



Nelson Hydro

VEGETATION & TREE MANAGEMENT

We live in and around the forest. We all love living around trees. It is hard to imagine our communities without trees. With that comes some responsibilities:

- The type of tree planted near power lines has to be the right kind.
- Trees must be trimmed and, when necessary, removed.
- Where practical, when diseased trees are removed from city-owned boulevards, new trees are planted in their place.

In conjunction with Public Works, Nelson Hydro will continue to do vegetation and tree management in the city this year.

Quote from Nelson Hydro's Power Line Crew Manager, Darrel Manchur:

"Nelson Hydro's focus is to maintain our required clearances from all vegetation to live circuits as a priority that ensures public safety and minimizes risk of fires started by contacts."

It is interesting to note that more than half of power outages are caused by trees and in order to reduce the number of outages, Nelson Hydro spends more than \$500,000 annually to deal with trees growing close to power lines.

Solutions to reduce the number of tree-related outages and our tree trimming budget:

- Removing weak, diseased or hazardous trees.
- Performing or encouraging regular pruning of trees near power lines.
- Educating people on what type of tree to plant near power lines.

Where to go for information on what types of trees to plant near power lines:

- On our website under Vegetation Management.
- Contact us (see below).

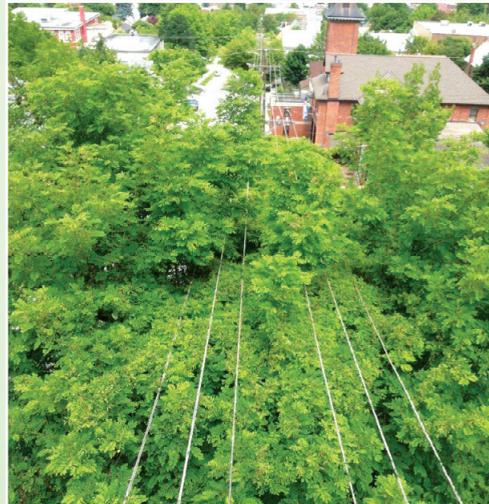
The basic parameters are:

- Trees planted directly under, and within 5 metres on either side of the hydro pole, the maximum height at maturity is 6 metres or less.
- Trees planted within 5 to 20 metres from the hydro pole the maximum height at maturity is 12 metres.
- Trees planted more than 20 metres from the power lines can be virtually any strong, healthy tree.

Nelson Hydro customers who want to prune a tree near a power line, can contact us and we will temporarily drop the power line making it safer for the arborist to trim the tree.



Trees making contact with electrical lines can start a fire. Note the fire on the grass and on the tree that is laying on the power line.



Latimer St before the trees were trimmed. These photos show how important it is to trim trees and vegetation on a regular basis.

VOLTAGE CONVERSION PROJECT

One of Nelson Hydro's key projects for 2017 is the Voltage Conversion Project which is being done to improve service to customers. Moving to one standard voltage is the last phase of a multi-year program.

Quote from Nelson Hydro's Power Line Crew Manager, Darrel Manchur:

"Although the record breaking snowfall has slowed progress from the start, we are on schedule to complete this much needed upgrade."

What are the benefits of doing this?

- It allows crews to do maintenance without disrupting service.
- Allows salvage of the downtown substation that is very close to the end of its service life.

When will this work be done?

- Has commenced and will continue until year's end.

How much will it cost?

- \$882,000

What areas of town will be affected?

- Trevor St
- View St
- High St
- Ward St
- Carbonate St
- Silica St
- Mill St
- Victoria St

How do we notify residents of planned outages?

- Where practical, crew will hand-deliver notice to affected residences.
- City website.
- Local newspapers (paper and online – if schedules permit).
- Local Radio Stations.
- Sandwich boards placed in affected areas.

How will this project affect you?:

- Multiple crews using large equipment to set power poles and work at heights will create congestion in the block where they are working.
- Disruptions to traffic and parking areas will be handled with as much notification and signage as practical.