

Tree and Shrub Trimming Policy City of Lincoln Center

The purpose of this document is to set forth a tree and shrub trimming policy within the city limits of Lincoln Center, to clarify responsibilities of the property owner, and to clarify responsibilities of the City of Lincoln Center. This policy applies to overhead electric power lines, individual electric service lines, streets, sidewalks, intersections, electric meters, and underground utilities belonging to the City of Lincoln.

Definitions of electric power lines

1. **Overhead electric power lines:** Electric power lines that are mounted toward the top of the utility poles that are located throughout the City of Lincoln, either in the street right of way, alleys, or easements through private property. These lines will have three separate non insulated wires attached to a crossarm on a utility pole and are typically the highest wire on the pole. Also, in some areas, there are two lines, highest on the pole, which are attached to the crossarm or to insulators mounted on the utility pole. These are the lines that distribute electric energy to end users and are the responsibility of the City of Lincoln. The other wires closest to the ground are for telecommunications, which are not the City of Lincoln's responsibility.
2. **Individual electric service lines:** Electric power lines that connect electric service from the utility pole to the point of attachment on the structure. These lines are made of three, sometimes four, separate insulated wires twisted around each other, then separated at the utility pole and the point of attachment for connections to be made. These are the lines that bring electric energy from the overhead electric power lines to individual structures and are the responsibility of the property owner.

Tree and shrub trimming policy regarding overhead electric power lines

1. All trees and shrubs that are within 10 feet of any overhead electric power line will be trimmed by the City of Lincoln Center regardless of location of the tree or shrub, at the expense of the City of Lincoln. The 10-foot zone is a safety zone in which qualified professionals are only allowed to work. If the tree or shrub is 15 feet from any overhead electric power line, a responsible tree trimming crew can be used. If the tree or shrub needing trimmed is deemed unhealthy, the entire tree will be removed upon agreement with the property owner.

Tree and shrub trimming policy regarding individual electric service lines

1. All trees and shrubs within 2 feet of an individual electric service line should be trimmed by a responsible tree trimming crew at the expense of the property owner. The City of Lincoln will trim the trees upon request of the property owner at the equipment and labor rate set forth by the City Council at the expense of the property owner. If the property owner requests that the individual electric service line be removed for the tree or shrub to be trimmed, the City of Lincoln will remove and restore the line free of charge upon request during normal business hours.

Tree and shrub trimming policy regarding streets, alleys, sidewalks, intersections, electric meters, and underground utilities belonging to the City of Lincoln

1. **Streets:** All trees and shrubs overhanging city streets shall be trimmed to allow for 14 feet clearance, in full blossom, from the surface of the street to allow for safe flow of traffic. This service will be done by the City of Lincoln at no cost to the property owner as long as the tree is located in the City right of way, which is usually within 40 feet from the center of the street. If the tree is located outside of the right of way, the tree will be trimmed at the expense of the property owner at the equipment and labor rate set forth by the City Council.
2. **Alleys:** All trees and shrubs in alleyways shall be trimmed to a 14 feet clearance in full blossom, which will allow utility vehicles to pass through without interference. If the tree or shrub is causing interference with utility vehicles, the tree will be trimmed by the City of Lincoln at no expense to the property owner. If the tree or shrub is found to be unhealthy, removal of the tree may be done by a responsible tree trimming crew at the cost of the property owner.
3. **Sidewalks:** All trees and shrubs around sidewalks shall be trimmed to allow 8 feet of clearance in full blossom, from the surface of the sidewalk. This service will be done by the property owner at their expense.
4. **Intersections:** All trees and shrubs at intersections shall be trimmed accordingly to allow for clear views of oncoming traffic before entering the intersection. If any tree or shrub impedes the view of an intersection, it shall be removed by the property owner at their expense.
5. **Electric meters:** All trees and shrubs found within 3 feet of any electric meter location shall be trimmed by the City of Lincoln to allow for reading the meter or replacing the meter. This service will be done at no expense to the property owner.
6. **Underground utilities:** All trees and shrubs found within 2 feet of any underground utility service shall be trimmed to allow access to the underground utility. This includes water meter pits and underground electric. In the event that an underground service is in need of repairs or replacement, the City of Lincoln has the right to remove the tree or shrub to allow for work to be performed.

All tree trimming services performed by the City of Lincoln will result in complete removal of branches and debris prior to leaving the worksite unless the property owner agrees to remove branches and debris or agrees to use the cut branches for their own purpose. If the property owner trims the tree or shrub at their expense, they are responsible for removal as well but can agree to have the City haul off the branches and debris at an equipment and labor rate set forth by the City Council.

In the event of any emergency, all tree trimming will be done by the City of Lincoln at their discretion during the time of the emergency to facilitate quick response to outages. The City of Lincoln will strive to remove said trees, branches, or debris in a timely manner during normal business hours after the emergency has been resolved.

Adopted 12/8/25