



BGE's Tree and Vegetation Management Program.

BGE strives to always provide safe and reliable electric service to our customers, this includes maintaining the trees surrounding more than 10,000 miles of overhead power lines. Our Tree and Vegetation Management Program includes assessing, pruning and removing trees that may cause electric outages, as well as managing vegetation above our underground natural gas transmission pipeline network.

To ensure we are managing this work as effectively as possible, we adhere to a routine trimming cycle, routine inspections and reliability performance data as well as following the requirements mandated by the Maryland Public Service Commission, called the Electricity Service Quality and Reliability Act or RM 43 standards.

Only licensed, utility-qualified, professional tree-trimming contractors are selected to manage the trees and other vegetation around power lines and equipment. When a neighborhood is scheduled for routine maintenance work, BGE's contractors place door hangers to let property owners know when to expect crews. If heavy tree pruning or removal is required, they'll contact the property owner directly before any work begins.

This concerted effort to manage vegetation well has reduced tree-related service outages by nearly one third in the last five years.

And what happens to all of those branches when we're done clearing space for safety and reliability? Many of them are delivered right to The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore where they have been a part of the menu for the animals since 2018. The program saves the zoo nearly \$100,000 annually and reduces environmental impact by delivering trimmings twice a week, reducing the need for out-of-state farms.

To learn more information on the program, visit [BGE.COM/TreeCare](https://www.bge.com/TreeCare).

Maintaining your own trees

You can help keep powerlines clear trimming your trees before they get within 10 feet of electrical lines and equipment. If you're working within 10 feet of overhead lines be sure to contact BGE first at **800.685.0123**. We'll evaluate the site and determine how to make the work area safe in accordance with The Maryland High Voltage Line Act.

Planting trees this Spring?

We recommend following the Arbor Day Foundation's The Right Tree, The Right Place guideline to avoid planting trees that will grow more than 25 feet tall within 20 feet of power lines.

For more guidance on tree pruning and planting, visit [BGE.COM/TreeCare](https://www.bge.com/TreeCare).



SAFETY is BGE's first priority.

For information on BGE's response to COVID-19, visit **BGE.COM/coronavirus**.



US CENSUS 2020

Starting in mid-March, households will receive official United States Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census. BGE urges everyone to respond to the 2020 Census to ensure our communities are accurately reflected in governmental representation and funding decisions. Everything you need to respond can be found at **2020CENSUS.GOV** along with other useful information.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Smart digging means always calling Miss Utility at 811 at least two full business days (but not more than 10 days) before you begin any project from home landscaping and gardening to large construction jobs. Representatives will visit your proposed dig site and mark the locations of underground electrical wires, gas pipelines and other utilities. **Calling 811** before you dig is the first step in preventing damage to underground utilities that can cause serious injuries, disruptions of a neighborhood's critical services and expensive penalties and repair costs. For additional information, visit **BGE.COM/811**.

Protecting wildlife— and reliability

Osprey Watch is helping to protect ospreys, their environment and electric service reliability. Ospreys often use utility poles as a nesting site, endangering the birds and potentially causing power outages—but we can help! If you notice an osprey nest on BGE equipment, report the location via **OspreyWatch@BGE.COM** using the pole number on the marker at eye-level or the nearest address. Once the nest is reported, BGE will remove it if no birds or eggs are present and install deterrents to dissuade the birds from building another nest. If the nest is inhabited, crews install protective rubber insulation on wires and other electric equipment around the nest.

