

## Save the Harbor Releases Beaches Water Quality Report Card

The environmental advocacy organization Save the Harbor/Save the Bay has released their annual Beach Water Quality Report Card on the Metropolitan Region's public beaches.

The 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.

M Street, City Point and Carson Beach in South Boston, and Nantasket Beach in Hull were at the top of the list, while Tenean Beach in Dorchester was the lowest-scoring beach in the region again in 2017

Wollaston Beach was ranked 11th out of the 16 beaches in safety with a rating of 92 percent.

Here's a snapshot of the results:

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%

According to Bruce Berman, Director of Strategy & Communications at Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, water quality slightly declined in 2017 over 2016, which is not surprising, since 2017 was a relatively rainy swimming season for Boston Harbor; the seasonal rainfall total was 12.1 inches, which is markedly higher than the 5.3 inches we saw in 2016.

There was surprising news from King's Beach in Lynn and Swampscott, which has consistently lagged behind other area beaches in water quality since 2012, when we began this project. King's scored 92% this year, compared to last year's 83%. While this year's results may well be an anomaly, working with EEA 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 improve-

ment in water quality on King's Beach when they are completed.

"This variation is why we are reluctant to draw conclusions from a single year's sampling results" said Berman. "Though we understand why it's interesting to see where water quality improved or declined versus the previous year, we urge the public to use the multi-year averages we have provided in comparing relative water quality among beaches."

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay thanks Dr. Judy Pederson, chairperson of the Beaches Science Advisory Committee for her guidance in developing the methodology used in this report. Save the Harbor/Save the Bay also thanks David Wu and the MWRA, DCR's Dennis Fitzgerald, Kelly Coughlin of Stony Brook Partners, Ben Wetherill of Coastal Sensors, and Save the Harbor Beach Water Quality and Policy Analyst, Melissa Miller for their help in preparing this report.

Thanks as well to The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Metropolitan Beaches Commission Co-Chairs Senator Brendan Crighton of Lynn and Rep. RoseLee Vincent of Revere and each of the legislative and community members of the Commission for their commitment to clean water and the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

For more information on Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Beaches Report Card, contact Bruce Berman on his cell at 617-293-6243 or email [bruce@bostonharbor.com](mailto:bruce@bostonharbor.com).

You can download a copy of the complete report and learn more about the methodology on which the report card is based at [www.savetheharbor.org/beachesreportcard](http://www.savetheharbor.org/beachesreportcard)