

Advocate News Online

Proudly serving Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus, Lynnfield and Peabody Massachusetts

Revere Beach ready for summer with positive scores in water quality

JUNE 1, 2018

By Sara Brown

Beach	6 year average	2017 safety rating	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
M Street	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%
Carson	99%	100%	100%	97%	100%	99%	99%
Nantasket	99%	98%	100%	100%	98%	100%	98%
City Point	99%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Pleasure Bay	98%	100%	98%	100%	100%	96%	94%
Revere	97%	98%	98%	92%	100%	94%	100%
Winthrop	97%	94%	100%	100%	94%	94%	100%
Nahant	96%	100%	97%	98%	100%	91%	89%
Savin Hill	94%	94%	100%	94%	87%	100%	88%
Constitution	94%	95%	96%	89%	96%	97%	89%
Wollaston	91%	92%	93%	86%	94%	88%	93%
Malibu	89%	91%	97%	87%	93%	76%	89%
Short	91%	80%	88%	84%	100%	94%	100%
King's	85%	92%	83%	76%	88%	83%	86%
Tenean	81%	81%	92%	71%	95%	63%	82%
All Beaches	94%	94%	96%	92%	96%	92%	94%

As summer approaches, Revere residents can feel at ease about diving into Revere Beach this season. The environmental advocacy organization Save the Harbor/Save the Bay released its annual Beach Water Quality Report Card on the Metropolitan Region's public beaches, and Revere Beach once again is one of the cleanest beaches in Massachusetts. Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's report card is based on water quality data collected during the 2017 beach season on 15 public beaches in 10 communities, including Lynn, Swampscott, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.

Revere Beach ranked the sixth-best beach out of the 15 beaches tested. It received a 98 percent safety rating based on ocean water tests for bacteria. Its safety rating didn't change from 2016, which was also 98 percent. It has a six-year average of a 97 percent safety rating. The lowest score Revere Beach has ever received was in 2015 with a 92 percent.

In 2017, overall water quality safety rating for Boston Harbor's regional beaches was 94 percent. "This was a slight decline from last year's score of 96 percent, but unusually dry weather in the 2016 sampling

season likely led to relatively high scores for that year, as rainfall and the associated polluted runoff from streets and storm drains often has an adverse effect on water quality," says the report. In 2017, the rainfall was more than double and the intensity of the storms was not typical for the region, which is what likely led to this year's scores.

Revere Beach had four testing locations and is tested weekly for bacterial counts. In 2017, the beach was tested 60 times and there was only one time where the sample exceeded bacterial standards.

"At Revere Beach, a red flag is posted when there is a bacterial exceedance at two or more of its testing locations," says the report. "In 2017, Revere Beach had no red flag postings."

Meanwhile, Revere's neighbor in Lynn, King's Beach, received one of their highest scores in years. They earned a 92 percent safety rating, which is an increase from last year's score of 83 percent. Since the project started five years ago, Lynn has consistently earned lower scores than their surrounding neighbors. Swampscott saw similar scores.

"While this year's results may well be an anomaly, working with EEA [the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs] and Save the Harbor's Beaches Science Advisory Committee both Lynn and Swampscott have planned improvements to their sewer and storm water systems, which we expect will result in significant improvement in water quality on King's Beach when they are completed," says the report.