



Local News

State launches Black River quality study

[Print Page](#)

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SOUTH HAVEN - A \$64,954 state project will monitor water quality in sections of the Black River and the Paw Paw River, and identify pollution sources.

E. coli bacteria caused beach closures in South Haven in the summer of 2010. The Black River and its tributaries were identified as the possible source of the bacteria. The monitoring project will focus on the Black River and its tributaries in the South Haven area; and on Pine and Mill creeks in the Paw Paw River watershed.

The project is being funded with a \$48,680 state Department of Environmental Quality grant and another \$16,272 in matching funds from a coalition of seven entities.

The seven partners are the city of South Haven, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Van Buren County Drain Commission, the Two Rivers Coalition, Michigan State University and the Grand Rapids engineering firm of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber Inc.

"We are excited about the opportunity to participate in this project," South Haven City Manager Brian Dissette said. "The grant funds will allow us to ensure a safe and healthy environment for everyone."

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission submitted the grant proposal on behalf of the group of interested partners.

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[x] Close Window