

# IMPACT ON ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

RCKC will continue to take a proactive approach to remove trees that may impact a road improvement project. In situations arising from a road improvement project, the RCKC will provide a property owner a tree removal notification form for completion. The property owner may request that any trees to be removed or cut, stacked, and placed adjacent to the public right-of-way. Please see the listing of projects on the [Projects page](#) of our website.

# BAT SPECIES IMPACT ROAD AND BRIDGE WORK

Counties must follow guidelines as a part of road projects that involve tree cutting or work on bridge decks. Guidelines are different depending on the type of road funding being used and necessary tree cutting limited from October 1 - March 31.

LAST REVISED JULY 2021

## CONNECT WITH US

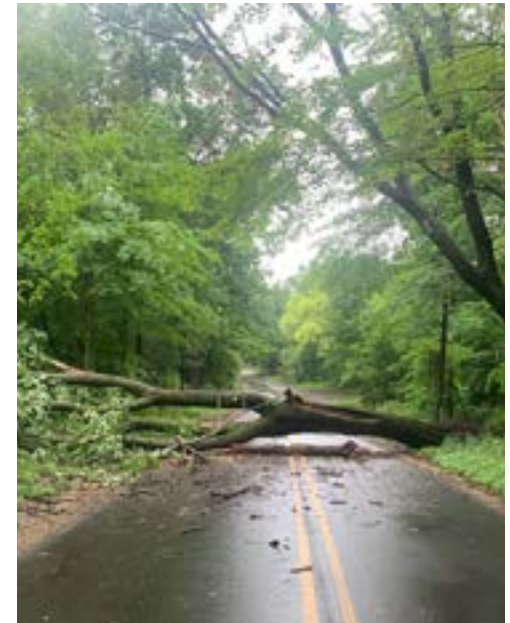


Road Commission  
of Kalamazoo County

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## TREE REMOVAL



YOUR LOCAL ROAD  
PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1909



## IF A TREE FALLS INTO THE ROADWAY

If a tree falls onto or across a public roadway, please call the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC) immediately and/or call 9-1-1 after normal business hours. As first responders, the RCKC's role is to maintain a county road system that is safe and convenient for public travel.

Fallen trees within the traveled portion of the right-of-way will be moved outside the road right-of-way to adjacent property when possible (except in those instances where the RCKC holds title to the entire road right-of-way, typically plat/ subdivision areas). The relocated fallen trees will be left for the property owner's use and/or disposal. Relocated trees will have a pink flag left near them, informing residents they have fifteen (15) days to contact the RCKC for tree removal options. A property owner may complete and submit a request within fifteen (15) days of the relocation to have the fallen tree removed or cut, stacked, and placed adjacent to the public right-of-way. For those property owners who contact the RCKC within this timeframe, the RCKC will schedule a time to return based on current activities and priorities.

## OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS

RCKC has the exclusive right to remove an obstruction within the road right-of-way. In addition to expressly granting authority to the RCKC to maintain trees with the right-of-way, the legislature has also expressly prohibited anyone else from "cutting, destroying or otherwise injuring any shade or ornamental tree or shrub growing within the limits of any public highway within the State of Michigan without the consent of the authorities having jurisdiction over such road." [See Act 2 of 1921 Section 247.241.](#)

You can find more information for tree removal within the [RCKC's Roadside Vegetation Management Policy](#).



## DEAD AND DYING TREES

Dead/dying trees located in the right-of-way are the responsibility of the property owner for removal. The RCKC has the option to remove trees from the public right-of-way that is not designed for vehicular travel but has no responsibility to do so.

A property owner may seek to have a tree located with the public road right-of-way removed, trimmed, or pruned. In this case, RCKC permission must be sought before the owner engages in any such activities. This would be granted through a permit application process, and the permit fee may be waived, at RCKC's discretion. The application to construct in the right-of-way can be found on the [Permits page](#) of our website.