Design Implications of Overhead Utility Distribution Lines

Visual Impacts of Overhead Utilities

Typical Street Tree in Urban Setting

Typical Clearance Distances to Wires
DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

1.) Proper species selection, so that only trees that will not interfere with overhead utility lines, buildings, and sidewalks will be planted along streets.

2.) Setback planting of the street trees to a location where they will be able to grow without interfering with the overhead utility lines, buildings, and sidewalks.

3.) Planting trees in locations within the right of way other than directly below the utility lines, and could include construction of new planting islands along the street edge.

RECOMMENDATIONS
In addition to proposing changes in the location that trees are planted, the selection of plant species that will tolerate conditions common to streetscape plantings. The trees must be adaptive to the varied soils that the urban situation presents, must withstand a wide range of moisture availability, have the ability to overcome poorer air quality, and survive people pressure, while at the same time fulfill the design intent of the streetscape. The trees must be able to maintain the shape and form that are true to the species so that their intended use in the landscape is achieved.

In choosing plant species and varieties to be used in streetscape situations the cultural, aesthetic, and maintenance necessities of the plant must be addressed. The ability of a planted tree to adapt, survive and thrive as part of a streetscape is critical to the success of a designed street planting. The plants must be able to overcome the pressures placed on them and grow to a size where their impact on the design intent is greatest. Therefore quality plant stock must always be chosen for planting, and tree species that they are fully hardy in the climactic zone in which they are to be planted. Ideally the plant material should be locally grown, so as to assure the plant hardiness for the particular planting region.