

Landscaping near ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Spring is coming, and maybe you're thinking about where to plant new flowers, trees and shrubs.

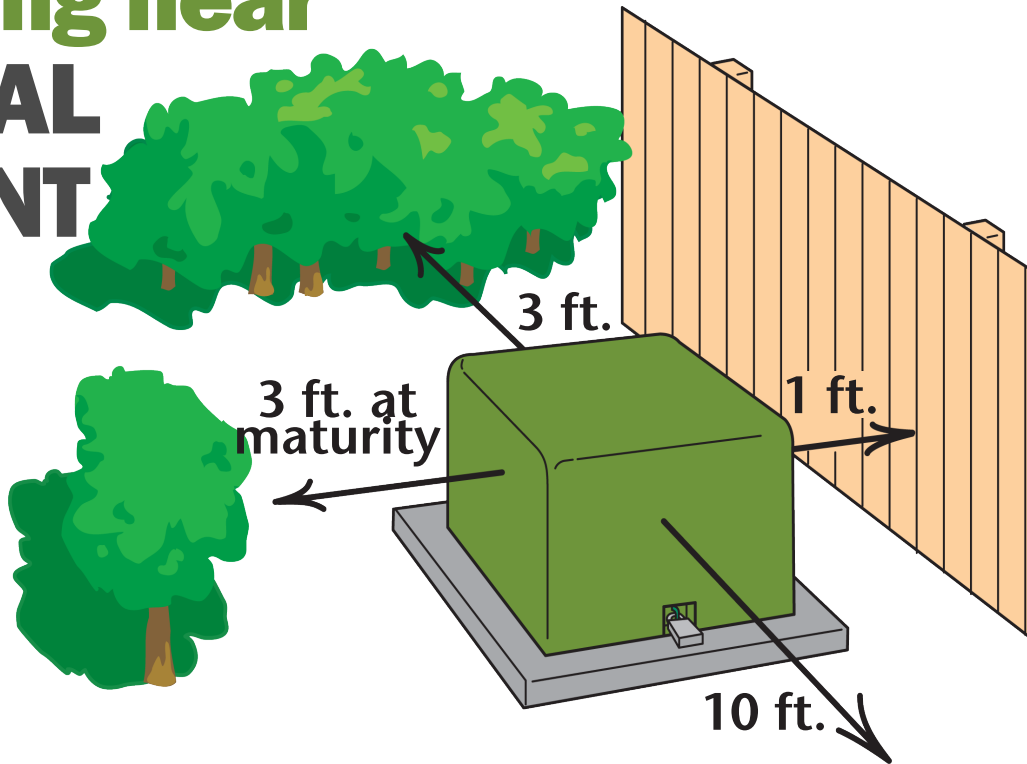
Before you start landscaping, though, keep in mind these tips to stay safe around electrical equipment in your yard.

That big green box

It might seem tempting to camouflage the metal utility box in your yard with plants, but beware: There are specific safety guidelines to follow.

The box, known as a padmount transformer, is a locked steel cabinet mounted on a concrete pad. These transformers help lower the voltage on power lines to a level that your home can use.

Like most equipment, padmount transformers require periodic maintenance and may need attention when OPPD crews are responding to an outage. Crews need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the



transformer (the padlocked side) to work safely on these units.

They also need three feet of clearance on two sides and at least one foot of clearance on the fourth side.

Use caution when digging

Before you start any project that involves digging, state law requires you to call to have underground utility lines located and marked.

This free service typically takes place 48 to 72 hours after you call.

In Nebraska, you can call 1-800-331-5666 or 811. Nebraska also has a website, ne1call.com.

What to plant

It's important to consider the mature size and spread of a shrub or tree, especially near overhead power lines. For more information, visit oppd.com/residential/trees-power-lines/.

Record number of participants for Heat the Streets Run & Walk

(See details on back)



MAY BOARD MEETINGS

All-committee meeting: Tuesday, May 14 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, May 16, 5 p.m. (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for details). Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings viewable on oppd.com/BoardMeeting.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.

Your Energy Partner[®]
OPPD
Omaha Public Power District

(Continued from Heat the Streets on front)

The annual Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth drew a record number of runners this year to raise money for neighbors who are struggling to pay their utility bills.

The 17th annual run and walk welcomed 1,055 participants this year, up from the previous record of 911 set last year. The event, co-sponsored by OPPD and Metropolitan Utilities District, supports local utility customers who are facing financial hardship.

This year's event on March 2 featured 5k and 10k timed runs, plus a one-mile, untimed walk. Money raised through registrations, sponsorships and other donations benefit customers across a 13-county area.

The program is administered by Dollar Energy Fund, a registered 501(c)(3), and split between M.U.D.'s Home Fund and OPPD's Energy Assistance Program.



Make sure your meters are accessible to OPPD workers

OPPD meters are an important tool on every home and business to ensure that customers are billed accurately for the electricity they consume. So, it's critical that OPPD employees can access your electric meter when needed for repairs, replacements or other measures.

Here are some helpful tips to ensure your meters are accessible:

Know where your meter is: Meters are generally attached to an outer wall on your home or business, on the side or back. Look for a device with a round face and numbers

displayed on the front.

Make sure the route to your meter is accessible: Is there a clear path to your meter?

Don't plant trees or bushes too close: Plants can grow quickly and easily obscure or block meters. Be sure to give your meter plenty of space when planting new trees or bushes.

Keep pets clear: Don't chain your dog to the meter's pole. OPPD employees need a safe environment with minimal distractions to perform their duties. If a dog or other large animal



is in your yard, OPPD employees may ask you to take the animal inside or monitor it so they can work.

Take the smart choice

What's so smart about smart thermostats? These Wi-Fi-enabled devices can learn your household patterns and automatically adjust heating and cooling systems for an energy-efficient environment.

For control over your comfort and savings when you're not home, simply order a Sensi Lite Thermostat, install your device and enroll in OPPD's Smart Thermostat Program. When you enroll by May 24, 2024, you'll receive the \$89.99 device for free.

Limited devices are available, so order by March 29, 2024, and enroll by May 24, 2024. If enrollment is not completed by the deadline, a \$89.99 charge will appear on your next OPPD bill.

Customers are eligible to purchase one (1) Sensi Lite Thermostat per household. Those who have previously received a free smart thermostat are not eligible for this program. All orders will ship at the end of the promotion.



7"x 2.5" AD SPACE AVAILABLE IN 2023 Proceeds benefit EAP. For details, please email gpschulte@oppd.com.

Proceeds from the sale of advertising space in *Outlets* are donated to OPPD's Energy Assistance Program. An advertisement in *Outlets* does not constitute an endorsement by OPPD. For information about this space, call 402-536-4131.