



# ARBOR DAY

Since 2004, SELCO has held an annual Arbor Day Celebration to give trees to Shrewsbury Residents. During one year, a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. Planting the right tree in the right place can also lead to energy savings!

## CONTACT US

**508-841-8500**

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Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
[SELCO.ShrewsburyMA.gov](http://SELCO.ShrewsburyMA.gov)

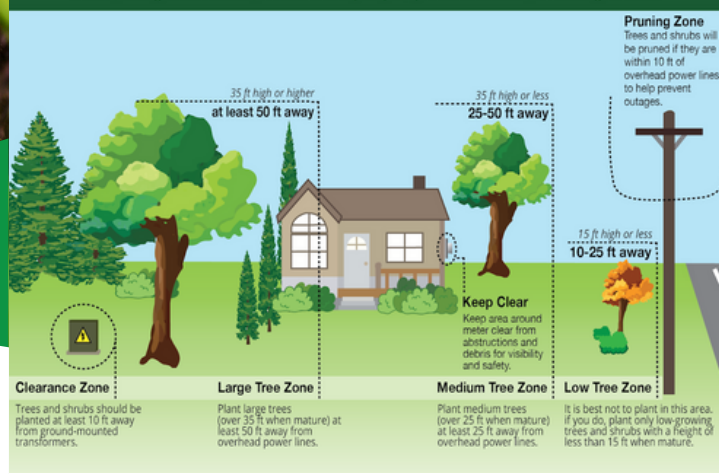


## MORE INFORMATION

**ARBORDAY.ORG**

## RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE!

Before planting new trees to improve the look of your yard, you will need to keep a few things in mind.



**Right Tree, Right Place:** Deciding where to plant trees is crucial as utility lines may be underground, posing hazards if trees grow near them. Trees planted in unsuitable locations can disrupt energy service and pose safety risks such as power outages and fire hazards, especially when they come into contact with power lines. Be sure to plant large trees away from utility lines. Also, do not block access to transformers.

**Consider Energy Savings:** Strategically planting trees around buildings offers significant energy savings potential. Additionally, planting around the foundation can enhance insulation against cold weather, contributing further to energy efficiency. These measures can lead to annual energy savings of up to 30%!

**Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Ensure adequate space around utility equipment such as meters and electrical transformers. Maintain a clearance of at least 10 feet in front of transformers and 3 feet around the sides and rear. If tree pruning or removal is necessary near electric lines, contact SELCO to ensure safety, as contact with electric lines can be life-threatening. Trees reaching 25 feet should be at least 25 feet away from power lines, and those growing over 35 feet tall should be a minimum of 50 feet away to prevent potential hazards.



# TREES & ELECTRICITY







## SAFETY TIPS

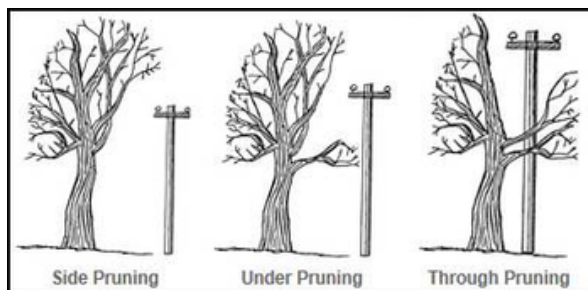
- Call 811 (DigSafe) to have your underground utilities marked at least three business days before you plan to plant a tree or do any digging.
- Never prune trees near power lines yourself. Pruning near power lines only should be done by a utility line clearance arborist. Report trees with branches growing near power lines by calling 508-841-8500. We will evaluate and determine the best course of action.
- Extensive tree trimming and tree removal are best left to professionals. Visit [waa-isa.org](http://waa-isa.org) to find a certified arborist in your area.
- Check existing ash trees for signs of emerald ash borer. Removing those infected trees could prevent them from falling in a storm.
- Consider removing tall-growing trees that are planted under power lines before they can cause problems. Low-growing trees and bushes are safe near power lines.
- Never climb utility poles or touch electric power lines.
- Never let children play in trees growing near power lines. Don't build a tree house or anything else in a tree near a power line.

- Trees are not a safe shelter in a lightning storm. A tall, wet tree can act as a lightning rod.
- Never touch a fallen power line, even if it's not sparking. If you see one, call us immediately.
- Always plant the right tree in the right place.

## TREE TRIMMING

Tree-related issues are a leading cause of power outages during storms for our customers, prompting SELCO to conduct proactive tree work in communities daily. To uphold safety and electric service reliability, utilizing directional pruning techniques, SELCO trains trees away from wires, endorsed by reputable organizations like the U.S. Forest Service and the International Society of Arboriculture.

While SELCO takes responsibility for maintaining public utility lines, property owners are accountable for trimming trees on private property. SELCO will de-energize utility lines if safety is in question while trimming. In the event of tree-related service disruptions, SELCO offers assistance, reinstalling services, and clearing debris, with the property owner responsible for wood removal. Any ownership disputes regarding trees are resolved through investigation and notification by SELCO to the relevant property owners.



## DIGSAFE

Before digging, **call 811 to locate underground utilities**. This free service, required by law, helps prevent personal injury, property damage, and service interruptions. DigSafe notifies utilities, allowing them to mark underground wires, pipes, or cables at least 72 hours in advance. Avoid planting shrubs or trees over underground lines to prevent future maintenance issues. Always call before digging to ensure safety and avoid costly damage to buried utilities.



## STORM DEBRIS

During a storm, our crews are focused on cutting and clearing trees from our lines to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. While we will remove broken utility poles, homeowners are responsible for removing all broken and/or damaged trees and limbs including those SELCO removes to expedite service restoration.

