

This is to notify all Calhoun County residents that additional work will soon be underway at Kimball Pines Park to assist in cleanup efforts from the impact of the 2011 Memorial Day Weekend storm.

Over the past two years, the County has taken various steps to reopen the Park including facilitating logging of the fallen timber (pine and hardwood), and renting a bulldozer to clear and reopen the disc golf fairways and to gain access to the pavilions. In addition, volunteers from the North Country Trail have cleared and reopened their trail.

Even though great progress has been made, the County was recently informed by a professional forester that the IPS beetle has infested the remaining standing pines and these trees will die because of the infestation. The damage from the storm, infestation of the beetle and the extremely dry weather during the summer of 2012 have all created great stress on the remaining standing trees.

The County is following the recommendation of the forester and will be logging the remaining pines. Any money that the County receives from this logging will be reinvested into the parks system. The greatest visual impact will be the area next to the Calhoun County Medical Care Facility and where the trees are adjacent to Michigan Avenue. The area will initially look quite bare; however, the County does plan on taking steps to develop a future plan for Kimball Pines Park and will reopen this area as soon as safety permits.

The newly formed Parks and Recreation Commission will be instrumental in moving forward with the future of Kimball Pines Park, as well as the future of the Parks system in general. We appreciate your patience while we accomplish this task. Be sure to check back for updates as we progress with this project. If you have any questions, please contact the Calhoun County Planning Department at 269-781-0817.

For more information on the IPS beetle please go to:

http://www.ipm.msu.edu/uploads/files/Forecasting_invasion_risks/europeanSpruceBarkBeetle.pdf