

**LOCAL REAL ESTATE
FOR SALE HERE.**

Apartment Finder

MICHIGAN LIVE



[SEARCH](#)

[FIND A BUSINESS](#)

Search

[Back To Your Search Results](#) | [Search Again](#)

THE BAY CITY TIMES

[Click here to subscribe!](#)

[» More From The Bay City Times](#)

Relief from the muck

Monday, July 14, 2003

By **Patti Brandt**
times writer

The biggest complaint heard at the Bay City State Recreation Area is that swimmers must wade through several feet of green algae and shoreline vegetation before getting to clear water.

"The problem is the dead algae that tends to wash in on the shoreline that makes it undesirable to go swimming," said Michael J. Evanoff, park supervisor.

The park is changing that with two sand paths that are under construction on the park's north beach, adjacent to the privately owned Tobico Beach.

State park employees can build the sand path up to 10 feet wide and 150 feet long, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which issues permits for such work.

The paths will extend into the water past the shoreline, where the dead algae collects.

The paths are simply areas of raised sand, but they allow people to walk through the dead algae, Evanoff said.

"It's above the water and it allows people clear access to the water," he said. "We're hoping that this is going to increase business."

Sand that is above the ordinary high water mark must be used for the paths. With the water levels in the bay being near historic lows, there is an additional 50-100 feet of exposed shoreline, Evanoff said.

There are some different theories as to why there is so much dead algae on the local Saginaw Bay beaches, which was documented as early as the

MORE SEARCHES

Classifieds

- [» Jobs](#)
- [» Autos](#)
- [» Real Estate](#)
- [» All Classifieds](#)

Obituaries

- [» Death Notices & Guest Book](#)

Flint Journal archives

- [» Search back to 1995](#)

Grand Rapids Press archives

- [» Search back to 1995](#)

Local Businesses

- [» Find A Business](#)

Entertainment

- [» Movies](#)
- [» Music](#)
- [» Arts & Events](#)
- [» Dining & Bars](#)

Local Web Sites

- [» Community Connection](#)

[» Contests & Games. Click here!](#)



[» Advertise With Us](#)

OUR AFFILIATES

Advance

[» SEND THIS PAGE](#)

[» PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

1950s, Evanoff said.

The most plausible one is that the Saginaw Bay grows an abundance of algae that is likely caused by phosphates and other pollutants in the Saginaw River, he said.

When the algae dies, currents push it to the southern shoreline of the bay and cause it to collect there.

The state park camping area is booked up last weekend and was full for the Fourth of July weekend.

But Evanoff is hoping that having better access for swimming will help the park fill up during off-peak times.

Most of the folks that visit the state park are local people, coming from within a 100-mile radius, he said.

The park is close enough for people to avoid long travel times, but woodsy enough to feel like it's further north.

It's not the first work the state park has done to keep its beach and waters accessible to the public.

Last year, recreation area received a permit from the state Department of Environmental Quality to dig up plants and restore a 190-yard-long sandy beach.

The beach-grooming project ran for about 150 feet from the water toward shore.

- Patti Brandt is a staff writer for The Times. She can be reached at 894-9673.

© 2003 Bay City Times. Used with permission

FIND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Select Newspaper:

Select Category:

Select Time Frame:

AND Enter Keywords:

(Example: governor, capitol)

[The Best Local Classifieds:](#) [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Place An Ad](#)



Special Home Delivery Offers!

[Ann Arbor News](#) | [Bay City Times](#) | [Flint Journal](#)
[Grand Rapids Press](#) | [Jackson Citizen Patriot](#) | [Kalamazoo Gazette](#)
[Muskegon Chronicle](#) | [Saginaw News](#)

[About Us](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

©2003 [MLive.com](#). All Rights Reserved.



Get The Best Local...

[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#)

[All Classifieds](#) | [Place An Ad](#)