

**ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM YOUR
130th DISTRICT CITY COUNCIL REPS & BLACK ROCK NRZ REGARDING UNITED
ILLUMINATING TREE WORK**

Dear Neighbor,

As you may have heard, the United Illuminating Company is moving forward with its 2017 Vegetation Management Plan that seeks to create a “Utility Protection Zone”; see the description on the back of this page. We want to ensure that you are fully informed and prepared for this process in order to respond responsibly, taking into consideration UI’s needs as well as the landscape of our neighborhood and the preservation of our trees. **You may be contacted by the UI’s contracted tree removal service, Lewis Tree Service, about a tree on your property or abutting your property that has been earmarked for removal or pruning.**

Attached is a copy of the UI’s Customer Notification and Response for Proposed Tree Work. This form will either be reviewed with you in person with a representative from Lewis Tree Service or left on your front door in a packet containing additional information. The left side of the form will be completed by Lewis’ representative, Charlie Arindell, and you will be asked to complete the right side of the form (“Customer Response”). This form gives you the opportunity to consent or object to the proposed tree work, or request to modify what has been planned. **However, we encourage you to contact the representative to discuss the planned tree work in person before completing the form.** In either case, you have 10 days to respond. If you prefer, you may also request to have the work done by a private tree service of your choosing and at your expense.

Also attached is an outline of the process that UI, Lewis Tree Service and the City’s Tree Warden will follow should you object to or request a modification of the tree work. **Please review and familiarize yourself with these steps before you object or request a modification to ensure that the process and timelines are followed.** On the back of that page is a listing of the benefits that trees provide. Please take this into consideration before responding.

The last page contains information on the City’s tree planting program and how you can request a free tree to be planted on your property or on your street. By ‘adopting’ a tree, you are asked to care for and nurture the tree so that it can grow to become a healthy, beautiful addition to your home or street.

If you have any questions regarding the UI’s Vegetation Plan, please contact David Goodson, United Illuminating Representative, at [203 499-3230](tel:2034993230), david.goodson@uinet.com, or feel free to reach out to us directly with questions on specific trees or the City’s tree program.

Our neighborhood trees not only beautify Black Rock, they provide many health benefits to our residents, and we want to ensure that we are protecting our trees as best we can. Thank you for your attention to this important matter!

Regards,

Pete Spain
City Council Representative
130th District
Pete.Spain@bridgeportct.gov
(475) 225-0082

Christina B. Smith
City Council Representative
130th District
ChristinaB.Smith@bridgeportct.gov
(475) 225-0044

Lazaros Papanikolaou
Board Member
Black Rock NRZ
Lazarosct@aol.com

It may be helpful to know that:

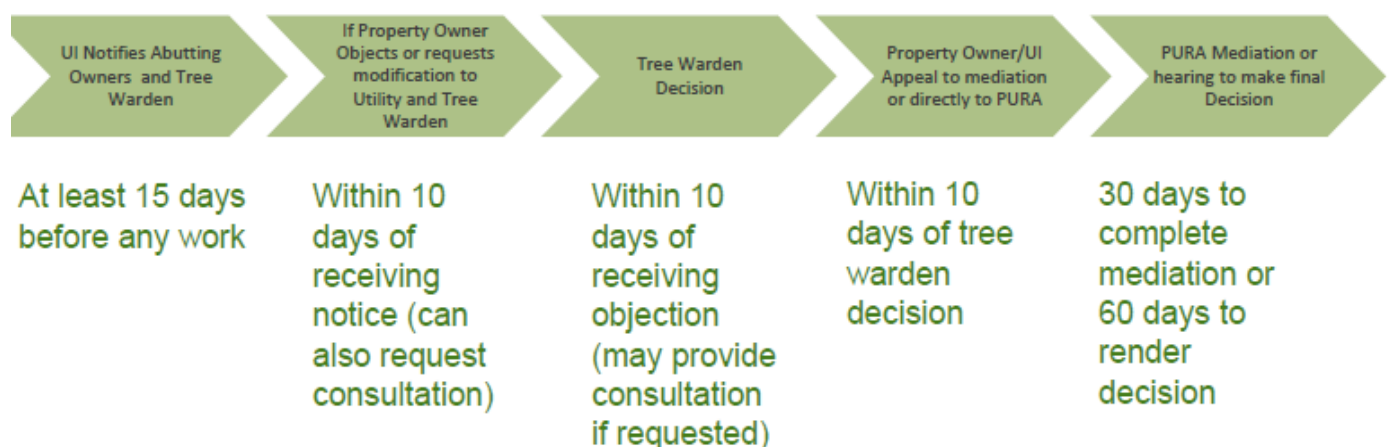
- UI's plan is seeking to create a ground-to-sky "Utility Protection Zone (UPZ). The UPZ extends 8 feet horizontally from both sides of the **wires** and **utility poles**
- UI's "starting point" is to ask if a city or private tree on your property, and within the UPZ, can be cut down
- You have the **right to say 'NO' to UI's request for a tree to be cut down** on your property/abutting property
- You have the **right to ask for a modification** to proposed tree work on your property/abutting property
- You have the right to request "**prune to previous**", meaning that a tree will be pruned in the same manner and shape as it had been in the past.
- You have the right to be present when the proposed tree work is scheduled
- If a tree is cut down, the **City will grind the remaining stump**, but on its schedule
- You may participate in the City's tree planting program by requesting a free tree (see form, included)

The **timeline process** is outlined in the diagram below. If you have any questions, contact UI directly at trees@uinet.com.

We are creating a neighborhood Tree Watch to protect our trees; if you would like to become a Tree Captain for your street/neighborhood, please contact us.

The Process for Vegetation Management

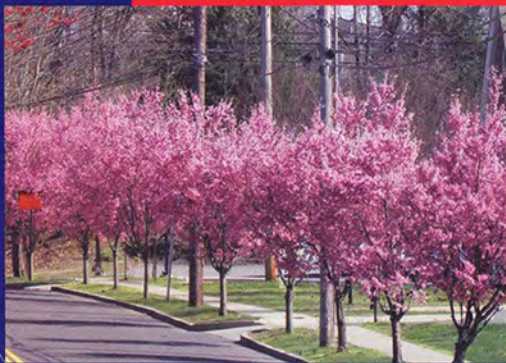
Before any tree work is performed:



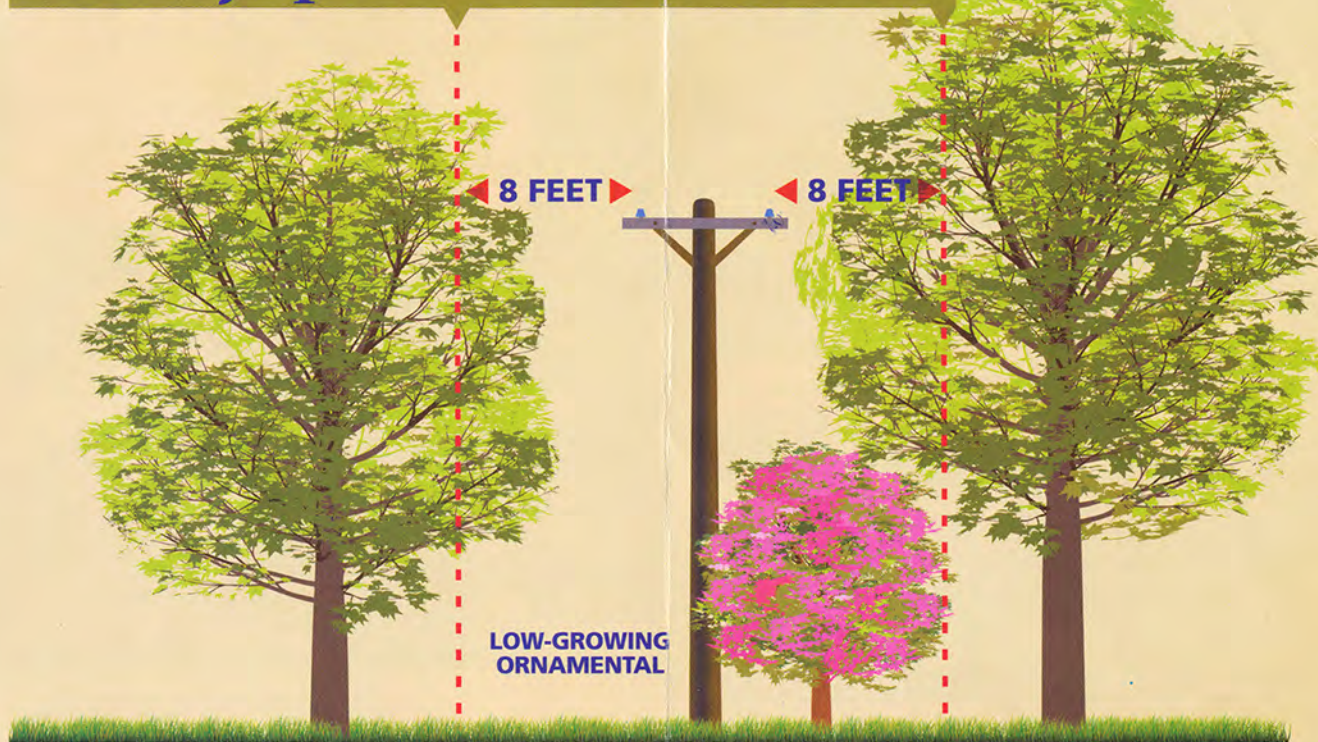
At UI, our customers are our partners. Help us prevent power outages and protect public safety. Learn about your role in the process.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **MAKE CONTACT:** If our work planners identify trees on or near your property that require pruning or removal, they will attempt to contact you in person about the work. If they cannot reach you, they will leave contact information. They can explain what needs to be done and the response process.
- **RESPOND:** Except when trees are in direct contact with lines or there are signs of burning, our work planners will always ask for property owner consent to perform pruning or removal. Granting consent can help prevent storm-related outages in your neighborhood and protect public safety. You may also object to the planned work, or request a modification. The objection may include a request for consultation with the tree warden or the Commissioner of Transportation, as appropriate. You may also send e-mail to trees@uinet.com to respond or ask questions.
- **PREVENT:** We encourage customers to plant trees to beautify their neighborhoods. See the rear panel for "Right Tree, Right Place" guidelines to avoid creating future threats to nearby power lines.



utility protection zone



Our vegetation management plan seeks to create a ground-to-sky "Utility Protection Zone" extending 8 feet horizontally from the outermost electrical conductor or wire installed from pole to pole.

Tree limbs encroaching on the Utility Protection Zone will be removed at a main branching point or at the trunk, if necessary. All tall-growing trees or limbs growing from within or encroaching on this zone will be removed, following applicable notification, permitting and consent laws.

We will evaluate the pruning and removal of any trees that could pose a risk to our wires and equipment. We will notify property owners and ask their consent for all work to be performed. Details of the requested work will be indicated on the Notification and Response Form provided.

our process

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

Neighborhoods are inspected and trees that require pruning or removal are identified in order to reduce the threat to reliable

electric service and public safety. UI personnel and contractors carry company-issued identification. Ask for it.

NOTIFICATION

If a tree on your property, or an abutting public space or right-of-way, requires pruning or removal, we'll contact you, the property

owner. We will visit your property, and if you're away we'll follow up with additional visits and phone calls so that we can discuss the work with you.

DOOR HANGERS

If we can't reach you, we may leave a packet hanging on your door. Read the materials

carefully, and look for details, instructions and contact information in the enclosed Notification and Response Form. We encourage you to contact the work planner at the number listed to discuss the required work in-person. You may also send an e-mail to trees@uinet.com.



This is the area that is currently being targeted for tree pruning and tree removal



CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION AND RESPONSE FOR PROPOSED TREE WORK

A UIL HOLDINGS COMPANY

CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION (to be completed by work planner)

Today's Date: AUGUST 2018
My Name: CHARLIE ARINDELL
My Company: LEWIS TREE SERVICE
My Phone Number: 555-1212

I am a work planner under contract with The United Illuminating Company to perform tree work that can help to reduce threats to the power lines that serve your property and neighborhood.

I am seeking consent of the property owner to perform the work detailed below. **There is no charge to you for this work.** Please review this form, and then consult with me at the phone number listed above. You also may respond by filling out the right side of this form.

We propose the following tree work on or around SEPT '18 (date):

- ☐ Pruning or removal of large and small tree branches to obtain a Utility Protection Zone around electrical conductors.
- ☐ Removal of brush (small, unplanted trees up to 6 inches trunk diameter at chest height).
- ☒ Tree removal is required; please contact me for a consultation.

Brush will be chipped.

Bulk wood will be: ☐ left on site ☐ removed from site

Property Address: _____

Description of work: _____

CUT TREE
LEAVE STUMP

If you object or request a modification, you have 10 business days to notify:

☒ local tree warden ☐ state DOT commissioner

Name: STEVE HLADUN Phone: PH: (203) 576-7797

Address: CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
999 BROAD STREET BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

CUSTOMER RESPONSE (to be completed by customer)

I **OWN** the property listed on the left side of this form and I:

- ☐ **CONSENT** to the proposed tree work, as detailed.
- ☒ **OBJECT** to the proposed tree work, as detailed.
- ☐ **REQUEST A MODIFICATION** of proposed tree work, as detailed.

MR & MRS HUGATREE
NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____ PHONE AUGUST '18
SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

☐ I **DO NOT OWN** the property listed. The property's owner is:

NAME _____ PHONE _____
STREET ADDRESS _____

INSTRUCTIONS: You may contact the work planner listed to discuss any proposed work. If you have questions or concerns, you may also send an e-mail to trees@uinet.com.

- Complete the form and detach the **two WHITE** sheets. Insert them in the pocket with the door hanger and return it to the outside door to be collected. Keep the **PINK** sheet for your records.

If you Object or Request a Modification, you **must send the YELLOW** copy to the local tree warden or state DOT commissioner listed. You may also send an e-mail to trees@uinet.com.

Connecticut law requires us to notify you of any tree work that is planned. We ask for your consent so we can maintain safe, reliable electric service to you and your neighborhood.

You also have the right to object to, or request a modification of, the proposed work within 10 business days. (The completed YELLOW copy of this form will suffice.) The tree warden or state Commissioner or Transportation will review the request and issue a decision within 10 business days. Either the property owner or UI may appeal that decision, within 10 business days, and request that the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority hold mediation or a hearing. The objection may include a request for consultation with the tree warden or the Commissioner of Transportation, as appropriate.

Trees located entirely on private property will not be pruned or cut without written consent from the property owner, except where there are wires in contact with limbs or signs of burning. UI does not bill customers for damage to its system caused by storms or similar events.

The Benefits of Trees

Public Health and Social Benefits

Air Cleaning: Trees produce oxygen, intercept airborne particulates, and reduce smog, enhancing a community's respiratory health. The urban canopy directly contributes to meeting a city's regulatory clean air requirements.

Access to trees, green spaces, and parks promotes greater physical activity, and reduces stress, while improving the quality of life in our cities and towns.

- Urban landscaping, including trees, helps lower crime rates.
- Studies show that urban vegetation slows heartbeats, lowers blood pressure, and relaxes brain wave patterns.

Environmental Benefits

Climate change: Trees sequester carbon (CO₂), reducing the overall concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Energy conservation: A tree is a natural air conditioner. The evaporation from a single tree can produce the cooling effect of ten room-size, residential air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

- A lush canopy ensures that summer temperatures are at least 6 to 8 degrees lower than in comparable neighborhoods without trees.
- Tree windbreaks can reduce heating costs 10-15%; while shading and evaporative cooling from trees can cut air-conditioning costs 20-50%.

Water filtration and retention: Urban forests promote beneficial water quality and reduce storm water management costs.

- Street and park trees can intercept 135 million gallons of rainwater. Trees capture and slow rainfall and their roots filter water and recharge the aquifer. Trees reduce storm water runoff, which reduces flooding, saves city storm water management costs, and decreases the flow of polluted water into adjacent bodies of water.

Wildlife habitat: Trees provide important habitats for birds, insects and animals.

Economic Benefits

Communities and business districts with healthy tree-cover attract new residents, industry, and commercial activity.

- Homes landscaped with trees on tree-lined streets are worth more and sell more quickly.
- Trees enhance economic stability by attracting businesses; people linger and shop longer when trees are present.

Additional Tree Benefits

- Trees provide inviting and cool areas for recreation and relaxation, such as playgrounds and parks.
- Trees screen and soften unattractive views.
- Trees absorb and block sound, reducing noise pollution by as much as 40 percent.
- People walk and jog more on shaded streets, which encourages interaction with neighbors and improves the sense of community.

For more information, visit: <http://www.canopy.org>

The City of Bridgeport

Joseph P. Ganim, Mayor

and the Department of Parks & Recreation

Invites you to participate in the City's tree planting program to request a free tree be planted at your home or on your street!

Please fill out the following information.

PROPERTY OWNER/CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Zip Code: _____

PHONE: _____ Email: _____

Please note the location you would like the tree planted: _____ Street _____ Front Yard _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE _____

Under Section 23-60 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, the City is authorized to plant trees on private property – with the written consent of the property owner.

I hold harmless the City of Bridgeport and I fully understand, will abide by and cooperate with the Rules, Regulations and Policies of the Parks and Recreation Department. I hereby release the City of Bridgeport, the Bridgeport Parks and Recreation Department, their officials, directors, supervisors, employees, volunteers, and sponsors from any liability as a participant in this Tree Planting Program. My consent allows the Parks and Recreation Department employees, City officials and/or contracted workers permission to enter upon the land, execute all digging, shoveling and preparation work on the property, in accordance with this application and upon terms agreed to by all parties, the City and the recipient(s), when needed. I also understand it is my sole responsibility to maintain and nurture the tree to healthy growth following the planting. Failure to do this to the best of my ability, or the removal and relocation of a tree awarded and planted at a specified address, will result in dismissal from this program.

Please submit your request for a tree to:

**Steve Hladun, Tree Warden
City of Bridgeport, Parks and Recreation Department
999 Broad Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

Alternatively, you may request a tree on the Bridgeport 311 app via See Click Fix.

Steve Hladun, Tree Warden:
email: Steve.Hladun@Bridgeportct.gov
ph: (203) 576-7797