

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RCKC Update Following Tornado – Colony Woods, Texas Township**

KALAMAZOO, MI- To keep road users informed of the latest traffic and road maintenance operations by the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County (RCKC), we have provided the following update.

First, we want to express our gratitude for the collaborative efforts of our RCKC team, first responders and residents across the county, including those from Texas Township. The safety of all individuals involved and of residents is paramount. At the time of the event, we were actively responding and reviewing locations with trees and limbs in the road right-of-way (ROW) and where power or utility lines were entangled. For all our safety, those with power or utility lines could not be removed by the RCKC Team. We must wait for the utility company's assistance for an all clear.

We understand the difficult situation and appreciate the feedback received from the residents of Colony Woods as we continue to navigate through this challenging situation.

The priority of the RCKC was assuring the safety of the ROW and getting roads open hastily in order to allow access to residences. This resulted in many trees and limbs being relocated to the side of the road. The RCKC will continue assessing the area of Colony Woods to determine the trees that came from the ROW and were moved to facilitate road clearance. It's worth noting that the majority of debris in the ROW is not from the ROW itself. We understand the ROW is the best placement at this time for the private tree crew work and for property damage assessment.

## Action Plan:

Sweeping/Drainage: The RCKC will address sweeping and drainage structures once there is some relief from the cleanup efforts.

Tree Debris Management: To help relieve the amount of tree and brush debris in the ROW within Colony Woods only, the RCKC has opened up our gravel pit in Prairie Ronde Township on 4<sup>th</sup> Street between U Avenue and Paw Paw Lake Drive as a disposal area for **tree and branch debris only**. Residents from **Colony Woods only** may drop off their tree debris anytime Monday through Sunday, 8:00am – 7:00pm until May 28, 2024. Refer to the following map for the location of where to place tree debris. **Please note this is an honor system;** this program is for the residents of Colony Woods only. Household items and hazardous waste cannot be disposed of at the gravel pit; abuse of this program will result in the closure of the pit. Our RCKC team also use this site currently, therefore please monitor traffic in/out of the pit areas.



**Traffic Management:** To ensure smooth operations and keep roads open, we suggest residents collaborate with assisting companies to park or conduct work on one side of the roadway. This will help mitigate safety concerns in a fluid work environment.

**For other areas outside of Colony Woods:**

- A pink flag was left near the relocated tree informing property owners to contact the RCKC within fifteen (15) days for tree removal options.
- The relocated trees from the roadway are available for the property owner's use and/or disposal.
- In other instances, the RCKC will return to address the relocated tree as prioritized within other RCKC operations pending further direction received from the property owner.
- If you are unsure of the process, the property owner may submit a service request by calling 269-381-3171 or at our website at <https://www.kalamazooccountyroads.com/contact.php>.

Please note that trees/brush on or from private property will need to be addressed by the property owner.

For any further questions, please see our Roadside Vegetation Management Policy on our website at [www.kalamazooccountyroads.com](http://www.kalamazooccountyroads.com) or please call the RCKC at 269-381-3171. For RCKC road related emergencies after normal business hours, please call 911.

*We appreciate the patience across the county in response to this situation. We also want to thank the many public service teams, first responders, utilities, residents, and consolidated dispatch personnel who actively worked safely together in response.*

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