



RepCo Highway Dept. Weekly Report To Commissioners

Community Concerns

ID	Description	Notes/Progress/Resolution	Status
Administration			
132	170 Road .0-.8 mile south of US-36; road & drainage improvements are needed.	Investigating solutions and impacts on adjacent properties	Open
45	Norway Lane; drainage improvements are needed.	KDOT is preparing a scope of work to improve KS-148 that passes through the community of Norway. Utilities have been located for a project we hope begins soon.	Open
Construction			
119	130 RD .55 West of Zeal RD South side; Trees/Brush need removed;	Utilities have been located. Landowner agrees to tree pile placement on his property.	Open
135	Bridge T-22.7 (6-ton load limit) on Timber Road .7 mile east of 220 Road has sustained damage from an oversized load that broke through the deck.	The bridge is temporarily closed until repairs can be made.	New
136	Queen Road .75 mile east of 30 Road on the north side; the Ditch needs cleaned for .25 mile to 40 Road.		New
137	150 Road .17 mile north of US-36, on the west side of the road; a driveway needs improved.	Extend culvert 10ft on the south side, regrade to remove eyebrow at the entrance.	New
138	Fir Road .67 mile east of 220 Road; a culvert under the road needs replaced.		New
139	180 Road and Marble Road intersection; a sight obstruction was reported on the NW corner of the intersection.	Investigating	New
140	Rock Road .25 miles east of 90 Road on the north side; Landowner requesting a new driveway.	New 18"x30' CMP needed	New
141	At the T intersection of 90 Road and Rock Road on the west side; a driveway needs replaced.	Landowner requesting the narrow 15'x2' concrete box be removed. Replaced with a 24"x30' CMP	New
52	70 Road between US36 and Queen Road; Drainage improvements are needed on both sides of the Road	60% Completed overall.	Open
Maintenance			
50	30 Road improvements are needed to restore the crown in the roadway between Highway 36 and Fir Road.	4 miles have been completed.	Open
53	60 Road between Elm and Ash Roads needs the shoulders pulled and fortified with rock and eco-base then finished with gravel.	Improvements between Elm and Diamond are 90% complete	Open

· Bridge T-22.7 on Timber Road is maintained with a load limit of 6 tons. Most farm trucks and passenger vehicles are under 6 tons. The bridge sustained severe damage recently by an oversized load and remained unreported until a passenger vehicle called it in. It will remain closed until repairs can be made.

· 60 Road between Diamond and Birch Roads is nearing completion. Drainage improvements have been made and the subsurface of the road has been hardened with a mixture of rock and clay. The road still needs a gravel finish and that will be completed before April 1.

· Our latest CAT Motor Grader Rebuild is going back into the Shop. Among the hundreds of items checked and double checked, an air filter cover was closed before performance testing at the plant without a filter in it. This was discovered during a 100hr service performed by our operator. The extent of the damage is unknown, but the motor grader is under warranty and CAT will provide a loaner until it can be fully certified again.

· The sidewalk along G Street in front of EMS and Health Departments is about 80% complete. Thank you, City of Belleville, for covering the material expenses for the concrete.

· KU's Technical Training Center will conduct an on-site Gravel Road and Street Maintenance Class for Republic County Motor Grader Operators. This class will be held on April 1 & 2. The training will include a day in a classroom setting and a day in the field. We expect this class to introduce some industry practices that will be helpful to our operations. The class will also facilitate discussions about development of an operating guide for Republic County that will help new employees gain proficiency more efficiently and achieve a more uniform product between our 10 motor grader districts. We have invited an operator employed by the City of Belleville to attend as well.



Stream Advisory Rescinded For Tuttle Creek Cove Near Manhattan, KS

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has rescinded its stream advisory for the Tuttle Creek Cove on the Tuttle Creek Lake, as conditions have been evaluated and contact with the water has been deemed safe.

The stream advisory was due to the release of diesel fuel from a tank on a commercial barge that became submerged in Tuttle Creek Lake on March 15. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US-ACE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 and KDHE performed

comprehensive water quality sampling, and a monitoring plan will continue. Water quality samples collected by KDHE and USACE have shown no fuel-related contaminants above drinking water standards. These samples were taken from both the spill location in the cove and downstream at the confluence of the Big Blue and Kansas Rivers. Water quality testing will continue downstream to monitor releases from Tuttle Creek Lake.

Hearing For Proposed Changes To Noxious Weed Regulations

A public hearing will be conducted to consider changes to regulations relating to noxious weeds, including additions to the designation list of noxious weeds. The hearing will be held in person at the Kansas Department of Agriculture at 1320 Research Park Dr. in Manhattan, as well as via video conferencing system.

The KDA plant protection and weed control program is proposing an amendment to K.A.R. 4-8-27 to consolidate references to control methods for the Noxious Weed Act into one regulation and add new control methods for proposed noxious weeds, followed by the revocation of the regulations which previously listed control methods separately. In addition, the program is proposing an amendment to K.A.R. 4-8-44 to add several plant species to the designation list of noxious weeds, including: adding spotted knapweed and diffuse knapweed as Category A noxious weeds; adding common teasel and cutleaf teasel as Category B noxious weeds; and adding Amur honeysuckle as a Category C noxious weed.

A copy of the proposed regulation changes, control methods, and environ-

mental benefit statement, as well as an expanded notice of public hearing, may be accessed on the KDA website at agriculture.ks.gov/PublicComment. Anyone desiring to participate via video conference must pre-register to be provided with a video link; the registration is available in the notice of public hearing. Written comments can be submitted prior to the hearing on KDA's public comment web page, or sent by email to Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov or by mail to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Attn: Ronda Hutton, 1320 Research Park Dr., Manhattan, KS, 66502.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodations in order to participate in the public hearing and may request a copy of the regulations in an accessible format. Persons who require special accommodations should make their needs known at least two working days prior to the hearing. For more information, including how to request special accommodations or a copy of the regulations, please contact Ronda Hutton at 785-564-6715 or Ronda.Hutton@ks.gov.

May is Older Americans Month

Older Americans Month was first established in 1963. Since then, it has become a month to celebrate and recognize the contributions of both, past and present older Americans in our country. The 2026 theme is, "Champion Your Health," and focuses on the cornerstones of healthy aging such as prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility. This theme is encouraging older Americans to take an active role in advocating for themselves, managing their own health, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions which support independence (acl.gov).

According to census.gov, as of July 1, 2025, the River Valley Extension District is estimated to have 23.9% of its population at age 65 and older. The following is a breakdown of each counties population that is 65 and older: Clay County- 23.8%, Cloud County- 20.9%, Republic County - 27.5%, and Washington County- 23.7%. Let us celebrate the older Americans in

our communities this coming May!

Communities and individuals alike can take steps to champion health and advance healthy aging. Below are some ways individuals can take charge of their health at any age.

- Stay up to date on preventive care and screenings.
- Build and maintain social connections that support emotional well-being.
- Choose nutritious, minimally processed foods.
- Incorporate regular physical activity to maintain strength and mobility.
- Practice daily habits that support mental health and resilience.

Thank an older Kansan for all they do and highlight community partnerships that empower individuals to lead healthy lives. If you have any questions about Older Americans Month you can reach out to Jordan Schuette, Adult Development and Aging Agent in the River Valley Extension District at 785-325-2121.

Did you know...

There are seven National Weather Service offices that serve portions of Kansas!

National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving Kansas are located in Goodland; Dodge City; Wichita; Topeka; Hastings, Nebraska; Pleasant Hill (Kansas City), Missouri; and Springfield, Missouri. Each office is staffed by a team of highly trained meteorologists, technicians, electronics technicians, information technology specialists, hydrologists, and administrative assistants. The NWS offices are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Contact the NWS office in your area to learn more about weather, weather safety, NOAA Weather Radio, office tours, or to learn more about careers in meteorology in the NWS or in NOAA.

We are here to serve you!

The following pages contain 2024 weather summaries for each NWS office. Here is severe weather terminology you may encounter.

- **Severe Thunderstorm** – The National Weather Service issues severe thunderstorm warnings for storms that are currently or are capable of producing winds of 58 mph or stronger and/or hail one inch in diameter or larger. Severe thunderstorms are often much stronger than this minimum criteria, so it is a good idea to take severe thunderstorm warnings seriously.
- **Tornado** – A tornado is a violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground either as a pendant from a cumuliform cloud or underneath a cumuliform cloud, and it is often (but not always) visible as a funnel cloud. A funnel cloud is a condensation cloud typically funnel-shaped and extending outward from a cumuliform cloud and is associated with a rotating column of air that may or may not be in contact with the ground.
- **Flash Flood** – A flash flood is flooding that occurs very rapidly and usually within six hours of heavy rainfall. Flash flooding may occur along creeks, rivers or streams. It can also occur in low lying or urban areas where drainage is poor. Water levels can rise very quickly during flash flooding including locations that did not receive the heavy rainfall but are located downstream from areas that received an extreme amount of rainfall. Flash flooding can occur in the winter months when rain falls on existing snowpack and causes it to melt rapidly. Flooding is the number one severe weather killer in the U.S.

2024 Weather Summary

Northeast and East Central Kansas

National Weather Service - Topeka, KS

346 Severe Thunderstorm Warnings*

Most since 1984!
Highest daily total: 21 on 4-30 and 8-14*

22 Confirmed Tornadoes

Strongest was EF-3
Pottawatomie Co. on 4/30

87mph Strongest Measured Wind Gust:
Pottawatomie Co. 4/18

Largest Hail:
Softball (4" diameter)
Wabaunsee Co. on 3/13.

102 °F Topeka Hottest Temperature
(6/24, 7/18, & 8/26)

11 Topeka Days of 100+ High Temperatures
Heat indices around 110°F 7/14-15 & 7/29-31

34.27" Topeka Total Precipitation
2.26" below normal for the year (Jan. through Dec.)

12.6" Topeka Total Snowfall
4.5" below normal for the year (Jan. through Dec.)

Highest Event Rainfall:
6.00" in Franklin Co. on 5/30-31

Highest Event Snowfall:
6" in Washington Co. on 1/21-22