



## Road Commission of Kalamazoo County

3801 E. Kilgore Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
(269) 381-3171  
Fax (269) 381-1760  
[www.kalamazoocountyroads.com](http://www.kalamazoocountyroads.com)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2021

**Contact:** Elli Blonde, Communications Administrator

**Email:** [eblonde@kalamazoocountyroads.com](mailto:eblonde@kalamazoocountyroads.com)

**Phone:** (269) 381-3170 x224

## RCKC and MSU Form Unique Partnership

KALAMAZOO, MI – The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) has recently had the opportunity to expand the impact of its work within the right-of-way. The Michigan State University (MSU) Forestry Department and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service have developed a unique collaboration to assist the Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA).

David MacFarlane, Professor of Forest Measurements and Modeling for MSU, [currently explores the role of urban forests in climate mitigation and adaptation with data and interventions](#). The RCKC is assisting by providing trees for research from the public right-of-way while preparing sites for infrastructure projects. Tree removal is a normal part of site preparation, and parcel owners have a decision between keeping the wood or having it hauled away. Now, instead of being hauled away by the contractor, MSU has the opportunity to utilize the tree to obtain measurements. These measurements help develop models that can show the carbon content of a tree and how those trees can play a role in climate changes.

This is the first intersectoral collaboration of its kind with the inclusion of academia, federal government, and local government agencies. With the goal of maximizing the use of trees that will already be removed it reduces the need to potentially take down an otherwise healthy tree for the sake of science.

*The RCKC has served as the local road professionals of Kalamazoo County since 1909. RCKC remains committed to our goal of using our expertise, energy, and funds to provide the safest and most convenient road system possible, and to contribute to economic development and high quality of life throughout the county.*

###