



Seattle City Light to Maintain Trees and Plants on Interurban Trail

In early-September, Seattle City Light will undertake vegetation management work along its transmission right-of-way, specifically, the Interurban Trail. City Light's Vegetation Management unit is responsible for providing public safety and reliable power delivery by ensuring vegetation does not impact the electrical system. **Vegetation causes more outages for City Light than any other single cause**, so it's no small task.

Vegetation management work is scheduled on a 4-year cycle and is based on utility industry best practices, Washington State Administrative Code and the American National Standards Institute requirements. City Light maintains necessary clearances for its lines by trimming trees and removing trees, brush and small caliper stems before they grow in conflict with the lines. In maintaining vegetation near electric lines, the utility strives to balance environmentally responsible, cost-efficient vegetation management with the interests of the communities it serves without compromising public safety or system reliability.

City Light will be working in early September to maintain those clearances for distribution lines along the Interurban Trail.

City Light's vegetation management work will also help to address some of the public safety concerns along the Interurban Trail. The thick vegetation along the west side of the trail between N 145th and N 155th Streets has occasionally attracted encampments. Illegal activity occurs in these areas and the debris and refuse left behind are a public health risk. Reducing vegetation along with increased police patrols and continued enforcement of the City of Shoreline's Stay Out of Drug Areas (SODA) Ordinance may further address illegal activity and encampments. While City Light's vegetation management work on the trail is not directed specifically at eliminating encampments, the project work is a positive byproduct that will help improve public safety by creating fewer places to hide and engage in illegal activity.

In August 2001, Seattle City Light signed an agreement with the City of Shoreline to create the Interurban Trail as a multi-use public trail on City Light's existing electricity transmission right-of-way. City Light owns the property and manages adjacent vegetation in accordance with its Power Line Clearance Program and Transmission Vegetation Management Plan. The City of Shoreline maintains the trail landscape.

In 2011, Shoreline community members took a keen interest in City Light's proposed work. This interest resulted in a Letter of Understanding, much of which was incorporated into the Franchise Agreement between the City of Shoreline and City Light. The Letter of Understanding and Franchise Agreement reflect the community's input and interests. The City of Shoreline and City Light have maintained this partnership in planning and managing vegetation on the trail.

Please contact David Bayard, City Light's Vegetation Management Supervisor, with project questions at (206) 386-1902 or via email at david.bayard@seattle.gov.