DTE Energy

2016 Tree Trim Maintenance Program

City of Troy

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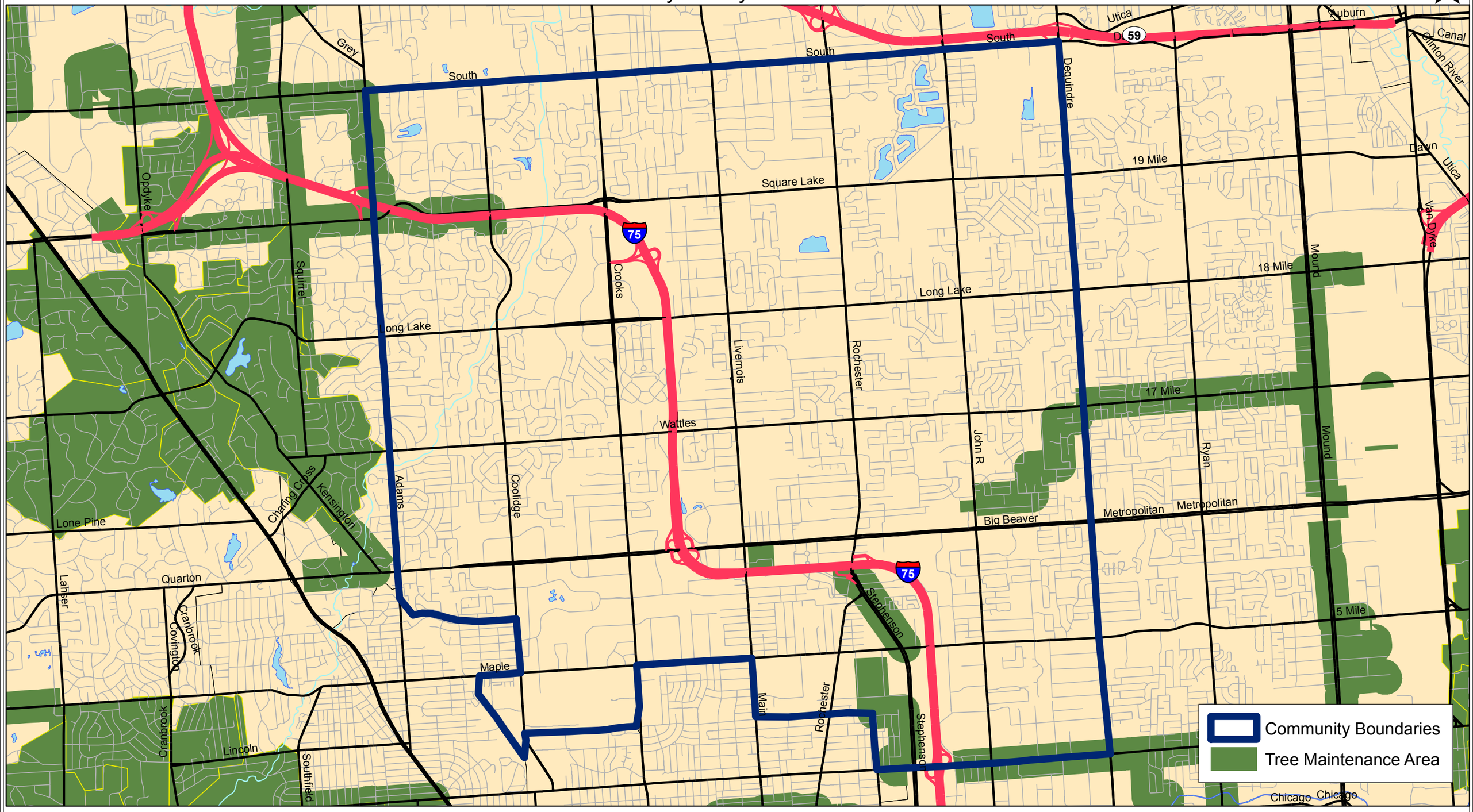


- Two-thirds of the time DTE Energy customers spend without power is due to trees.
- Tree trimming is an industry-wide solution to prevent outages. DTE Energy follows industry best practice and standards for tree trimming.
- DTE Energy works collaboratively with customers every step of the way to address their concerns before we begin work.

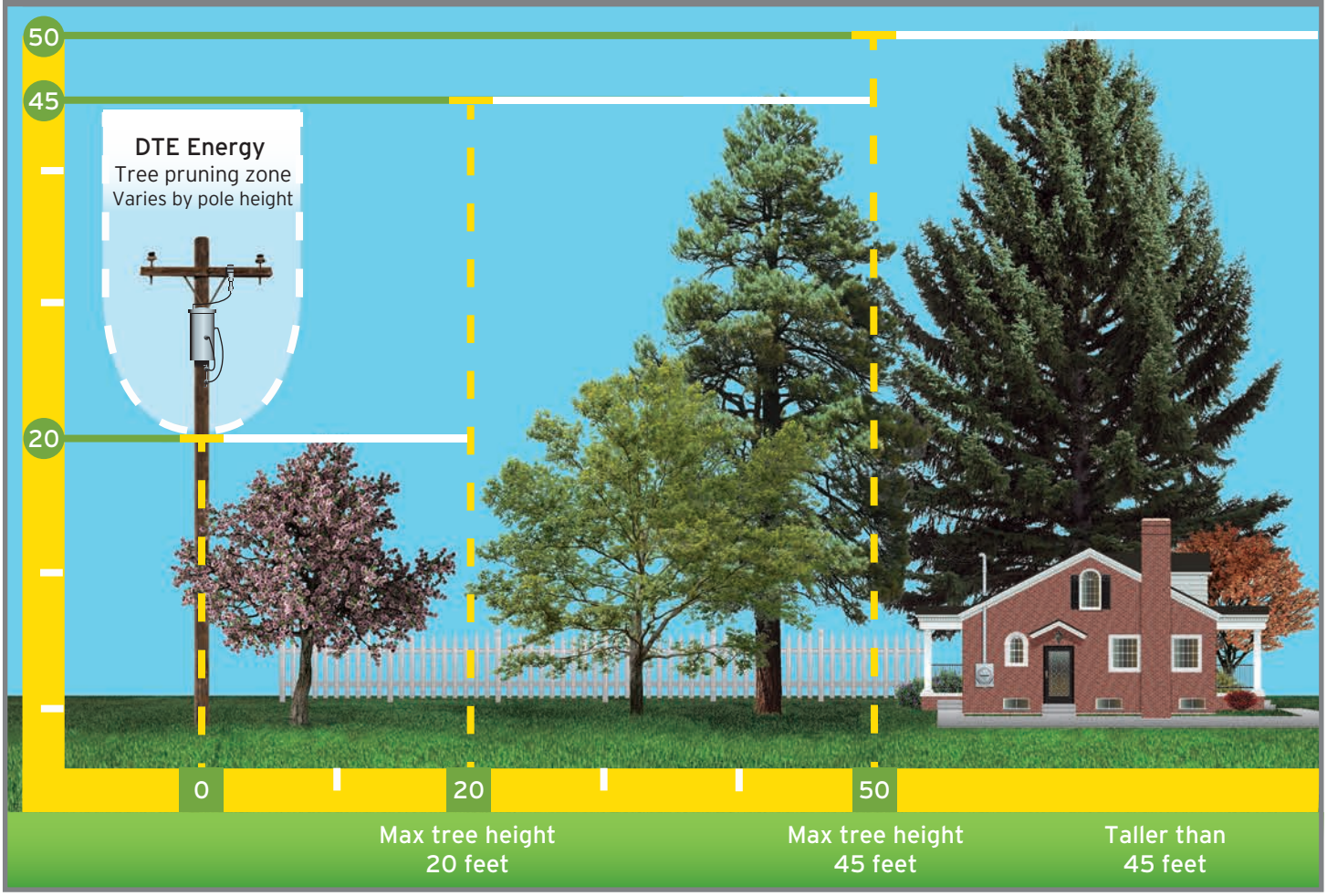
Please note: During 2016, DTE Energy is planning to trim trees within the area shaded green. Additional tree work may be necessary based on circuit performance to improve reliability. Severe weather, or other circumstances may change the timing and extent of the work performed.

JANUARY 2016

PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

The secret to having both reliable electricity and strong, beautiful trees is to plant only power line friendly low-growing trees near overhead power lines.

RECOMMENDED DISTANCE TO PLANT TREES AWAY FROM **POWER LINES**
BASED ON MATURE TREE HEIGHT



Directly under power lines to 20 feet away, maximum height 20 feet. From 20 to 50 feet away, maximum height 45 feet. More than 50 feet away, no maximum height.

WARNING: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TRIM TREES NEAR POWER LINES

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15-0177/5M/GE/05-15

DTE Energy
One Energy Plaza, Detroit, MI 48226-1279

DATE

Dear Customer:

DTE Energy is committed to the highest standards of service while providing safe and reliable electricity for every home and family in this region. To support that commitment, DTE Energy work crews will soon be visiting your area to trim and, if necessary, remove trees growing too close to power lines.

Trees growing near and into power lines can create public safety hazards and cause power outages. In fact, two-thirds of the time our customers spend without power is due to trees. DTE's tree trimming program is an industry best practice designed to prevent dangerous situations and ensure electric reliability.

We understand our customers value trees. These same customers also rely on DTE to provide reliable power – in good weather and in bad. That's why our tree care experts work to find a balance between reliable power and healthy trees. We are committed to working collaboratively with you to address any concerns before tree work begins. Here's what you can expect will happen over the next several weeks.

- **You may see our arborist planners in your yard or neighborhood inspecting the power lines and trees to determine where trimming is needed. Arborist planners will be wearing yellow DTE Energy vests and carrying ID badges.**

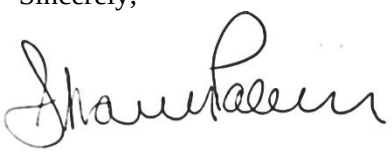
- **If tree work is needed on your property, the arborist planner will knock on your door. If you are not home, we will leave a "Tree Work Scheduled" door card. If you have questions about the work intended for your property, please call the number on the door card.**

- **If a tree poses a serious hazard to power lines or if trimming will put the tree's health at risk, we may need to remove it. We will make every effort to work with property owners before removing any trees.**

Please be assured that DTE follows industry standards for trimming and/or removal of trees near power lines. All work will be completed by tree professionals who have been trained on safe, proper and environmentally responsible work practices.

For more information regarding our tree trimming program, visit our web site at dteenergy.com/treecare. Please also review the enclosed brochure to learn more about how to plant the right tree in the right place. This program will ensure that trees and power lines co-exist safely in your yard while delivering the energy you depend on each and every day.

Sincerely,



Shannen Palmer, Manager
Tree Trimming, DTE Energy

TREE WORK SCHEDULED

Dear Customer:

Date: _____

DTE Energy has scheduled tree trimming and/or removals on your property. We are doing this work because we are committed to providing reliable electric service for our customers. Trees growing near and into power lines cause power outages and create public safety hazards. **In fact, more than two-thirds of the time our customers spend without power is due to trees.**

There is no charge for this service. Our representatives have inspected your property. We have scheduled the following work:

- ☐ **Tree Trimming** – No action is required on your part. Trees slated for trimming are marked with one white dot at the base of the tree. Crews will remove debris.*
- ☐ **Tree Removal** – Trees recommended for removal are marked with two white dots at the base of the tree. We want to discuss this work with you before we begin. ***Please read and fill out the "Tree Removal Agreement"***
- ☐ **Other:** _____

  _____

Please be assured we are committed to collaborating with you to deliver both reliable energy and safe, strong trees. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the DTE Energy representative listed below.

Visit our website at **dteenergy.com/treecare**

*debris removal policies differ in the aftermath of severe storms

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TREE TRIMMING

The trimming work will be done by a professional tree-trimming company. The crews will remove all branches, limbs and other debris created by this work unless you indicate that you would like it to remain on your property.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Our field crews have been trained on safe, proper and environmentally responsible tree care practices. They follow utility industry best practices.

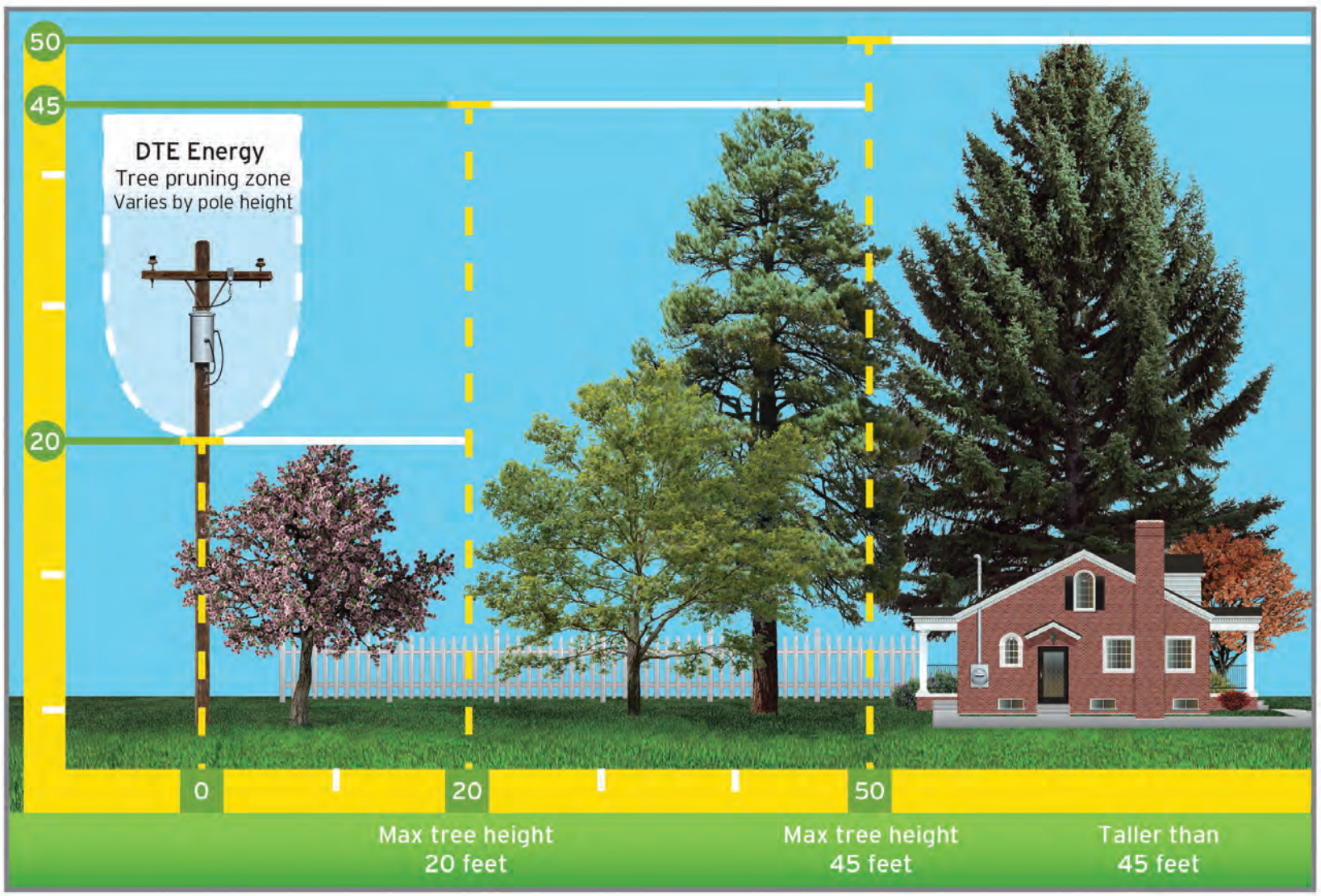
EXAMPLES OF PROPER PRUNING FOR SAFER, STRONGER TREES:

Top Trim:

Side Trim:

V Trim:

PLANT THE RIGHT TREE IN THE RIGHT PLACE



Ideally, no trees should be planted near power lines. However, there are several species of trees that, under normal conditions, will not grow tall enough to interfere with power lines. By planting only low-growing trees near power lines, you can have both beautiful trees and reliable electricity for years to come.

This chart shows the proper planting distances.

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TREES AND SAFETY

The safety of our customers and employees is DTE Energy's most important priority. Follow these tips to stay safe around trees and power lines:

- Trimming trees near overhead power lines is not a "do-it-yourself" job. These lines carry very high voltage. If you, or your trimming tools, come into contact with these power lines, you risk serious injury or worse. Please consult a professional tree-trimming service to trim trees near overhead power lines.

- Tree climbing can be a favorite past time for children. For safety's sake, teach your children not to climb trees near power lines. It's also important to remember not to build tree houses in a tree growing near power lines.

- DTE Energy does not trim around service drops, which are the lines that run between the pole and your house. These lines do carry voltage. Because your safety is important to us, we recommend you hire a professional to complete this trimming.

150741/4M/GE/10-15

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TREE REMOVAL AGREEMENT

DTE Energy has determined the tree noted below should be removed. The tree poses a serious hazards to power lines and safety. Our tree experts have determined that trimming the tree will damage its health and strength.

☐ This is our final attempt to contact you

Please complete this form and attach it to your front door; our work crews will pick it up. Please contact the DTE Energy Representative below if you have questions.

_____

Address *Date*

_____

City *Zip*

Description of tree(s) to be removed:_____

_____

DTE Energy Representative:_____

_____

Please provide guidance on how we should handle wood, brush and chips:

☐ Leave on site ☐ Remove

☐ I would like to discuss this work before it is performed. Please contact me at phone number

_____

on the following day(s) and time(s)

_____

PROPERTY OWNER

I, the undersigned, own the property described above and agree that DTE Electric Company, or its agent(s), may remove the previously-described tree(s). I have the right to agree to this removal for the property and I understand the field crews will apply an herbicide to prevent stump re-growth.

_____

Please print first and last name

_____

Signature *Date*

RENTER

If you are not the property owner, please provide us with the name and phone number of each property owner.

_____

Owner name(s)

_____

Telephone number

DTE ENERGY USE ONLY:

Circuit name/number: _____

DTE Energy acknowledgment _____

_____

Crew # *Bucket access:* ☐ *Yes* ☐ *No*

150741/4M/GE/10-15

5x16.25 DTE Tree Trim Agreement.indd 1 10/20/15 3:00 PM