March 17, 2022

The Town of Redding and Eversource Programs Target Tree Related Power Outages and Road Closures

Eversource Announces New Program - Tree Reliability Scorecards

Eversource recently announced the release of tree scorecards for communities served by the utility.

Redding’s scorecard provides Town residents with summary information on scheduled maintenance (branch trimming and removal of hazardous roadside trees), power outages, and roads closed by fallen trees and branches. Historically, downed trees are a significant source of power outages in Redding and throughout the state.

Redding’s tree canopy coverage at 78.3% is highest among Fairfield County communities, according to the Regional Tree Canopy Analysis produced by the Western CT Council of Governments in 2018. 60% of Connecticut is forested, one of the most heavily forested states in the country.

Eversource Tree Trimming and Maintenance in Redding

Over the last several years, Eversource has performed significant ‘scheduled' tree work in Redding to reduce the number of tree related power outages and improve reliability.

2019- Eversource performed extensive trimming along Redding’s 103 miles of overhead power lines.
2020 - Eversource performed Right of Way trimming along 7.43 miles of high voltage transmission line bisecting the town.

This summer, Eversource will be performing backbone maintenance trimming and scheduled maintenance trimming along 4 miles of roads in Redding in the Georgetown and Branchville areas.

Town Tree Removal Program is Ongoing.

Between 2015-2017 the Town’s open space manager and tree warden inventoried 1000+ dead and dying trees along town roads. The Town budgets $50,000 annually for tree pruning and removal, an amount supplemented with funds from a state grant.
From July to March of this year, the Town and contractors combined have removed more than 100 trees at a cost of over $75,000.

FY 2022 YTD: $75,200  
FY 2021: $88,710  
FY 2020: $106,575  
Prior years expense averages $65,000.

The Town’s highway department removes smaller single trunk trees. Large trees requiring a bucket truck must be removed by a contracted company.

If you have a tree touching or endangering power lines, you can report it to Eversource vegetation management. You can also contact the Town’s highway department or submit a tree concern though the Town’s website:  
https://townofreddingct.org/contact-us/

As always, contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Julia Pemberton  
Redding First Selectwoman  
jpemberton@townofreddingct.org  
203-521-4940 - cell  
203-938-2002 - office