



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT:
269-384-8117

Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner Launches Pilot Project to Remove Invasive Species from Local Drains

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – The Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner’s Office launched a pilot project with the [Kalamazoo Conservation District – BCK CISMA](#) (Barry, Calhoun, & Kalamazoo Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) to remove invasive species from Kalamazoo County drains.

The first site involved removing Black Locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, an invasive species in Michigan that can quickly take over an area. When young, the plant forms dense colonies with large thorns. The removal of the Black Locust improve habitat for native species and residents.

The Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner’s Office cut the trees while CISMA painted the stumps with an herbicide. This type of application reduces the number of off-target plants affected and the amount of herbicide used.

Along with improving local habitat, the Drain Commissioner’s Office looks forward to an ongoing collaboration with BCK CISMA, removing invasive species from County drains.

For more information on invasive species, contact the local CISMA or visit [MISIN – Midwest Invasive Species Network \(msu.edu\)](#), run by Michigan State University which provides reporting opportunities and education.

- Black Locust, Michigan Invasive Species, [Invasive Species: Black Locust \(michigan.gov\)](#)
- Black Locust Robinia pseudoacacia, 2012 Feb, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, [BlackLocustBCP.pdf \(msu.edu\)](#)
- BCK (Barry, Calhoun, and Kalamazoo) CISMA, [Kalamazoo Conservation District - BCK CISMA \(Invasive Species\)](#)
- MISIN [MISIN – Midwest Invasive Species Network \(msu.edu\)](#)

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