

*Lakes (Save Our
Lakes Program)*

Fighting Lake Virginia pollution

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Consultant proposes drainage ponds to filter stormwater near Dinky Dock

By Mark Andrews *2-23-90*

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

WINTER PARK — Dinky Dock Beach on Lake Virginia is once again clean enough for swimming, but city officials want to go further to fight pollution in the lake.

City stormwater engineer David Pearce and a consulting firm hired by the city have proposed digging two small drainage ponds near Ollie Avenue just up from the beach. The ponds would collect stormwater and filter out pollutants as the water trickles through the earth into groundwater and the lake.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$25,000, said Beau Brownfield, an engineer with Briley, Wild and Associates of Orlando.

The consulting firm was hired by the city in 1988 to investigate possible sources of bacterial contamination of the lake.

The major problem it found in November of that year was that a sewer line from a Park Avenue convenience store had been mistakenly connected to underground storm drainage pipes. The mistake may

have been made as long ago as the 1940s when the store was a service station.

For all that time, raw sewage had been running into Lake Virginia near Dinky Dock Beach. Bacteria counts began falling rapidly after the improper pipe connection was blocked and sewage flow was rerouted to a treatment plant. Water-quality experts say the area is again safe for swimming.

Brownfield told the City Commission last week that after a thorough search, his firm has not found anymore cases of improper sewage connections into drainage pipes.

However, investigators did find one case of a leaky sewer line that ran through a drainage pipe near Comstock Avenue. A temporary sleeve was placed around the line until more permanent repair work can be done, he said.

Engineers remain stymied in finding the source of pesky high bacteria counts that occasionally show up in routine tests of stormwater carried through the city's underground network of drainage pipes.

Brownfield said one possibility is that recreational vehicle operators may be illegally dumping their sewage holding tanks into storm sewer drains.