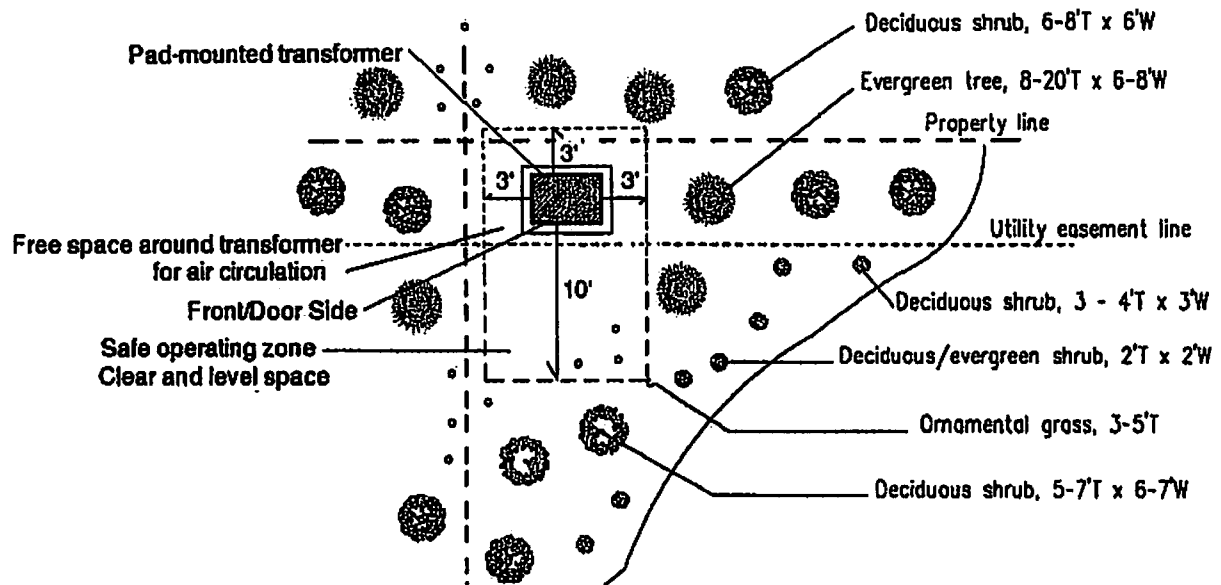


Planting near small pad-mounted transformers

(42" square Foundation)



Overhead view (at time of planting)

People prefer underground electric lines in their neighborhood. Pad-mounted transformers are part of the underground system. They are placed on easements in yards and serve the same purpose as transformers on utility poles. Because transformers may serve several homes, underground lines may go out from them in many directions.

Here are City of St. Charles requirements when you plant near transformers:

1. Maintain a 3-foot clearance to the sides and back of the transformer. Equipment inside the box generates heat and needs air circulation to keep cool and run efficiently. Overheating could cause an outage.

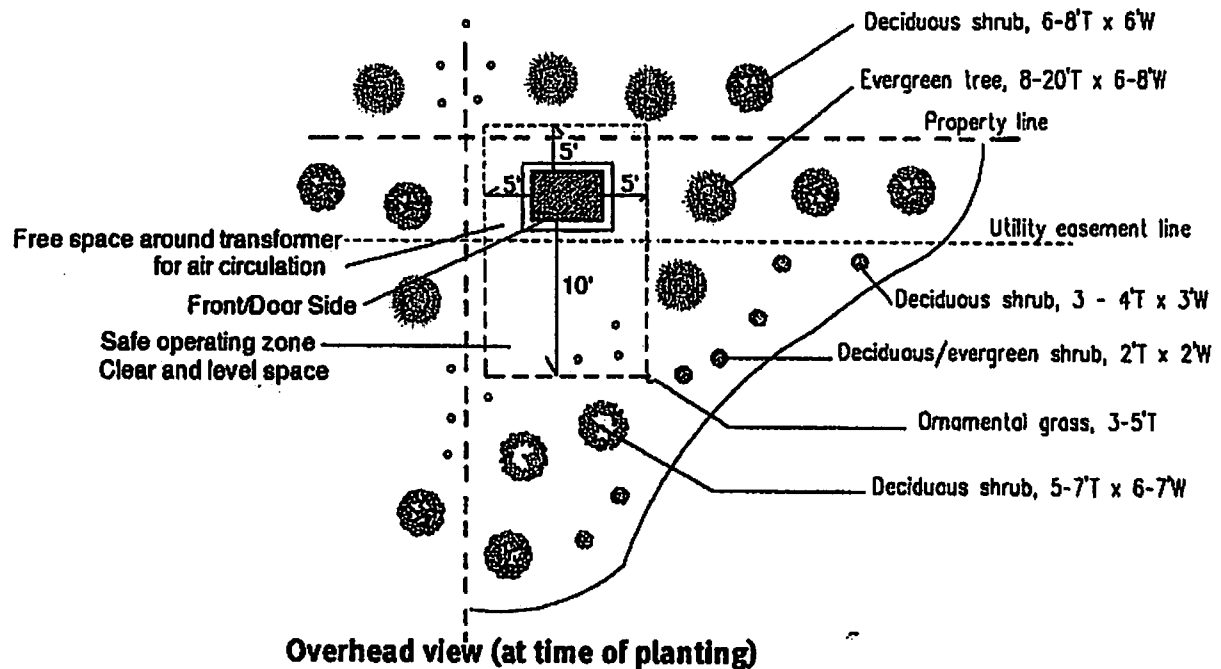
2. Maintain a 10-foot clearance in front of the transformer. Equipment inside is energized at high voltage. Line crews work on "energized" transformers to avoid interrupting your service. The linemen use long fiberglass (insulating) sticks and need the clear space to work safely.

3. Use gravel, wood chips, grass or low ground cover around the transformer. Flowers are okay but may get trampled if we have to work on it. To maintain reliable service, we open the transformer and inspect it at least once a year.

4. Call Julie at 1-800-892-0123 before you dig anywhere in your yard. They locate underground utility services for you.

Planting near large pad-mounted transformer

(7'x9' Foundation)

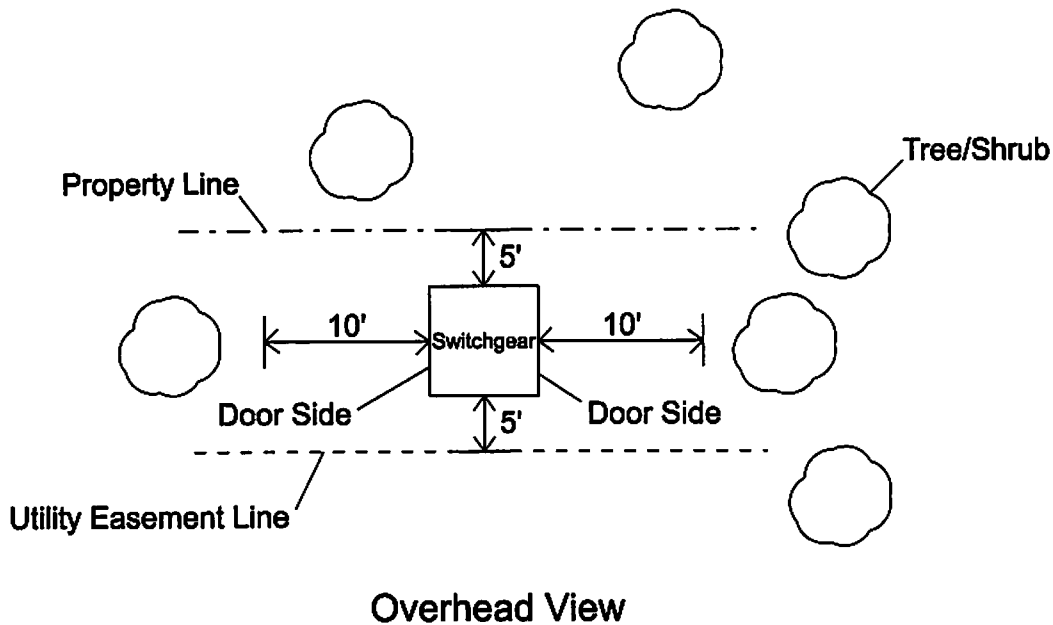


People prefer underground electric lines in their neighborhood. Pad-mounted transformers are part of the underground system. They are placed on easements in yards and serve the same purpose as transformers on utility poles. Because transformers may serve several homes, underground lines may go out from them in many directions.

Here are City of St. Charles requirements when you plant near transformers:

1. Maintain a 5-foot clearance to the sides and back of the transformer. Equipment inside the box generates heat and needs air circulation to keep cool and run efficiently. Overheating could cause an outage.
2. Maintain a 10-foot clearance in front of the transformer. Equipment inside is energized at high voltage. Line crews work on "energized" transformers to avoid interrupting your service. The linemen use long fiberglass (insulating) sticks and need the clear space to work safely.
3. Use gravel, wood chips, grass or low ground cover around the transformer. Flowers are okay but may get trampled if we have to work on it. To maintain reliable service, we open the transformer and inspect it at least once a year.
4. Call Julie at 1-800-892-0123 before you dig anywhere in your yard. They locate underground utility services for you.

Planting Near Pad-Mounted Switchgear (68"x68" Foundation)



People prefer underground electric lines in their neighborhood. Pad-mounted switchgear are part of the underground electric distribution system. They are placed on easements in yards and serve to distribute power. Switchgear are main junction points, so underground lines usually exit them in many directions.

Here are guidelines to remember when you plant near switchgear:

- 1) Maintain a 5 foot clearance from the two non-door sides of the switchgear. Equipment inside the box generates heat and needs air circulation to keep cool and run efficiently. Overheating can cause a power outage. There are also handles on these sides that our crews use to lift the switchgear.
- 2) Maintain a 10 foot clearance to the two door sides. Equipment inside is energized at a high voltage. Line crews work on "energized" switchgear to avoid interrupting your service. The linemen use long fiberglass (insulating) sticks and need the clear space to work safely.
- 3) Use gravel, wood chips, grass or low ground cover around the switchgear. Flowers are OK, but may be trampled if we need to work on it. To maintain reliable service, we open the switchgear and inspect it at least once a year.
- 4) Call JULIE at 1-800-892-0123 before digging anywhere in your yard. They will have underground utility services located for you.