

LAPEER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS POLICY MANUAL

Policy Subject:	<b>TREE REMOVAL/TRIMMING POLICY</b>	
Authorized by Board of Road Commissioners	Date:	01/07/15
Amended	Date:	
Amended	Date:	

The Lapeer County Road Commission (LCRC) has a duty to maintain a county road system that is reasonably safe and convenient for public travel.

Twenty percent of all fatal crashes result from a vehicle leaving the roadway and striking a fixed object. Over fifty percent of deaths in fixed object crashes involved a vehicle striking a tree.

The LCRC is entitled to remove/trim trees from any portion of the public road right-of-way for purposes such as road maintenance, construction activities, drainage improvements or the creation of a clear zone.

Fallen trees within the traveled portion of the road will be moved outside of the traveled roadway. The property owner may use or dispose of the tree debris as they see fit – or may request that the LCRC remove it. The LCRC will perform the requested removal work as the budget allows. The LCRC may also remove debris if it poses a safety hazard or interferes with drainage.

Due to the extensive number of miles under LCRC jurisdiction and budget constraints, major construction clearing and clear zone creation will be done using the below criteria as a guideline:

The AASHTO *Roadside Design Guide* presents ideal clear zone distance criteria; however, these distances are not always practical in Lapeer County. Tree removal/trimming will be selective and generally "fit" conditions within the existing right-of-way and character of the road. Consequently, trees within the clear zone should be considered for removal subject to one or more of the following criteria:

- 1. Crash Frequency** – Locations or road segments where there is evidence of vehicle-tree crashes either from actual crash reports or scarring of the trees.
- 2. Outside of Horizontal Curves** - Trees in target position on the outside of curves.
- 3. Intersections and Railroads** - Trees that are obstructing adequate sight distance or are particularly vulnerable to being hit.
- 4. Volunteer Tree Growth** - Consider removal of volunteer trees within the originally intended tree line. Volunteer trees are those that have naturally occurred since original construction of the road.
- 5. Maintain Consistent Tree Line** - Where a generally established tree line exists, consider removing trees that break the continuity of this line within the clear zone.
- 6. Shading** - Where shading due to tree growth causes structural pavement deterioration and/or intermittent ice or snow accumulation.
- 7. Potentially Hazardous Trees** – The Engineer reserves the right to remove trees which may pose a hazard from the public right-of-way.

Tree removal/trimming work performed by a landowner, contractor, and/or citizen shall conform to the LCRC requirements for work within road right-of-way – including but not limited to: trees shall be flush cut to earth, positive drainage shall be maintained in drainage-ways and remain clear of any brush or debris from tree, disturb areas shall be restored, and that trees shall be felled in a manner that will not impede traffic or cause damage to adjacent properties or utilities.