

# Frequently Asked Questions About Vegetation Management Around Natural Gas Pipelines

## Why is Xcel Energy clearing vegetation around natural gas pipelines?

As part of Xcel Energy's continuing commitment to providing safe, reliable natural gas service in Colorado, we are implementing a new vegetation management program that will allow us access to our natural gas transmission facilities, most of which are buried underground. Regularly removing trees and brush along our approximately 2,400-mile natural gas transmission rights of way (the area around the pipeline) allows us the critical access we need to perform regular pipeline patrols, assessments and/or equipment mitigation. It also makes us compliant with Department of Transportation regulations that require us to regularly monitor these areas to ensure they are free of vegetation, construction activity and other factors that would affect the safe operation of the natural gas pipelines.

## Where will Xcel Energy be performing vegetation management?

Xcel Energy's 2,400-mile natural gas transmission pipeline system runs throughout Colorado. Work will occur on all properties that have been identified as having incompatible vegetation above a pipeline. This includes residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural properties, as well as franchise, city-owned and public areas.

## What type of vegetation is incompatible in the area above the pipeline?

Trees, large shrubs, and woody-stemmed plants can interfere with Xcel Energy's safe operation and maintenance of the pipeline, and their roots can damage the underground pipe.

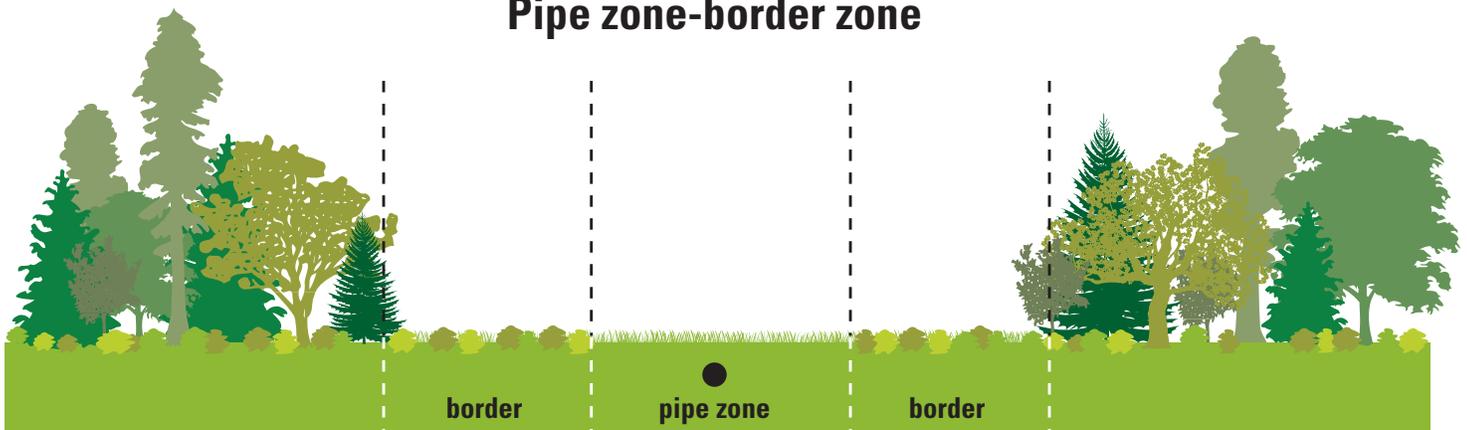
## If Xcel Energy needs to remove a tree from above the pipeline, will it be replaced?

No, unfortunately Xcel Energy will not replace a tree once it is removed. We will cut the trunk as low to the ground as feasible and the stump will be treated with an EPA-registered herbicide. The brush will be removed, but the firewood will be left onsite in manageable pieces for the homeowner's disposal.

## How can property owners or residents find out if an Xcel Energy natural gas transmission pipeline runs under their property?

Most private properties do not have an underground natural gas transmission pipeline. To check if they have an underground natural gas transmission line, property owners can: 1) review a copy of their title report and looking for references to Xcel Energy utilities, easements, rights-of-way, land use restrictions, or other language that may restrict certain land uses on or near the property; and 2) look for upright yellow pipeline markers or flat medallions on the ground or sidewalk on or near their property.

## Pipe zone-border zone



### Questions?

To learn more about Xcel Energy vegetation management programs, please visit [xcelenergy.com/Trees](https://www.xcelenergy.com/Trees).

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AROUND NATURAL GAS PIPELINES

**What is a pipeline right-of-way?**

The right-of-way is the area of land above the pipeline that Xcel Energy uses to maintain, inspect and safely operate the pipeline. Xcel Energy depends on the right of way being free of vegetation to access the underground pipeline and infrastructure.

**What is an easement?**

Easements agreements are legally recorded documents that remain in effect when a property is sold to new owners. They create a shared responsibility between Xcel Energy and the property owners to maintain the area above the pipeline. An easement agreement includes language that restricts certain uses within the right-of-way and ensures Xcel Energy's ability to access the area to maintain, inspect and safely operate the pipeline. The easement language can usually be found during a title search of documents related to the property.

**Where can property owners get a copy of the easement agreement for their property?**

Typically, a title report will identify if there are any pipeline easements for a property. Easements for a specific property can be located through the county recorder's office.

**How can people learn more about Xcel Energy's vegetation management and pipeline inspection programs?**

To learn more about Xcel Energy vegetation management programs, please visit [xcelenergy.com/Trees](http://xcelenergy.com/Trees). For more information about Xcel Energy's natural gas safety and rights of ways management, please visit [xcelenergy.com/Safety/Natural\\_Gas\\_Safety/Natural\\_Gas\\_Pipelines\\_and\\_Right\\_of\\_Way\\_Management](http://xcelenergy.com/Safety/Natural_Gas_Safety/Natural_Gas_Pipelines_and_Right_of_Way_Management).



*Some signs along Xcel Energy's underground high pressure natural gas lines may look different.*

