

Pawtuckaway State Park Beach

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Beach location: Pawtuckaway Lake, Nottingham
Number of NHDES sampling stations: 3
NHDES sampling frequency: 2 times per month
Year sampling began: 2003

What does the NHDES Beach Program do?

The New Hampshire Beach Inspection Program monitors water for fecal bacteria at public beaches between Memorial Day and Labor Day. When elevated levels of fecal bacteria are identified, an advisory is issued to inform and protect the public from possible illness while swimming. Once an advisory is issued, beaches are resampled until bacteria levels are below the standard.

NH beaches are categorized as Very Good, Good, Fair, or Poor based on the percentage of samples collected that are clean. A clean sample is defined by a bacteria result that is lower than the state standard of 88 MPN/100mL.

Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
≥ 98% of samples clean	90 - 97% of samples clean	70 - 89% of samples clean	< 70% of samples clean

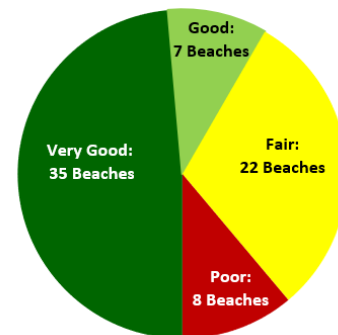
2022 Pawtuckaway SP Beach Sampling Results

Poor
51.5% of samples are clean
Total samples collected: 33
Total unclean samples: 16
Advisories issued: 3
Average length of advisories: 4.3 days

2022 New Hampshire Freshwater Beaches

How clean were NH beaches in 2022?

Using the samples collected at 72 freshwater beaches in 2022, 35 beaches (48.6%) were categorized as Very Good, 7 beaches (9.7%) as Good, 22 beaches (30.6%) as Fair, and 8 beaches (11.1%) as Poor.



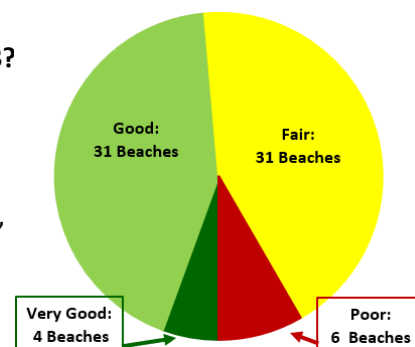
2003-2022 Pawtuckaway SP Beach Sampling Results

Poor
54.8% of samples are clean
Total samples collected: 673
Total unclean samples: 304
Advisories issued: 62
Average length of advisories: 4.4 days

2003-2022 New Hampshire Freshwater Beaches

How clean were NH beaches since 2003?

Using the samples collected at 72 freshwater beaches from 2003-2022, 4 beaches (5.6%) were categorized as Very Good, 31 beaches (43.1%) as Good, 31 beaches (43.1%) as Fair, and 6 beaches (8.3%) as Poor.



What is an advisory?

Water samples are collected at stations along the beach during routine inspections. Water samples are analyzed for the presence of *E. coli* (a fecal bacteria indicator for freshwater environments) with results available within 24 hours of collection. If two sample results from one beach is above the state standard of 88 MPN/100mL or any one sample is above 158 MPN/100 mL, an **Advisory** is issued for that beach. NHDES recommends to not wade or swim in the impacted waters.

NHDES will communicate results to beach managers, who post advisory signs at all entry points of a beach. Advisories are also posted online via the [Advisory Mapper](#). An advisory does not close a beach but instead warns the public of potential risk. An advisory will be removed after resampling results are below the state standard.



What can you do?

Before traveling to a beach, visit the [Advisory Mapper](#) to check for current advisories. Once at a beach, look for an advisory sign that may be posted at the entrance. Even if you don't see an advisory sign, avoid swimming in areas where you may see a potential source of fecal contamination. These sources could include a large number of swimmers, frequent wildlife visitors, nearby failing septic systems, storm drains, or farm runoff. To protect your health and that of your beach, avoid swimming after heavy rain events and discourage the feeding of wildlife (gulls and geese).



Stay Connected with the Beach Inspection Program

Explore the [NHDES One Stop Database](#) for historical beach data!

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