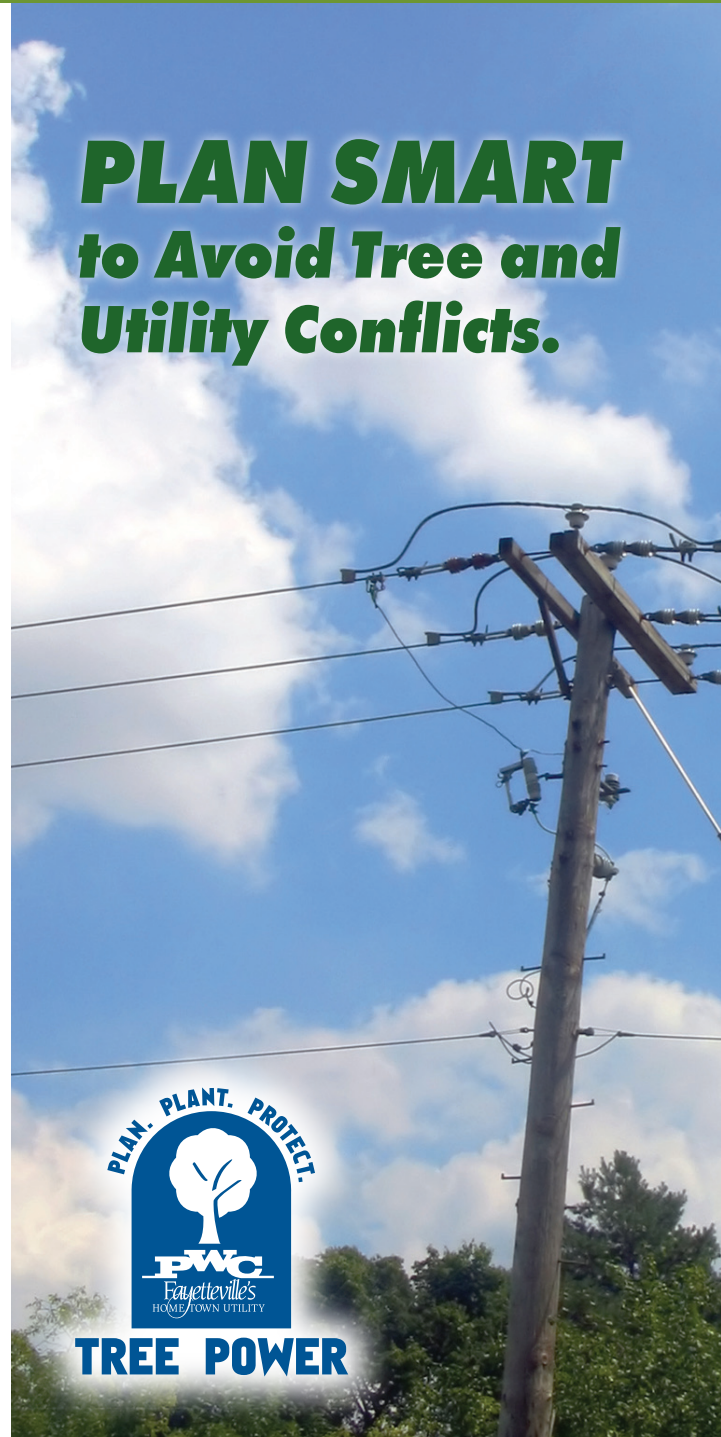
Brochure includes information published by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Champaign, IL.



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PLAN SMART to Avoid Tree and Utility Conflicts.



Plan Before You Plant.

A new tree is a beautiful addition to your property, and we all appreciate the natural character, shade and environmental benefits it provides. But we also “appreciate” the electricity, water, sewer, telecommunications and other services we rely on in our daily lives. Just as we often take for granted the ready availability of these services, we sometimes “ignore” the lines that provide our utilities when making plans to plant a tree.

PWC reminds you that it's important to make the proper tree selection and to plan ahead to protect our utility lines (power, water and sewer), as well as lines that provide other services. Some service lines – including power, telephone and cable television – can be overhead or underground. Others – including water, sewer and natural gas – are always underground.

Keeping Lines Clear Keeps Power On.

An essential part of power line maintenance, PWC's Line Clearance/Vegetation Management department routinely prunes trees and removes undesired vegetation to protect overhead power lines' right-of-way and ensure safe, reliable electrical service. Every 3-5 years, PWC surveys and plans for the maintenance work necessary to keep power lines clear. As part of the survey process, PWC will notify customers if they have trees that pose a threat to power lines. If you have trees growing near power lines, do not attempt to trim them yourself. PWC will have qualified experts do the job. If you notice tree branches that look like they might cause a problem, please notify the PWC Line Clearance department at 223-4506 or 223-4501.

Look Up, Down and All Around.

One of the first things to consider when selecting a new tree is the ultimate mature height it will grow to be. Trees should be planted in an area with adequate growing room, where they will not interfere with overhead lines as they grow. These lines can be dangerous, especially if a fallen or overgrown tree causes a power line to come down. Trees can cause service interruptions if they touch wires. And, if people climb in the trees and touch wires, they can be severely injured or even killed.

Utility companies, including PWC, are required to prune trees that grow near their utility lines. Periodic pruning puts greater stress on trees, makes them more susceptible to insects and disease, and can shorten the lifespan of a tree. Of course, pruning also affects the appearance of the tree.

