

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What is a Utility Easement and What does it mean to me?

A Utility Easement is an area that is designated for electric lines to be constructed. These areas must remain accessible for Electric Department Personnel and Equipment for service purposes. Most residential easements are 4' on the side and front of the lot and 8' on the rear of the lot. The rear lot easement is wider to un-platted areas. To find out what your easement footage is call the City of Fountain Planning Department at 382-2000.

What this means to our residents is that access must remain available to our equipment that is located in your yard. Planning landscaping and fencing will require a few more considerations, such as having a gate available for access purposes or changing your planting to include a clearance area around the transformer or meter bank.

### What is that Green Metal Box in my yard?

The green metal box that is located in yards and other areas around Fountain are Pad Mount Transformers. These transformers are set on a concrete or plastic pad. Inside the box is where the incoming primary voltage is reduced to a usable amount for the surrounding service area.

### Who do I call if there is damage to Electric Equipment?

If you notice any damage to electrical equipment or open transformers please contact our Electric Warehouse at 719-322-2092. **Do not try to repair the equipment your self.**

Should you have more questions that aren't covered in this brochure please feel free to contact the City of Fountain Electric Department at 719-322-2092.

#### CITY OF FOUNTAIN ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

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Electric Department  
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## Landscaping & Electrical Equipment

**How to keep your yard  
beautiful while providing  
proper access to  
City Property.**



CITY OF FOUNTAIN  
ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Tel: 719-322-2092

# Landscaping Designed for Keeping a Safe and Bright Future for your Family

## Planting Near Electrical Equipment

When planning a landscaping design for your yard there are many things to consider, such as:

- What type of plants would work best for this climate?
- Where would planting a tree provide my yard with the best shade?
- Would a rock garden benefit my water bill?

But now you've run across:

- How do I hide that big electric transformer in my yard?
- I'd like a shade tree along the back of my lot but there are overhead power lines above it—now what?

The City of Fountain Electric Department offers the following landscaping tips to help you have a beautiful yard while keeping electrical equipment assessable to our employees.

- **Safety First!** Always call for a Line Locate prior to digging. UNCC can be reached at **811**. This is a FREE service and is REQUIRED by LAW. It will also protect you from digging into any underground lines such as electric, phone, or cable.
- **Always look up before you plant.** If there are overhead lines above you will want to choose a different spot for your tree or choose a tree that only grows to a certain height. Failing to plan before you plant could result in power outages, safety hazards to children who may decide to climb the tree, create dangerous tree trimming conditions, and even rob yourself of power.
- **Choose plants carefully when planning landscaping near any electrical equipment.** When choosing plants you wish to place near electrical equipment keep in mind that the area around the equipment must be kept assessable to electric employees for service purposes.
- **Choose the proper size of rock if planning a rock garden.** With Colorado's dry conditions these past few years rock gardens have become a popular site. When choosing the type and size of rock keep in mind that anything larger than 2 inches in size may impede access to the equipment.
- **Keep the front of a transformer clearly visible.** Items such as fencing, lattice, trees, shrubs or flowers will impede access to the electrical equipment and is prohibited.
- **Keep the top of a transformer clear of any debris.** For safety reasons, the top of a transformer should not be used to store any items. We also ask that you encourage children not to climb or play around electrical equipment.
- **Provide an 8' clearance path on the front side of the transformer.** In order for our linemen to work on a transformer an 8' clearance must be maintained. Transformers also need adequate ventilation to work properly and to prevent overheating. Trees planted within 15' of the transformer may eventually require removal if tree roots or foliage impede service or maintenance of the transformer.
- **Provide a 4' clearance path to meter banks.** Although the meters on our system are read remotely, there are times when a meter needs to be repaired or replaced. Planting near meter banks can damage the meter should the plant grow into and around the meter.

## Example of Adequate Clearance



## Examples of Inadequate Clearance:

