

Tree and Woody Vegetation Control

Tree and Woody Vegetation Control is the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County's (RCKC) annual effort to control roadside brush and overhanging tree branches that could obstruct motorists' vision, create drainage obstacles, or cause snow and icing problems if left unchecked.



For more information:
The Road Commission of
Kalamazoo County will be happy to
answer any further questions
or concerns.



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Tree and Woody Vegetation Control

Removing Roadside
Hazards to Preserve
Roadway Safety



How is the program conducted?

The RCKC uses an integrated approach to control roadside brush and branches using:

- ◆ Hand Cutting
- ◆ Mechanical Devices
- ◆ Herbicides

Hand clearing and mowing are expensive and cannot be used safely in all areas. Specifically trained, licensed and experienced professionals selectively apply the herbicides to specific vegetation that could create a driving hazard. This spot spraying along local unplatted and primary roads is done on a rotating basis in one-quarter of the county late each summer. The operation is not a continuous broadcast spray—only those roadside areas where existing brush and limbs create safety hazards are sprayed.

How safe are the herbicides?

The RCKC contracts with a vendor who applies Krenite S, Garlon 3A or Vastlan that are registered with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

A copy of the Safety Data Sheets are available at the RCKC's office or on the maintenance tab of the RCKC website.

Do I have a choice regarding the tree and woody vegetation control?

If you would rather not have the tree(s) and woody vegetation along your roadside sprayed, property owners must clear the brush and limbs before the spraying program begins annually. Property owners may remove brush and low hanging limbs at minimum fourteen (14) feet up and fourteen (14) feet away from the traveled portion of the right-of-way or 14 feet from the edge of the road with RCKC permission prior to the time frame specified by RCKC. If the roadside vegetation control efforts have not been accomplished within the permitted time frame, an application of an herbicide may occur.



Does the Road Commission really want property owners to assume responsibility for their own property?

The RCKC considers roadside maintenance a team effort and is pleased to have property owners as partners in this vital safety program. That's why the RCKC is eager to accommodate people who prefer to handle brush control themselves. This joint effort benefits both RCKC and the property owners.

How do I know if my area is targeted for spraying this year?

Approximately one-quarter of the county is sprayed annually, so a given area will only be sprayed once every three years. To learn whether your area is on this year's schedule, please visit the RCKC website or call the RCKC office.

