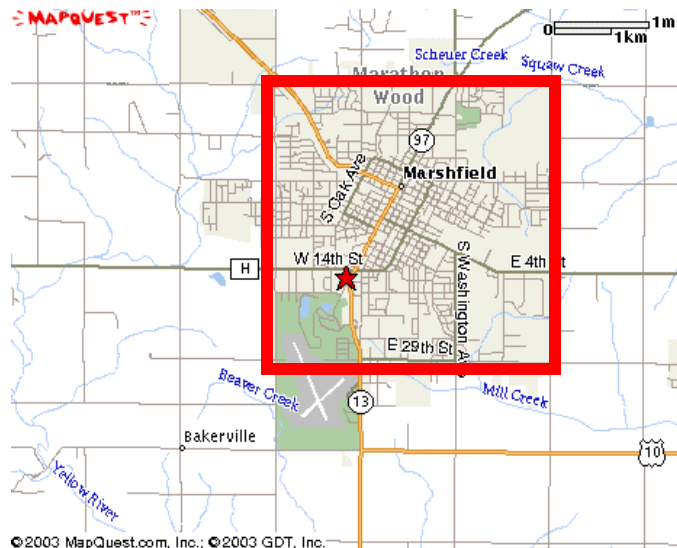


Marshfield Utilities has contracted with Makovsky Brush Service to continue with our annual line clearance program. This years affected area (inside of the red border on the map) will include those locations that are either south of McMillan Street, west of Galvin Avenue, north of 29th Street or east of Lincoln Avenue. This will include most of our city residents.

We choose our contractor based on a number of factors including the ability to trim safely, their customer service skills, availability of equipment, and total project cost. We also require that they follow Tree Line U.S.A. guidelines. Tree Line U.S.A. is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters. They recognize public and private utilities across the nation, that demonstrate practices that protect and enhance America's urban forests. In addition to providing tree trimming guidelines, they also provide trenching and underground digging requirements. More information on these topics can be found on their website at www.arborday.org.



For reliability and safety we strive to have our entire system trimmed every three to four years by rotating the affected areas. On all high voltage primary lines we prune to provide ten feet of side clearance and no above overhang dependent upon species. We base this on OSHA guidelines that require that anyone trimming within ten feet of an energized conductor need to be trained in live line trimming procedures. This rules out most homeowners and tree contractors. In addition to the ten foot rule, we also remove diseased, weakened, or leaning trees that if upon examination pose a risk to our system or threaten to cause safety problems. Secondary, service, and streetlight wires are only cleared if they are being pushed down, up, or out.

Since most of the employees at MEWD are also tree owners, we can empathize with how upsetting trimming can be and we strive to continually look at programs to eliminate future problems. One of our yearly projects, in cooperation with the city, is to replace tree varieties in the terrace areas with species that are of a lower growing nature. On an individual basis, we have provided limited compensation for removals, additional trimming, or stump grinding. We also have in place a conservation program that provides residential customers with cash back rewards for planting specific trees in areas of their yard that will provide significant shade to the home. The best option available however, is to look up while planning. Avoid planting under wires if possible, otherwise use cultivars that at maturity will not conflict with power lines. Most nurseries can provide you with this information or as a rule only plant dwarf or semi-dwarf strains.

Our contractor will be contacting, via door tags, the first affected customers within the next two to three weeks. The tag will include a local number to our contractor so details of the work can be discussed. If problems with Makovsky Brush Service arise, or other options need to be discussed, please contact Greg Geiger, Line Operating Supervisor at 387-1195 ext 334.