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To: DuPage County Board Transportation Committee
From: Sidney Kenyon, Senior Transportation Planner
Date: March 31, 2023
Subject: Commonwealth Edison Vegetation Management Look-Ahead, 2023-24
Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail

This memorandum provides the DuPage County Transportation Committee with information concerning planned vegetation maintenance activities by Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) along the Illinois Prairie Path (IPP) and Great Western Trail (GWT).

ComEd follows a vegetation management program that is designed to provide reliable electric service by minimizing plant and tree-related outages. Trimming and tree removal along the County's trail system presents a mutual concern to ComEd and the County. Vegetation management practices consider tree species, growth patterns, wire heights, proximity to wires, neighboring land use, tree health, and reliability conflicts. Vegetation maintenance programs follow industry standards which prescribe different trimming specifications for **transmission lines** (towers with high voltage) and **distribution lines** (poles/lines providing local service). ComEd has submitted to the Division of Transportation their schedule for vegetation maintenance activities along the IPP and the GWT for calendar years 2023 and 2024.

In 2023, ComEd plans to conduct transmission line maintenance, including mowing, trimming and removal of vegetation along the Aurora Branch of the IPP near Warrenville and Aurora (Districts 5 and 6), as well as along the Great Western Trail in various locations between Glendale Heights and West Chicago (Districts 4 and 6). To supplement those activities, spot-applications of herbicide will occur in this corridor strictly on an as-needed basis. ComEd also plans to perform cyclical vegetation management (trimming and spot tree removal) under electrical distribution wires in three locations. In 2023, the distribution line work will occur along the IPP Main Stem in Glen Ellyn (District 4), along the IPP Aurora Branch between Warrenville and Wheaton (Districts 4, 5, and 6), and on the IPP Batavia Spur in Aurora (District 5).

In addition to the planned transmission and distribution work described above, ComEd performs other reliability-based vegetation maintenance activities that may require focused trimming and removals. Any work associated with these programs would be coordinated on an individual basis. Finally, ComEd conducts vegetation maintenance activities related to emergencies. This may occur in cases where a power line is down, a utility pole needs replacement, or if vegetation has encroached on the power lines' clearance zone. These maintenance activities cannot be planned in advance.

More information about ComEd's Vegetation Management Program can be found online at www.ComEd.com/Trees. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.