

**From:** [Linda](#)  
**To:** [Board of Public Works; Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Legistar 74926 comment letter addendum  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 14, 2022 2:50:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [Street Tree Planting Procedures 2016.pdf](#)  
[Street Tree Planting Procedures 2018.pdf](#)

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I sent a comment letter earlier today, which discussed how it is only the high voltage power lines that prevent planting of canopy trees, and that prohibiting canopy trees under all distribution lines would be a major departure from current practice. I would like to clarify that statement since I cannot attest to current practice. However, as late as 2018 the practice was to prohibit canopy trees where there are overhead *high voltage* lines. Attached are two "Street Tree Planting Procedures" as used by Forestry in 2016 and in 2018. Both documents state: "Where there are overhead high voltage lines (MGE/Alliant/ATC) trees should not have a mature height greater than 25 (twenty-five) feet."

The 2016 document, as used by the Urban Forestry Taskforce, can be found also as document #2 of this link.  
<https://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=2868493&GUID=82F16EE2-C2CC-41F0-9EE2-981E7B11C648>

The 2018 document, also part of the Urban Forestry Taskforce materials, can be found here:  
<https://madison.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3317892&GUID=22DFF9E9-AE1B-4C4B-9C36-C158371638CE&Options=ID|Text|&Search=50210>

In 2016, residents in the Jenifer Street area explored partial undergrounding (in connection with street reconstruction) in order to save canopy trees, which resulted in the Finance Committee amendment discussed in my letter. MG&E was amenable to partial undergrounding: "The following parameters apply: poles remain, *overhead services remain*, secondary pole to pole wires remain, communication cables remain, *overhead high voltage* and associated pole-type transformers are removed, fourteen padmounted transformers and three padmounted cabinets are placed on private easements acquired from customers." (emphasis added)

If street tree planting procedures have changed, it was done in the recent past. And, after checking with several people who closely follow the tree issues, apparently without wide public disclosure.

Also, it seems to me that since this policy involves green issues, that a referral to the Sustainable Madison Committee could be beneficial.

Linda Lehnertz