

To Our Neighbors

Spring 2014

Dear Homeowner:

I am writing to ensure that the MTA Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) is a good neighbor to the communities where our service operates by keeping you informed of important track programs.

To protect the safety of both the public and train crews, and to ensure the reliability of train service, the LIRR must manage vegetation on the track right-of-way. Overgrown trees, shrubs and bushes oftentimes interfere with safety and train service reliability in a number of ways:

- It is common for tree branches and limbs to grow into and among our signal and communication lines. Just like utility lines, signal and communication lines must remain free of vegetation entanglements to ensure that during ice, wind, rain and snow storms the lines are not brought down by the adverse weather elements.
- One problem in particular for trains is caused by blowing, scattered and crushed leaves during the fall. Leaves create an oily residue on the tracks, resulting in wheel slip-slide conditions (similar to driving on an icy road) that may impact keeping train service reliable.
- Further, train crews need clear sight lines on tracks when operating trains.

During the next few weeks, LIRR representatives will be in your neighborhood to identify and remove overgrown trees and vegetation as part of our right-of-way cleanup effort. Please note that the LIRR is employing the services of licensed and insured tree service professionals to carry out this program of trimming and/or removal of trees along our property. This may also include removal of some branches overhanging the right-of-way from trees located on private property. The LIRR will also remove invasive species, such as bamboo from its property. We need to complete this work as soon as possible.

Being a good neighbor is important to us. We will be working hard to clean up the right-of-way including vegetation and other train debris. If you have any questions or specific concerns regarding your property and the program, please call the LIRR's Public Affairs Department at 718-217-5477 (say "More Options", then "Public Affairs" at the prompt). Again, we thank you for your patience as this important track work program progresses.

Sincerely,
Robert Brennan
Director - Government & Community Affairs