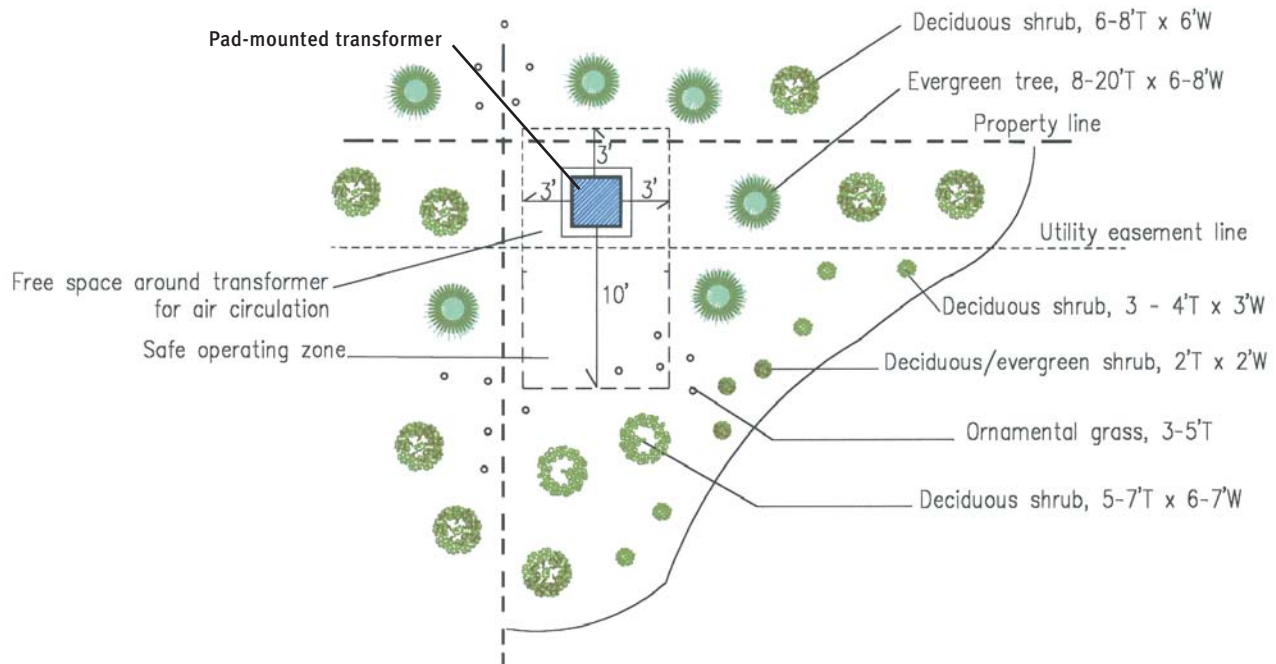


# Planting near pad-mounted transformers



**Overhead view (at time of planting)**

People prefer underground electric lines in their neighborhood. Pad-mounted transformers are part of the underground system. They are placed on easements in yards and serve the same purpose as transformers on utility poles. Because transformers may serve several homes, underground lines may go out from them in many directions.

Here are guidelines to remember when you plant near transformers:

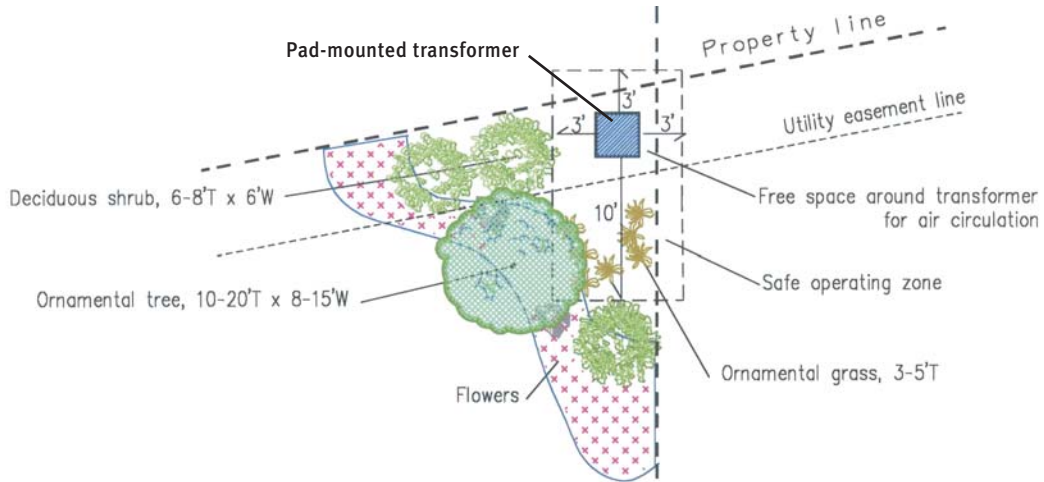
1. Maintain a 3-foot clearance to the sides and back of the transformer. Equipment inside the box generates heat and needs air circulation to keep cool and run efficiently. Overheating could cause an outage.

2. Maintain a 10-foot clearance in front of the transformer. Equipment inside is energized at high voltage. Line crews work on “energized” transformers to avoid interrupting your service. The linemen use long fiberglass (insulating) sticks and need the clear space to work safely.
3. Use gravel, wood chips, grass or low ground cover around the transformer. Flowers are okay but may get trampled if we have to work on it. To maintain reliable service, we open the transformer and inspect it at least once a year.
4. Call Diggers Hotline at 1-800-242-8511 before you dig anywhere in your yard. They locate underground utility services for you.

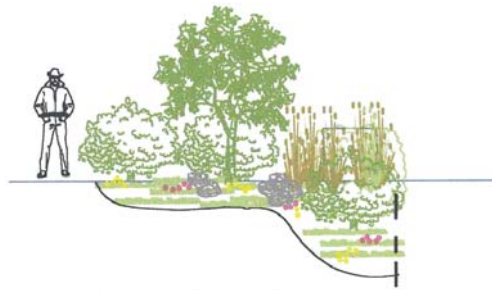
(continued on reverse side)

## Landscaping suggestions

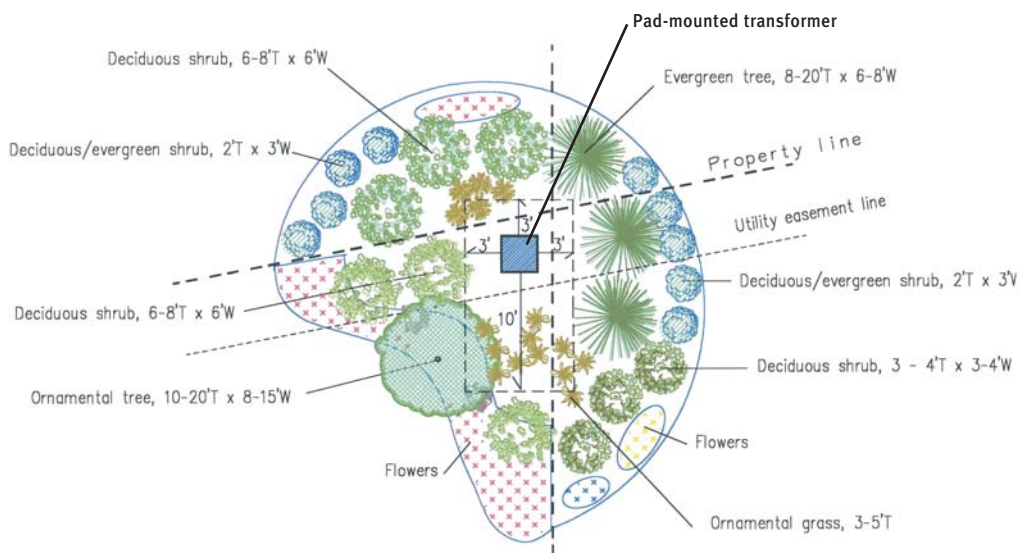
You can reduce the visibility of a pad-mounted transformer and allow clearances for our crews to work. Use these suggestions or find more at [mge.com](http://mge.com) in the Community section under Your Neighborhood. But please remember that emergencies happen, and we may need to replace a transformer. Then we may need to remove some of your plants or shrubs.



This arrangement uses ornamental grass, shrubs, flowers and a tree to hide the transformer yet provides room for our crews to work.



This elevation view helps you visualize the plantings as seen from your home.



Plans can be developed so each neighbor can hide the transformer from view.