

## Frequently asked questions about Roadside Vegetation

The Kalamazoo County Road Commission (KCRC) is the jurisdictional authority over all public roads lying outside the incorporated cities and villages within Kalamazoo County, exclusive of any State trunkline highway. Often Ross Township residents have questions regarding roadside vegetation management, including trees and brush control. The information below, questions (Q) and answers (A) is being provided to assist in answering those questions. For additional information, please visit the KCRC website at [www.kalamazooountyroads.com](http://www.kalamazooountyroads.com) for the complete Roadside Vegetation Management Policy.

### **Q. Who is responsible for the removal of dead/dying trees in the right-of-way?**

A. Dead/Dying trees located in the right-of-way are the responsibility of the property owner for removal. The KCRC may remove trees from the public right-of-way that is not designed for vehicular travel, but has the discretion not to do so. If a property owner wishes to remove, trim or prune a tree that is located in the right-of-way they must fill out a permit to work within the public right-of-way with the KCRC. The permit fee may be waived.

### **Q. What right does KCRC have for trees in the road right-of-way?**

A. The KCRC has exclusive right to remove any obstruction within the highway right-of-way. In addition, to expressly granting authority to the KCRC to maintain trees within 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 consent of the authorities having jurisdiction over such road." If a property owner seeks to have a tree that is located in the public right-of-way, removed, trimmed or pruned, KCRC permission must be sought and granted through a permit application (see Permit tab) process before the owner engages in any such removal. The permit application fee may be waived at KCRC's discretion.

### **Q. If a tree falls in the traveled portion of the roadway designed for public travel; what do I do?**

A. Please call the KCRC office immediately and/or 911 after normal business hours. The KCRC are first responders and will respond accordingly. The relocated fallen trees as part of emergency response will be moved outside of the road right-of-way when possible. The relocated fallen tree will be left for the property owner's use and/or disposal unless they contact the KCRC within 15 days of the fallen tree being relocated that they request it be cut and/or removed. For those property owners that do contact KCRC accordingly, the KCRC will return as determined within other KCRC activities and priorities.

### **Q. What about trees that may impact a project improvement?**

A. In situations arising from a road improvement project, the property owner may complete a tree removal notification form that will be provided by KCRC to request that any trees to be removed be cut or request it be removed. Informational meetings may be held accordingly for each project. Project information is also listed on our website.