

January 26, 2023

To All Bayway II Residents -

We'd like to bring to your attention a unique environmental feature on Bayway Isles II. There are four brackish-water retention ponds that are essentially enclosed ecosystems supporting wildlife. There are small fish in these ponds that help keep mosquitos at bay.

Recently the City of St. Pete detected high levels of nitrogen and other harmful chemicals in the ponds, and there have been several fish kills that created a health hazard.

It's important to note ALL of the stormwater drains on Bayway II flow into the retention ponds, and NOT into the City sewer system. This includes run-off from all yards on Bayway II and the streets. It is imperative to keep chemicals, yard waste, grass clippings, construction debris, and fertilizers out of the ponds. When a pond becomes polluted there is no way to clean it out.

A few things to note:

1) no pesticides / herbicides may be used to kill vegetation around the ponds without a permit from FWCC (Aquatic Permit):
www.myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants

2) if most of the vegetation is removed from the shoreline around a pond, that process removes a natural filter for nitrogen runoff from our yards. This can lead to fish kills and algae blooms resulting in foul smells that can last for weeks. Please do not remove more vegetation than is necessary for a nice view of a pond.

3) St. Petersburg City Sanitation Dept. is responsible for removing vegetation (cattails, etc.) but only around the drain entrances into and between the four ponds. Each homeowner is responsible for their own shoreline maintenance.

4) there is additional information on bayway.org addressing Pond and Wildlife Education: bayway.org/forum/forum-14.html

Thank you,
Ron Forbes

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