

These questions were submitted on 4/9/2025 during the Landscape Architecture Foundation's webinar "Energy Landscapes: The Potential of Transmission Corridors for Recreation, Resilience, and Ecology." The webinar recording and more content can be accessed here: <a href="https://LAFoundation.org/resources/2025/03/energy-landscapes-transmission-corridors">LAFoundation.org/resources/2025/03/energy-landscapes-transmission-corridors</a>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Answerer Name</b>
<b>TOPIC/THEME: Risks + Security</b>		
I've heard in the past that utilities have security concerns about people having access to the ROWs - both concerns about bad actors trying to sabotage the grid, but also liability concerns for the potential of injury. Have any of you had discussions with companies about these concerns? Seems like more people in the ROW would actually lower the possibility of bad things happening as there	Answered Live	
I always wondered what is the attitude of utility companies from maintenance standpoint (of utility lines) and actual safety? I'm sure there needs to be service access. And if having activities under actually reduces access	Answered Live	
Any health concerns about being in close proximity to the high power transmission lines? There's a lot of (probably bad?) information out there about EMF radiation associated with powerlines.	I would recommend checking out the EPA's website on this topic ( <a href="https://www.epa.gov/radtown/electric-and-magnetic-fields-power-lines">https://www.epa.gov/radtown/electric-and-magnetic-fields-power-lines</a> ).	Chris Henderson
What are the safety risks to consider? EMF exposure, electric shock, materials corrosion, emergency access points?	Regarding EMF exposure, I would recommend consulting the EPA website for general information ( <a href="https://www.epa.gov/radtown/electric-and-magnetic-fields-power-lines">https://www.epa.gov/radtown/electric-and-magnetic-fields-power-lines</a> ). Other safety risks could be addressed in negotiating shared access to the space. In many cases there are legal requirements to follow regarding tower setbacks and other mitigation measures. Often trails improve the ability of utilities to access the infrastructure for emergency maintenance because the corridors that were previously inaccessible or overgrown might be widened and paved during trail development. These improved corridors can accommodate vehicles if necessary in an emergency, and developed trailheads can provide points of entry.	Chris Henderson
<b>TOPIC/THEME: Perception + Engagement</b>		
How do communities typically react to recreation uses proposed in the corridor rights-of-way? Is there NIMBYism? Can you leverage support from the utilities? How to sell this idea to Californians who have been traumatized by fires?	Community response is highly variable, which is why we need more research in this area. Recreational amenities are usually seen as a positive thing for communities and often increase property values (just look at recreational hot spots like Crested Butte, CO, Traverse City, MI, or Sedona, AZ). In general, people want to live near parks and trails. How the co-location of recreation and transmission is perceived by communities hasn't yet been systematically assessed. Landowners directly adjacent to trails would likely have more concerns than community members further away, so making sure they are engaged and involved in any collaborative planning process could help build support.	Chris Henderson
<b>TOPIC/THEME: Partnerships</b>		
Chris, Great talk! I'm interested in how agreements were established with the energy companies for access and management of the trails on their rights-of-way. What were the challenges?	Answered Live	
<b>TOPIC/THEME: Ecology + Biodiversity</b>		
How can transmission corridors be strategically integrated into broader green infrastructure networks to function as ecological links, especially in fragmented urban and peri-urban landscapes where biodiversity corridors are most needed?	Answered Live	

These corridors could be beneficial as pollinator corridors if planned and managed. However, does the noise from the lines and towers (crackling and hissing) or the ozone production in the immediate area effect the attraction, habitat, or navigation for the polinators?	There might be potential effects associated with electromagnetic fields, including impacts to pollinators' navigation and behavior. There have been few studies that have explored noise pollution within transmission corridors and impacts on pollinators. Similarly, few studies have looked at ozone production and impacts to pollinators. Small amounts of ozone could impact plant physiology, which could impact resources for pollinators. Overall, there is limited research related to noise or ozone impacts within transmission corridors and their impact on pollinators.	Katie Morrice
Has there been studies of how these transmission lines affect well being of wild life or animals? I wonder the wavelength might have some impact on the wildlife even though diverse vegetation.	There have been studies looking at the effects of transmission lines on wildlife. Many of these impacts are associated with habitat loss and fragmentation and the resulting displacement of animals. Other studies have looked at risks to birds from collisions with transmission lines as well as electrocution. There has also been some research looking at the effects of electromagnetic fields on wildlife. Animals and insects that use the Earth's magnetic field for navigation may be more susceptible.	Katie Morrice
When Katie was talking about Cardinal Hickory Creek TL Project, she mentioned avian-friendly transmission line design. What are some examples or considerations for avian-friendly transmission line design?	They implemented structures using low-profile H-Frames and also ensured that the structures within the refuge were no more than 75 feet tall. This website has more information on their design: <a href="https://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/refuge-and-river-crossing/">https://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/refuge-and-river-crossing/</a>	Katie Morrice
How do you keep meadowscapes from moving into natural succession (fast-growing trees, etc)? Do you see blackberry and other determined weeds taking over these spaces? If so, how do you build up maintenance support and funding?	To prevent natural succession, management approaches, such as selective removal of shrubs and saplings and enhancement of native plant diversity through reseeding and planting are important. Landscapes also need to be managed to regularly monitor and control invasive plant species, such as blackberry. Targeted herbicide use may be important to control invasive plant species and undesirable fast-growing tall vegetation. Regular monitoring is important to assess the composition of plant species, and management practices may need to adapt over time.	Katie Morrice
What is the incentive for utility companies to be accredited? Or is it done due to pressure from governing bodies / their customers?	Answered Live	
What about the potential of power transmission corridor for preserving and restoring nocturnal ecology in urban areas? Especially for restoring bird's invertebrate food source and nocturnal pollinators like moths?	This is a great question! I have not focused as much on nocturnal ecology, but I'm sure this would be a great opportunity to consider, and vegetation management could be conducted to include plants that are resources to moth species. In general, IVM seems like a promising approach to restore invertebrate populations, especially where insecticide and complete clearance are reduced.	Katie Morrice
In promoting pollinator landscapes in the corridors, does that design work in contradiction to fire breaks in the corridors?	There may be some contradictions between reducing wildfire risk and providing quality habitat to animals, birds, and insects. It would be important to weigh potential benefits and risks and to consider environmental conditions for a given area before deciding on what elements to enhance, restore, or minimize. Approaches to reducing wildfire risk often focus on removing fuel sources and clearing vegetation. Maintaining low-growing vegetation and simplifying vegetation structure can help to reduce wildfire risk.	Katie Morrice
Do we have any information on EMP effects on pollinators; I am wondering if we bring them to these spaces would that have any negative affects on them?	Check out white papers from EPRI on EMF impacts.	Katie Morrice