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March 29, 2003

## Creek barrier approved

### Dam-like barrier stops spawning

By [BILL O'BRIEN](#)  
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY - A federal plan to build a sea lamprey barrier in Kids Creek received city commission endorsement this week and is expected to get full approval next month.

Kids Creek is one of the heaviest lamprey spawning grounds on the Great Lake, according to fishery and dam experts.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission proposed the small, steel dam-like structure and will pay the total cost.

Plans call for a sheet-pile structure to be erected in the creek behind the Traverse City Fire Station on West Front.

"Kids Creek is the hot spot of sea lampreys in this (Boardman River watershed)," said Ellie Koon of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "The water there is amazingly clean."

Koon said the agency currently treats both the Boardman and Kids Creek with lampricide during spawning periods. It has an estimated kill rate of more than 95 percent. But lampricide has drawbacks - the annual \$25,000 cost and the need to close the waters after treatment.

Officials said the lamprey barrier will affect the water level of the creek in the immediate area.

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