

# DISCOVERING SOUTH KENTUCKY

www.skrecc.com • APRIL 2023

## Why vegetation management matters

*The change in seasons is a safety reminder*

One of the best things about the communities served by South Kentucky RECC is the natural beauty that surrounds us. We are fortunate to have so many trees offering beauty, shade and a habitat for birds and other wildlife, and we know you appreciate our area for the same reasons.

At South Kentucky RECC, we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings while ensuring a safe, reliable and affordable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights-of-way (ROW).

While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas. However, before touching on these benefits, let's clarify what "right-of-way" is and how it impacts you.

A right-of-way is the land we use to construct, maintain, replace or repair power lines that provide the electricity to you, our member-owner. Rights-of-way enable the co-op to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder power line installation, maintenance or operation.

ROW areas are located on both public lands, and near businesses or homes. Regardless of the ROW location, South Kentucky RECC must be able to maintain the power lines above and below the ROW. The overall goal of our vegetation management plan is to

provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our community. Proactive vegetation management benefits co-op members in three tangible ways.

### Safety

First and foremost, we care about our members and put your safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to the public and our employees. For example, trees touching power lines in our members' yards can pose grave danger to families. If children can access those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone.

Electricity is constantly looking for the quickest path to the ground with the least resistance. A proactive approach to ROW trimming through a good vegetation management plan diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more time consuming and dangerous for line workers to restore power.

### Reliability

One of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management plan is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive ROW maintenance keeps lines clear to promote reliability.



South Kentucky RECC tree trimmer Kevin Cornett is a member of the co-op's right-of-way team that works diligently to keep trees trimmed and out of co-op power lines. Photo: SKRECC Archives

We also use data and technology to maximize the efficiency of our ROW management operation. This includes our newly adopted vegetation management plan. South Kentucky RECC has committed to a six-year ROW trimming rotation on all of our individual power line circuits. Under this commitment, our entire 7,000 miles of power lines will be cut and maintained on a rotational basis, every six years.

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The diversity of the terrain, land use and developments within our service territory require South Kentucky RECC to employ a variety of methods and practices to provide a ROW plan that meets the needs of SKRECC and its members. These methods include, but are not limited to, hand cutting, mechanical cutting, trimming, bush hogging, and both low-volume and high-volume herbicide spraying, or a combination of some or all of these.

**Affordability**

As a member-owner, you understand South Kentucky RECC is a not-for-profit cooperative, which means we strive to keep costs in check while

keeping our rates affordable. This extends to our approach toward vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

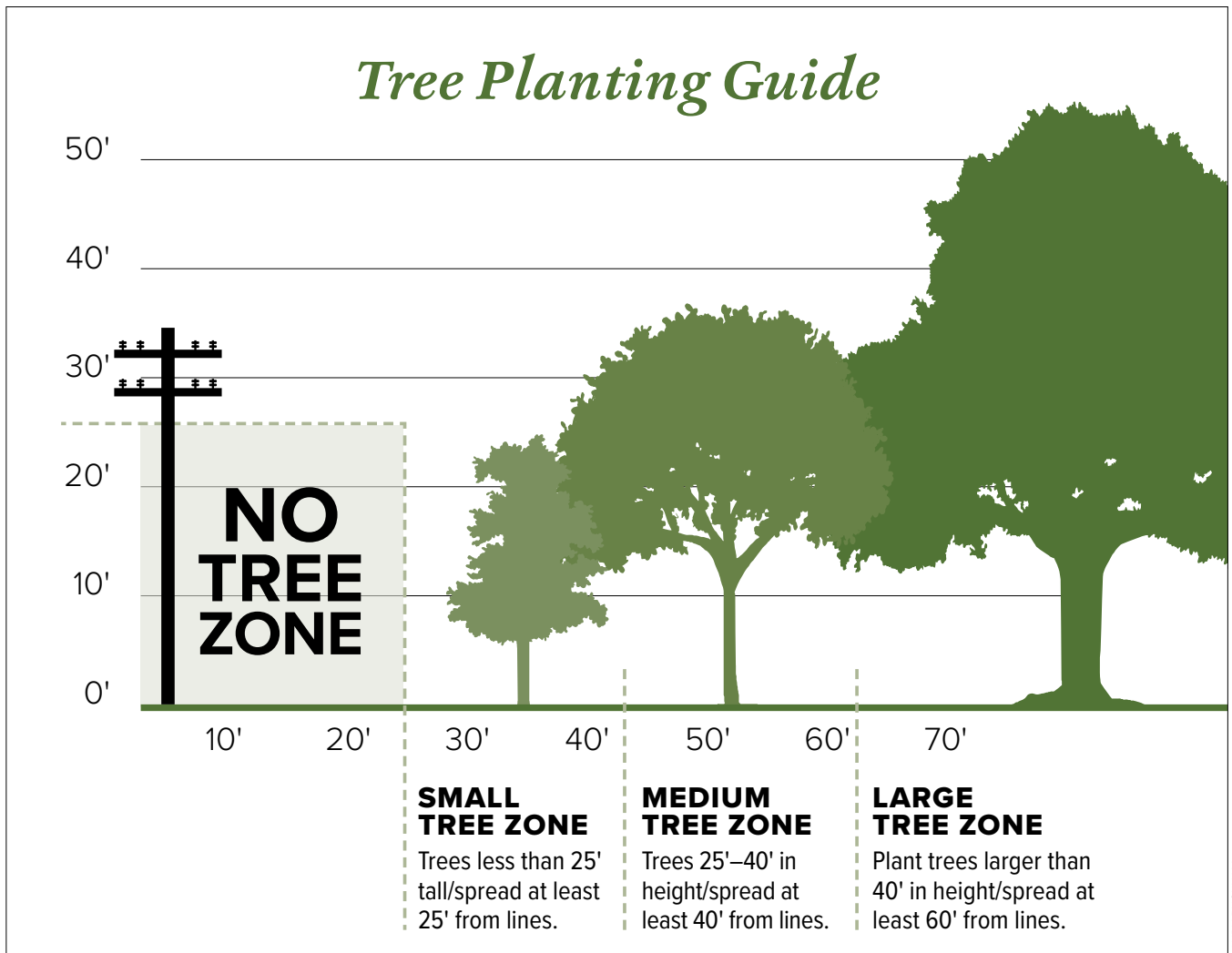
Our community is a special place, and we appreciate the beauty trees afford, while also understanding our community depends on us to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Through good proactive vegetation management practices,



A before and after look at ROW maintenance by South Kentucky RECC's right-of-way team. The co-op maintains 7,000 miles of power lines. Photo: SKRECC Archives

we will be better prepared for future weather events and provide great grid reliability to our membership. **DSK**

## Tree Planting Guide



RANDY BUCKNAM

# The power behind your power

*Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 10*

You've likely noticed South Kentucky RECC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 10.

If you see one of our lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 10, and follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.



MORGAN BLEVINS



PHOTOS: WADE HARRIS

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DAY

June 6, 2023

Wayne and McCreary county offices

June 7, 2023

Russell and Clinton county offices

June 8, 2023

Somerset office





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South Kentucky RECC is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**Visit [www.skrecc.com](http://www.skrecc.com)** to pay your bill online, to visit our outage center, or for more information about the Co-op Connections Program.

**To report an outage 24/7/365**, please call your local office, (800) 264-5112, or set up your account to be able to text outages. Please do not report outages via social media.

**Plug into South Kentucky RECC. Follow us on social media:**



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# GIVE LINE CREWS LOTS OF ROOM

**April 17-21 is National Work Zone Awareness Week**

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As lineworkers and road crews do their jobs to help the community, electric cooperatives ask drivers to do their part in keeping workers, themselves and their passengers safe when driving through work zones.