

Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—

**Business & Repair Office Hours**

7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

**Business Number:**

829-8726

**Repair Number:**

829-2193

**Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year:**

218-829-2193

EMAIL@BPU.ORG

[WWW.BPU.ORG](http://WWW.BPU.ORG)

**Facebook:**

Brainerd Public Utilities



**Call Gopher State One**

at 1-800-252-1166 for water & electric locations before digging.

All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least 48 hours before digging begins.

**All Electrical Work**

performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed, and work inspected by our inspector.

Please call **825-3210** or **829-2193** for more information.



## Osprey & Outages ▶

Ospreys are increasing in the Brainerd Lakes Area. However, the bulky nests often cause power outages when sticks interfere with electrical equipment. Also, the electrocution potential is extreme for Ospreys when building new nests or perching on power poles. This is because the Osprey's nearly 5 foot wingspan can complete the circuit between closely spaced energized equipment or between one energized wire and one neutral or ground wire.

**Osprey-species information**

The Osprey is one of the most recognizable North American raptor species. It has a large white breast and belly, black back and wings, a white crown and forehead, and a distinctive dark eye stripe. The Osprey is the only raptor in North America that preys almost exclusively on fish. Ospreys breed in much of North America and winter along the southern Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Coasts of the southern U.S., south into the tropics. Osprey numbers were reduced in the past by unregulated shooting and more recently from the negative impacts of DDT and other pesticides. Through the protection of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the banning of DDT, Ospreys have recovered and are now increasing in many areas throughout the lower 48 states.

Ospreys typically arrive in Minnesota in May and nest building takes place from May into early June. Birds colonizing Minnesota are likely young and inexperienced. This may be why egg-laying has not always occurred at constructed nests. Over time, as birds become experienced and established, nesting may occur earlier and more regularly. Ospreys will build nests on utilities structures, artificial platforms, and in trees. Ospreys lay 3-4 eggs that take 36-42 days to hatch. Osprey chicks will not fledge (leave the nest) until 50-55 days after hatching.

**Osprey and utilities**

Osprey nests built on utility poles may pose a threat to the birds and can jeopardize system reliability through outages and damage to equipment. BPU recommends customers to watch for Osprey nesting activity. Ospreys are most likely to nest near bodies of water including rivers, ponds, and lakes. If Ospreys are observed building nests, contact BPU as soon as possible at (218) 829-2193. BPU will assist in evaluating the situation and may suggest actions, such as relocating an inactive nest or nest material, before the nest becomes active. Once a nest is active with eggs or young, options become limited. If the nest is determined to be potentially hazardous, we offer management guidelines in accordance with state and federal laws. These actions also reduce risk of fire and prevent power outages for utility customers.

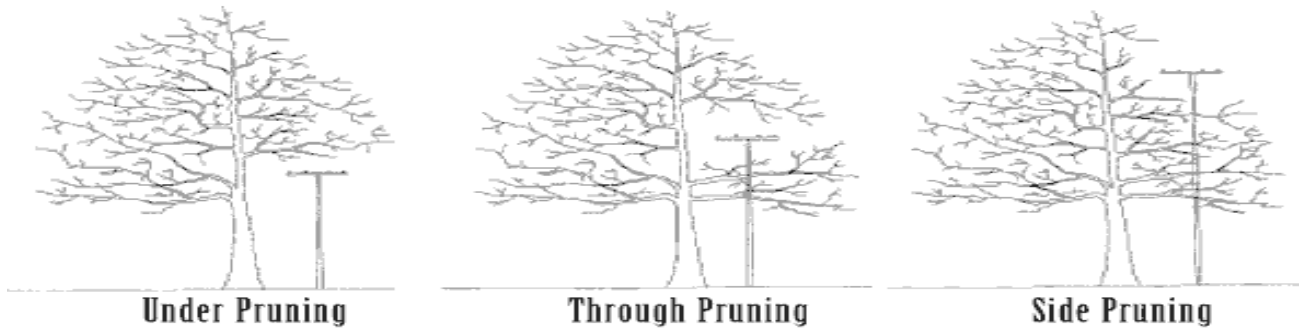


**Nesting platforms**

We strongly recommended that a nesting platform be erected any time an inactive Osprey nest is removed. Ospreys readily accept alternate nesting platforms, especially if the majority of material from the old nest are scattered on the new platform. Attempts to deter Osprey from nesting at a chosen site without providing an alternate nesting platform are rarely successful because Ospreys have tenacious nest site fidelity. Osprey will build a nest in what they believe is good habitat and will continue to try to build a nest even with multiple attempts at removing the material from a structure.

Any questions or comments, please call Line Supervisor Trent Hawkinson at (218) 825-3211.

## Tree Trimming & Shrubs by Transformers ▶



Tree trimming requests will be put on a list to be done during the winter months. Trees that interfere with Brainerd Public Utilities' (BPU) power lines, with the exception of service wires to residences or buildings, will be trimmed or removed depending on the circumstances.

Trimming or removal of trees on private property is the property owner's responsibility. BPU will temporarily remove and replace the property owner's service wires to accommodate the tree trimming or removal during normal business hours.

BPU requires 24 hours notification to temporarily remove the service wires.



**Maintain Clearance**  
 Energized electrical equipment.

If you would like to be put on the winter tree trimming list, call Kelly, in the repair office, at 218-829-2193.

In addition, please keep shrubs and structures 12 feet from all sides of transformers, junction boxes, and/or any BPU Utility box. We need room to work safely on these devices.

Obstructions may be damaged or removed during service restoration or maintenance and will not be replaced.

