Bay County Dashboard

Green Initiatives

More detailed information on Green Initiatives can be found on Bay County's Environmental Affairs webpage.

Recycling Website

- The Bay County Environmental Affairs and Community Development Department maintains a webpage that contains information on local recycling programs and service providers in Bay County and surrounding areas. Click here for more information.

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative

- The Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative (SBCI) is a group of interested people, businesses, and local governments in the bay front communities of: Arenac, Bay, Huron, Iosco, Midland, Saginaw, and Tuscola collaborating with state and federal agencies for actions to improve the Saginaw Bay. Click here for more information.

Saginaw Bay Blueways Trail

- The Saginaw Bay is the unique feature defining Michigan's mitten and is easily seen and recognized on satellite photos of the Earth. Come see what it looks like up close along the coastal Blueways trail. White sandy beach shorelines small cottages and big houses are interspersed by large natural coastal marsh areas and provide the full variety of a coastal paddling experience. Click here for more information.

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Phragmites Treatment

- In the Fall of 2014, 132 acres of Saginaw Bay shoreline were treated to control large stands of non-native invasive Phragmites. Treatment was done by Hamilton Helicopter Service using an aquatic formulation of the pesticide glysophate. Late summer surveys of the treated areas in 2015 indicated that approximately 25 acres of the treated area needed to be retreated to control Phragmites plants that were not killed by the initial treatment. That is a reduction of 81% of the Phragmites population. This project was funded through a US Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration Grant. The property owners along the treated areas are partners in the treatment and have signed a 10 year contract with the USFWS to continue control and management efforts. As part of the agreement the landowners report their control efforts over the past year. Though they work specifically on the bottom lands of the Saginaw Bay adjacent to their own lands, many residents have worked together to continue the fight against this noxious weed. Some of their efforts include mowing and burning of the dead Phragmites. 52 of the 100 property owners involved in the project have put in over 5000 hours of service.
- The Phragmites Control Project follows recommendations in the Guide to Phragmites Control published by the Michigan DNR. Control efforts include both chemical and mechanical treatments to control Phragmites. The first step in the 2014-15 project was to access and map the present Phragmites stands. Then the Fall treatment was undertake in late September since this is the best time to get good control of Phragmites. Like trees, Phragmites moves nutrients into their roots in during fall to help start the plant the following spring. This is the best time to get the pesticides to the roots to kill them since the plant can't tell the difference between nutrients and pesticides. The best time of year to mow and burn Phragmites is during the winter when ice has formed around the dead stalks. Burning can be done any time during the winter but property owners must get a burn permit from their local unit of government, usually the township office or Fire Department. They also need to notify the local DNR and DEQ offices a few days before burning since this is being done on the Saginaw Bay.

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PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) Program

- An innovative way to help Bay County businesses save money, create jobs, grow the tax base and green our state. PACE was created through Act No. 270, Public Acts of Michigan (2010) for the purpose of promoting renewable energy systems and energy efficient improvements for eligible local businesses. The PACE program has identified improvements, renewable energy systems and energy projects within the Bay County PACE district. Click here for more information.

Lakefront & Beach Access Study Report

- In recognition of the need to improve the park's under-utilized lakeshore area, a team of experts and professionals from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Bay County community representatives spent the past year soliciting public input and evaluating development and recreation opportunities for this area that will enhance day use opportunities at the park. The over-arching goal of the Lakefront and Beach Access Study is to increase visitation at the lakeshore, improve public access to the Saginaw Bay, strengthen the relationship between the park and the local community, support the economic vitality of the region, and protect and preserve the natural and cultural features of the park and legal mandates pertaining to the park. Click here for more information.

Michigan Clean Sweep Program

- Looking for a way to safely dispose of unusable, outdated or unwanted pesticides? There is no charge for properly disposing of these materials through the Michigan Clean Sweep Program. Both pesticides and mercury items are accepted. No fertilizers will be accepted for disposal under the Clean Sweep Program unless they are part of a pesticide formulation. Click here for more information.

Michigan Green Schools

- Michigan Green Schools is a non-profit 501(c)3 agency dedicated to assisting all Michigan schools – public and private – achieve environmental goals which include protecting the air, land, water and animals of our state along with world outreach through good ecological practices and the teaching of educational stewardship of students pre-kindergarten through senior high school. Click here for more information.

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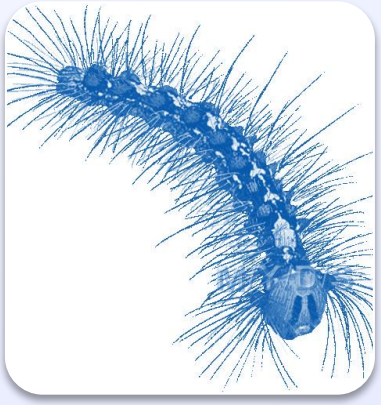
Green Initiatives



Gypsy Moth Suppression Program

- The purpose of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is to protect Bay County's highly valued trees from the damaging effects of the gypsy moth caterpillar. Services of the program include:
  - Monitoring all wooded and residential areas of Bay County for the presence of gypsy moth life stages.
  - Conduct suppression/control activities in heavily infested areas of the county. This includes determining where out-break level populations occur, contracting with an aerial applicator and conducting treatment projects in highly infested areas, and evaluation of treatment results.
  - Cooperate with the Michigan Department of Agriculture's (MDA) grant program for gypsy moth suppression to ensure maximum reimbursement on treatment and administrative costs. By following MDA guidelines and participating in the grant program, Bay County is able to reduce the cost of the program for Bay County taxpayers.
  - Conduct educational programs for schools, property owners, and local civic groups. The program utilizes Bay County Pinconning Park as a staging area for many of these presentations, which include information on the life cycle of the gypsy moth, how it fits into our local ecology, and methods for controlling the gypsy moth.
  - Click here for more information.

Dispose My MEDS Program

- Dispose My Meds is an online resource to help you to find medication disposal programs at the local independent community pharmacy near you. More than 100 different pharmaceuticals have been detected in lakes, rivers, reservoirs and streams throughout the world. Pharmaceuticals are being detected in the environment and there is genuine concern that these compounds, in the small concentrations that they're at, could be causing impacts to human health or to aquatic organisms. Click here for more information.

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Energy Star

- ENERGY STAR is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) voluntary program that helps businesses and individuals save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency. The ENERGY STAR program was established by EPA in 1992, under the authority of the Clean Air Act Section 103(g). Click here for more information.

Phosphorus Ban Information

- The Bay County Board of Commissioners approved the ordinance to ban lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus in Bay County on November 13, 2007. The Phosphorus Ban was enacted to reduce the amount of phosphorus found in the Saginaw Bay in order to reduce the algae growth. Click here for more information.

Neighborhood Cleanup Days & Scrap Tire Drive

- Various municipalities typically host a spring or fall cleanup day, which most often includes a location for resident to properly dispose of unwanted household items and recyclables. The City of Bay City's neighborhood cleaning usually coincides with the Bay County Health Department annual environmental waste cleanup. The Bay County Mosquito Control also hosts two scrap tire drives throughout the year.

GLBR Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Renewable Energy Strategy

- The Great Lakes Bay communities have developed this Regional Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Renewable Energy Strategy (Strategy) to enable our communities to build on these existing efforts, and proactively pursue strategies for reducing traditional energy use in our municipal, residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. The Strategy is a key part of the region's planning efforts, and lays the ground work for prioritizing and collaborating on efforts to: conserve and reduce per capita energy use in the region, improve the energy efficiency of our buildings and transportation infrastructure, and Meet a growing share of our energy demand with alternative energy sources, particularly those produced in the region. Click here for more information.

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Great Lakes Clean Water Organization

- Great Lakes Clean Water Organization now known as Great Lakes Clean Water/US Clean Water Organization is a Non-Profit Tax Exempt 501(c) 3 Corporation based in Michigan. It was created to promote the collection and disposal of unused/unwanted drugs in a safe and approved manner. This will keep harmful effects of drugs out of ground water, surface water and municipal water systems in the Great Lakes Region and throughout the US. Click here for more information.

Beach Wellness

- This yearly event takes place at the Bay City State Recreation Area, usually during the month of June. It features a 10K and 5K run/walk, beach volleyball and a classic car show. All proceeds from the events are used for beach cleanup. Click here for more information.

Bay County Solid Waste Management Plan

- The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), Part 115, Solid Waste Management, and its Administrative Rules, requires that each County have a Solid Waste Management Plan Update (Plan) approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Click here for more information.

Michigan Water Stewardship Program

- The Michigan Water Stewardship Program (MWSP) is a partnership of organizations that provide educational assistance to Michigan's residents to identify and reduce contamination risks to water and other natural resources. The program encourages individuals to take voluntary proactive steps to protect Michigan's water quality - our drinking water - as well as protect our other valuable natural resources while caring for our family's health. Click here for more information.