

Assessing & Managing Trees on Underground Utility Easements

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Stephan Carbonara

- International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist since 2001.
- 30 Years experience in tree care from the ground up (Ground crew, Climber, Crane Operator, Applicator, Diagnostician, Sales, Vendor, and Management).
- Residential.
- Commercial.
- Municipal.
- Utility.

Today's Focus-Utility

(We all know it's what really matters)

- Why are trees on underground easements important?
- What can be done?
- What are the pros and cons of each approach?
- What's best for me?
- Q & A.

Assessing Trees on Underground Easements

- Specifically sewer easements.
- Talking about medium to mature trees (10" diameter and larger).
- Smaller trees may not be a problem.
- It's about access.
- Can I get my crew in there to do what I need to do?

Why is Access Important

- Monitoring.
- Maintenance.
- Repair (especially emergency repair).

What Does a Problem Look Like?



What Does a Problem Look Like?



Possible Solutions

- Do nothing (What's the worst that could happen)
- “Cut and Push”.
- Standard tree removal.
- “Log and Mow”.
- Stump control (chemical or mechanical).
- *Which is right for you?*

Do Nothing?

- Maybe.....
- Are the trees small?
- Can you access from another route?
- Do you really have the need?
- Is the money just not there?

Cut and Push

- Fell the trees, cut them up to be moved by a bulldozer, wheel loader, or skid steer.
- Make piles where you can.
- Stump control.
- Pro-Lowest cost.
- Con-Can be unsightly.
- Con-Space needed for all of the debris (and there will be a lot).
- Best for “Low visual impact areas”

Cut and Push



Cut and Push



Standard Tree Removal

- Fell trees.
- Haul logs.
- Chip tops.

Brush Chipper



Standard Tree Removal

- Fell trees.
- Haul logs.
- Chip tops.
- Haul or spread chips.
- Hauling chips increases cost, spreading chips can reduce regrowth but can also lead to stream debris issues.
- Pro-Cleanest look.
- Con-Most expensive solution.
- Stump control.
- Best for “Detail oriented areas”.

Log and Mow

- Fell trees.
- Haul logs. (usually set up for this activity)
- Mow tops. (with a forestry mower)

Forestry Mower



Log and Mow

- Fell trees.
- Haul logs. (usually set up for this activity)
- Mow tops. (with a forestry mower)
- Differs from spreading chips as the pieces are larger and usually mixed into the Earth...Still helps control regrowth
- Stump Control???
- Pro-Smaller stumps can be ground below grade.
- Pro-Most cost effective long term solution.
- Best for large areas.

Stump Control



Stump Control



Stump Control

- **Chemical. (Cut Stump spray)**
- A cut stump spray is a targeted herbicide applied directly to the stump right after it is cut.
- Many options available.
- Be wary of waterway contamination.
- “The Label is the Law”.
- **Mechanical. (Grind them below grade)**

Stump Grinding



What's Best For Me?

- What are your problem areas?
- What are your goals?
- Short term?
- Long term?
- What are your current capabilities?
- What is your budget?
- Do you need and expert to come visit?



Questions?



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