



Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

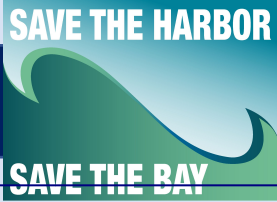
DCR Stewardship Council

September 12th, 2024

SAVE THE HARBOR

SAVE THE BAY





Since 1986, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay:

- Successfully advocated for the completion of the Boston Harbor cleanup
- Led the effort to create the Boston Harbor Islands National Park, transforming 34 abandoned islands into a remarkable destination for region's residents and visitors alike
- Led the effort to virtually eliminate both combined sewer overflows and storm water discharges into North Dorchester Bay, transforming the South Boston beaches into the cleanest urban beaches in America.
- Leads critical efforts to increase our understanding of the marine environment and monitor water quality and flagging accuracy in our waters and on our public beaches.

Metropolitan Beaches Commission

Policy Work

- Save the Harbor Leads and manages the Metropolitan Beaches Commission for the Massachusetts Legislature
- Improving the Boston Harbor Region's state beaches from Nahant on the North Shore to Nantasket on the South Shore.
- Strengthen Boston's waterfront neighborhoods and beachfront communities



Breaking Barriers Report



Beaches Accessibility Advisory Committee

Kristen McCosh, City of Boston

John Kaiser, Triangle

Asha Abdullahi, SPACE

Melanie McLaughlin, FCSN

Ralph DeCicco, ADA Revere

Recommending Training for
DCR Lifeguards and Staff;
sensory friendly tools; and
safety and accessibility
improvements



Beaches Accessibility Advisory Committee



Multilingual Signage



Better Beaches Program

- Over the last 16 years our community partners have leveraged nearly \$3 million in small grants for a total investment of over \$7 million in free events and programs on the region's public beaches
- In 2024 Save the Harbor distributed more than \$300,000 in Better Beaches Program grants. These grants allowed 84 organizations in nine communities to fund nearly 200 free events on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.





**AS
SEEN
ON
WBZ!**

BETTER BEACHES

- 

BEATS ON THE BEACH

Competition & Block Party

- 5th year of competition
- 2023 BOTB Block Party Largest event in STH history w/1,000 attendees
- Fri Aug 16, Related Beal Channelside Lot
- \$20,000 currently committed
- More sponsors to come!
- Lynn Music Foundation
- Beats On The Boat Cruise



Better Beaches Program



Better Beaches Program



Better Beaches Program



Better Beaches Program



Better Beaches Program



Youth Program

- Summer Staff 2024 - By the Numbers
- Youth Staff Fridays
 - Speaker Series, Field Trips, Youth Staff Collaborations
- Free Cruise Recruitment
 - All Access, Fishing Trips, Share the Harbor





Metropolitan Beaches Commission:Community Climate Workshops

Goal is to share tools to increase resiliency and improve coastal defense, while preserving recreational access to our public beaches (from Breaking Barriers Report)

***Save the Harbor has hosted workshops in Lynn, Eastie, Hull and Revere.
Upcoming workshops in Southie, Dot, Quincy and Winthrop***

We share tools including property buyback programs, nature based solutions, infrastructure solutions, beach nourishment, etc.

The gathered community breaks into sub groups to strategize specific needs and hopes of that area, and report back to us.

Save the Harbor will present initial findings and recommendations that will attempt to balance preserving access to recreational resources with priorities of each individual community

Community Climate Workshops



Quincy - August 5



Dorchester - August 1

8 Community Meetings: Winter 2024-Summer 2024

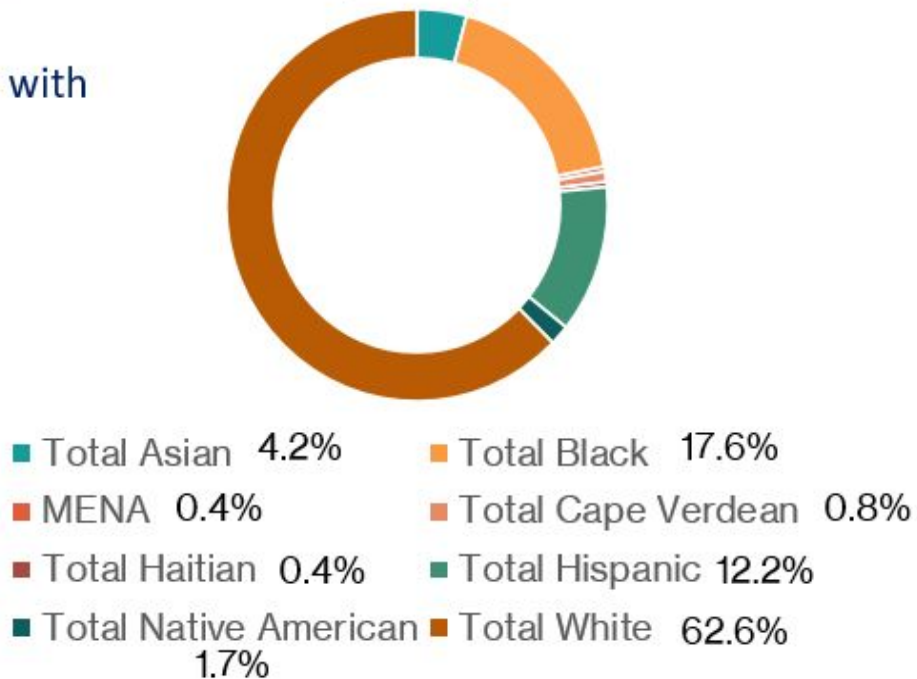
- Engaged over 300 community members from Nahant to Nantasket in person
 - Want to align outreach and engagement with City of Boston Demographics

Race & Ethnicity - Census 2020

Total Population

White Only	44.6%
Black or African American Only	19.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native Only	0.1%
Asian Only	11.2%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Only	0.0%
Hispanic Only*	18.7%
Other Race	1.4%

Workshop Ethnicity Breakdown



Future Opportunities

SAVE THE HARBOR
SAVE THE BAY

September 23rd, 24th All
Region Climate Workshops



2024 Annual Hearing
with MBC and DCR



dcr
Massachusetts



Beach Stewardship



Carson Beach - May



Malibu Beach - September

Water Quality Report Card

Beach	Six-year average safety rating (2018-2023)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Pleasure Bay	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
City Point	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%
Nantasket	98%	98%	94%	100%	98%	97%	100%
M Street	97%	100%	94%	94%	94%	100%	100%
Carson	96%	91%	100%	92%	100%	100%	93%
Revere	94%	89%	98%	94%	100%	87%	98%
Short	93%	94%	94%	89%	94%	88%	100%
Constitution	93%	88%	97%	91%	98%	90%	94%
Winthrop	92%	82%	94%	100%	100%	78%	100%
Nahant	88%	80%	81%	77%	96%	93%	100%
Wollaston	87%	88%	88%	82%	85%	87%	93%
Savin Hill	85%	80%	94%	70%	89%	79%	100%
Malibu	85%	76%	95%	73%	91%	83%	91%
Tenean	75%	73%	89%	63%	79%	67%	78%
King's	70%	55%	74%	68%	70%	79%	75%
All Beaches (avg.)	90%	85%	93%	86%	93%	89%	95%

Water Quality Report Card

- Water quality remained strong for majority of beaches even with historic rain
- Rainfall highlighted problem areas on Kings and Tenean
- Water Quality Report Card Event with Democratic Whip Katherine Clark on June 10th on Revere Beach



SAVE THE HARBOR

SAVE THE BAY

Improve water quality at King's Beach in Lynn

The Daily Item

Itemlive.com

Tréa Lavery | July 5, 2021

Report says Swampscott's King's Beach often unsafe for swimming

**BOSTON
Herald**

July 5, 2021

But report points finger as King's Beach in Lynn and Swampscott stays polluted

The Boston Globe

Colin A. Young | July 13, 2021

Water quality report finds elevated bacteria at Boston-area beaches, though one group calls findings 'hyperbolic'

The Daily Item

July 31, 2021

Itemlive.com

King's Beach defies clean up

Lynn, Swampscott tackling sewage pollution

The Daily Item

Itemlive.com

BY ALLYSHA DUNNIGAN | December 3, 2021

**LEGISLATURE PUMPS \$5M INTO KING'S BEACH
CLEANUP**

July 5, 2021

LOCAL BEACHES GET AN A

But report points finger as King's Beach
in Lynn and Swampscott stays polluted

By MARIE SZANISZLO

South Boston beaches boast some of the cleanest water in the country after a four-decade-old federal court order to clean up Boston Harbor, according to an environmental report that pointed to the continuing need to clean up the water at King's Beach in Lynn and Swampscott.

Pleasure Bay, City Point and Carson beaches all scored 100%, as did Revere and Winthrop, according to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's annual Water Quality Report Card for the Metropolitan Beaches from Nahant to Nantasket, a report that used monitoring data from the 2020 beach season.

The beach safety scores were calculated as the percent of water samples that comply with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health single sample limit for bacteria, a way to evaluate seasonal beach water quality and potential impacts on public health.

Save the Harbor spokes-



man Bruce Berman attributed South Boston's high rankings to the more than \$5 billion rate payers in 43 cities and towns primarily inside Route 128 have paid since a 1980s federal court order to clean up the harbor.

The two beaches with the worst water quality were Tenean Beach in Dorchester, although it improved from 67% in 2019 to 79% last year, and King's Beach in Lynn and Swampscott. Those two towns were not included in the court order to clean up. The

water quality ratings there dropped from 79% in 2019 to 70% in 2020.

Overall, the water quality at Boston Harbor's regional beaches managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation improved from 89% in 2019 to 93% last year, according to Save the Harbor's report. The six-year average safety rating for the beaches also was 93%.

"While we are delighted with the progress that we have made on most of the region's public beaches, we are disappointed to report



JIM SEICHAUD PHOTOS / BOSTON HERALD

SEWAGE WATER ON THE BEACH: Chris Mancini, Save the Harbor's executive director, is seen next to the combined streams of sewage water from Lynn and Swampscott, also seen at left, as it flows onto King's Beach and into the ocean in Lynn on Sunday.

that Tenean Beach in Dorchester and King's Beach in Lynn and Swampscott were still unsafe for swimming more than one out of every five days in 2020," said Chris Mancini, the group's executive director.

"We are particularly concerned about the situation at King's Beach, where filthy, bacteria-laden discharges from both Lynn and

Swampscott at Stacey Brook continue to threaten public health."

Lynn Mayor Tom McGee acknowledged that water quality at King's Beach has been a persistent problem and said he hopes to solve it by using some of a \$20 million bond bill signed by former Gov. Deval Patrick and reauthorized Gov. Charlie Baker.

The report also raises concerns about the accuracy of the beach flagging and posting protocols that occur when bacteria testing triggers swimming advisories.

The delay between testing and the availability of lab results means that postings are always a day late as beach managers wait up to 36 hours for results, said Berman.

The Daily Item

itemlive.com

BY ALLYSHA DUNNIGAN | December 3, 2021

LEGISLATURE PUMPS \$5M INTO KING'S BEACH CLEANUP



Ducks and seagulls take flight as a couple walks along King's Beach in Swampscott. (Spenser Hasak)

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Legislature passed a \$4 billion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) relief package on Friday, which includes more than \$5 million to improve water quality at King's Beach in Lynn and Swampscott.

The relief package invests a total of \$8.17 million into resources in Lynn, Marblehead, Revere, Saugus and Swampscott in areas including economic recovery, workforce development, healthcare and education.

For the past 10 years, King's Beach has been ranked one of the worst beaches for water quality in the state, according to the Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's annual Metropolitan Beaches Water Quality Report Card.

State Sen. Brendan P. Crighton (D-Lynn), Rep. Lori A. Ehrlich (D-Marblehead), Rep. Daniel F. Cahill (D-Lynn), and Rep. Peter Capano (D-Lynn) worked together to secure the funding and the language that goes along with the funding for King's Beach.

The Daily Item

itemlive.com

BY ALENA KUZUB | December 6, 2021

COLLABORATION IS THE KEY AT KING'S BEACH



State Rep. Lori Ehrlich (Spenser R. Hasak)

LYNN — The \$5.3 million of funding secured for King's Beach in the American Rescue Plan Act is a result of close collaboration between state Rep. Lori Ehrlich (D-Marblehead) and Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn).

Ehrlich said that she and Crighton worked together writing amendments to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which was passed by the Massachusetts legislature on Dec. 3. They were both aimed at solving the funding part of the problem, Ehrlich said.

"Which is what usually holds up progress," said Ehrlich.

As a result, Ehrlich and Crighton were able to secure \$5.3 million to be shared between Lynn and Swampscott. Each community will receive \$2.5 million. Swampscott will receive

situation at King's Beach is the biggest environmental priority of the region. He views these funds as proof that North Shore communities are starting to amplify their voices as a region.

Fitzgerald said the situation at King's Beach is not a town or city problem; it is a regional problem that needs to be tackled collectively, with strong cooperation between the local, state and federal government.

"This is the beginning of a long march," said Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald is hoping the extra \$5 million secured by the legislators in ARPA this time will help to strategize priorities for how both Lynn and Swampscott can work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and get the type of investments that will fix the situation.

He estimated that Swampscott will need to invest about \$20 million more in addition to the \$12 million spent since 2015 to repair the remainder of the town's sewer system that may influence water quality on King's Beach, which he expressed in a Sept. 23 letter to Kathleen A. Theoharides, secretary of energy and environmental affairs.

"We really need Congressman Moulton's support and support from the federal government's Water Resources Act to really get the significant funding to tackle these environmental needs," said Fitzgerald. "It is an incredible resource area and it is so important that this generation solves the problem."

Meanwhile, LWSC has been working with a private company, Environmental Partners, on updating its Illicit Discharge Detection



Set weather ▾

MASS LIVE

Subscribe



Sign in ▾

Boston

‘Better off flipping a coin’: Beach advocacy organization wants state review of water quality flagging accuracy for ocean beaches

Published: Jul. 30, 2022, 11:35 a.m.

SAVE THE HARBOR

SAVE THE BAY

No Easy Fix: Swampscott To Spend Millions To Help Fix Sewer Pipes, Clean Beaches

A 90-minute presentation detailed the capital plans to fix sewer pipes to clean water at Fisherman's and King's beaches.



Scott Souza, Patch Staff

Posted Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 4:01 pm ET



itemlive

By Paul Haloran | July 19, 2024

King's Beach cleanup goes high tech



Hundreds try to beat the heat in the sand of King's Beach. (Emma Fringuelli)

SAVE THE HARBOR

SAVE THE BAY

KINGS BEACH BEACHES SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Judy Pederson, Chair, MIT Sea Grant

Members: Lynn, Swampscott, EEA, DCR, DPH, EPA, BWSC,
BWSC, MWRA, UMASS, Northeastern, Harvard, MIT



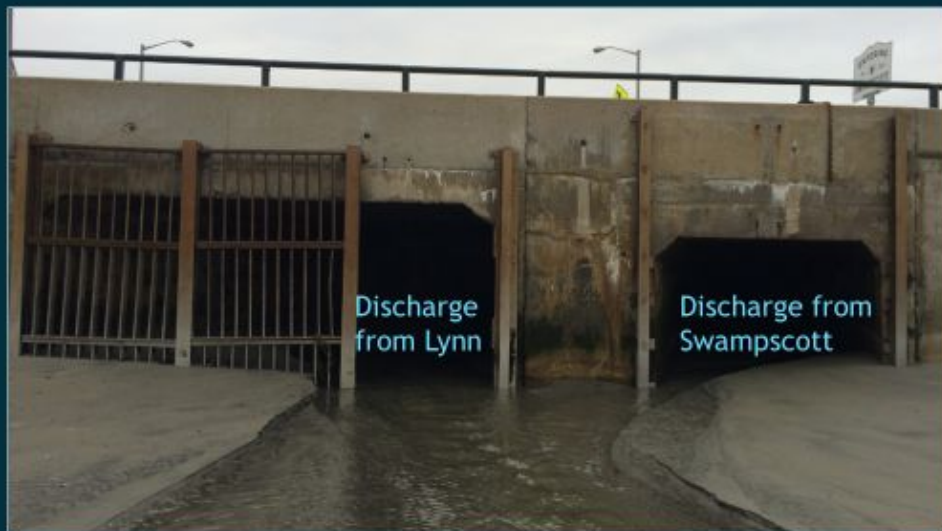
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
Save the Harbor/Save the Bay

KINGS BEACH SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION



- ▣ Lynn discharges stormwater into Eastern Ave. drain to Stacey's Brook outfall, plus one CSO that discharges to this drain
- ▣ Swampscott discharges stormwater into Stacey's Brook from neighborhoods upstream, underdrains

STACEY'S BROOK OUTFALL



The Stacey Brook outfall consists of two 10' x 10' box culverts that discharge onto Kings Beach at the boundary of Lynn and Swampscott. The southern culvert discharges flow from Lynn's small MS4; northern culvert discharges stormwater from Swampscott's small MS4 as well as Stacey Brook flow.

KINGS BEACH AT LOW TIDE



SAVE THE HARBOR

SAVE THE BAY

ACASAK Aquatic Monitoring Technologies

FLOW MONITORING

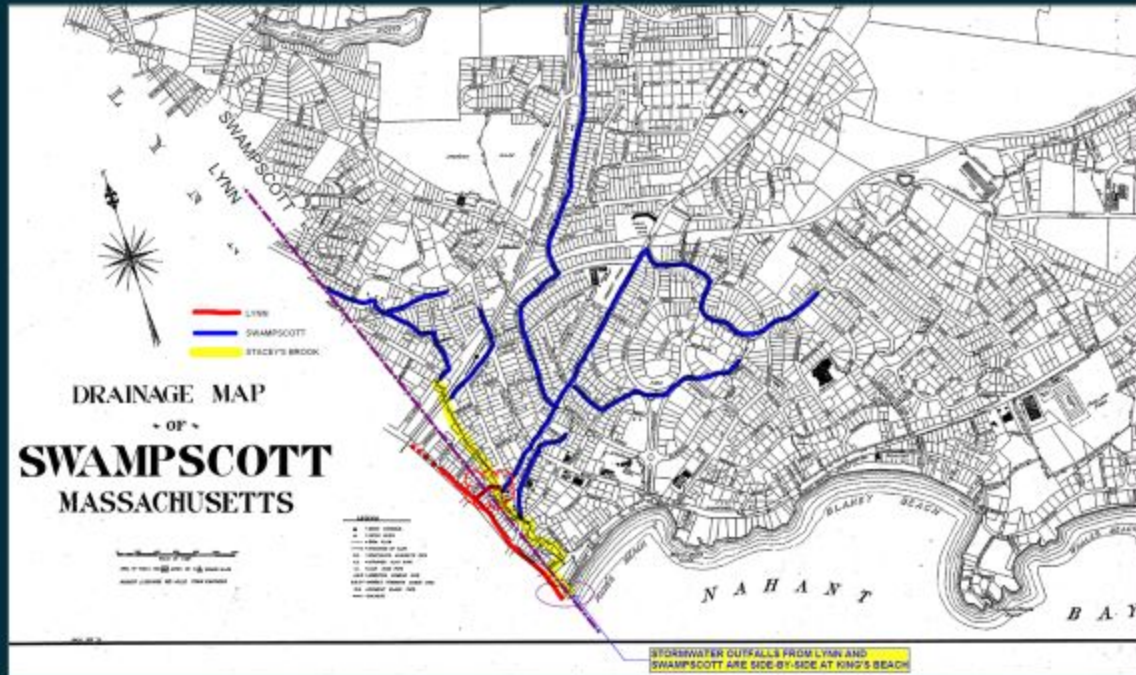


COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE CONTAMINATION SOURCES

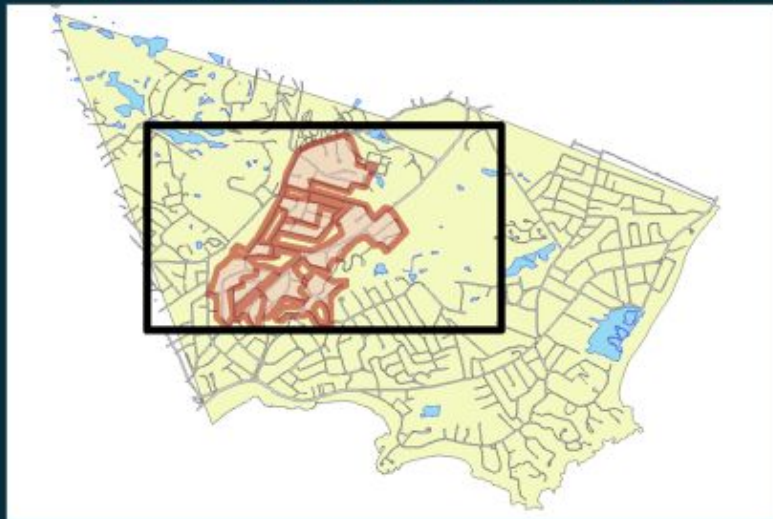
- ▣ As part of administrative actions by DEP and EPA, Swampscott and Lynn initiated illicit discharge detection and elimination efforts in the area of Stacey's Brook.
- ▣ Investigations provide information on upstream sources of contamination in wet and dry weather, and put a priority on identifying and eliminating likely sanitary sources.
- ▣ Areas identified to target for repair and/or rehabilitation.

SAVE THE HARBOR

SAVE THE BAY

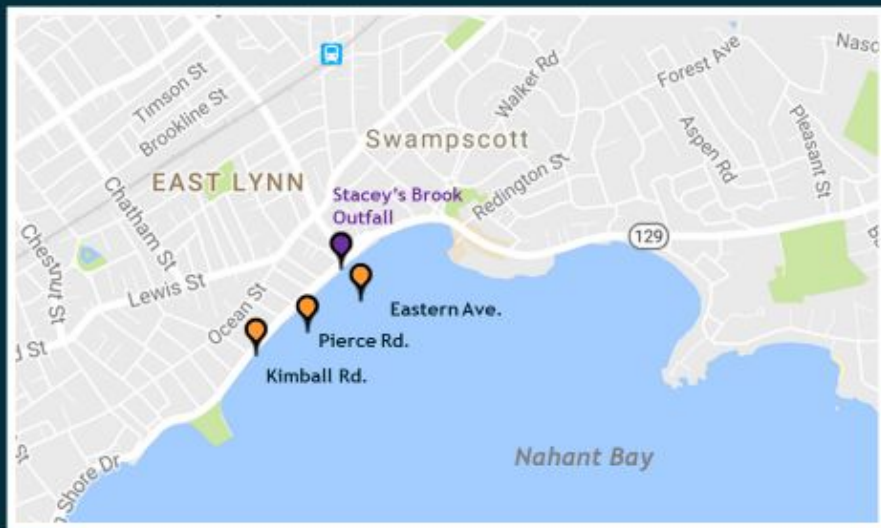


SWAMPSCOTT SEWER REHABILITATION PHASE I



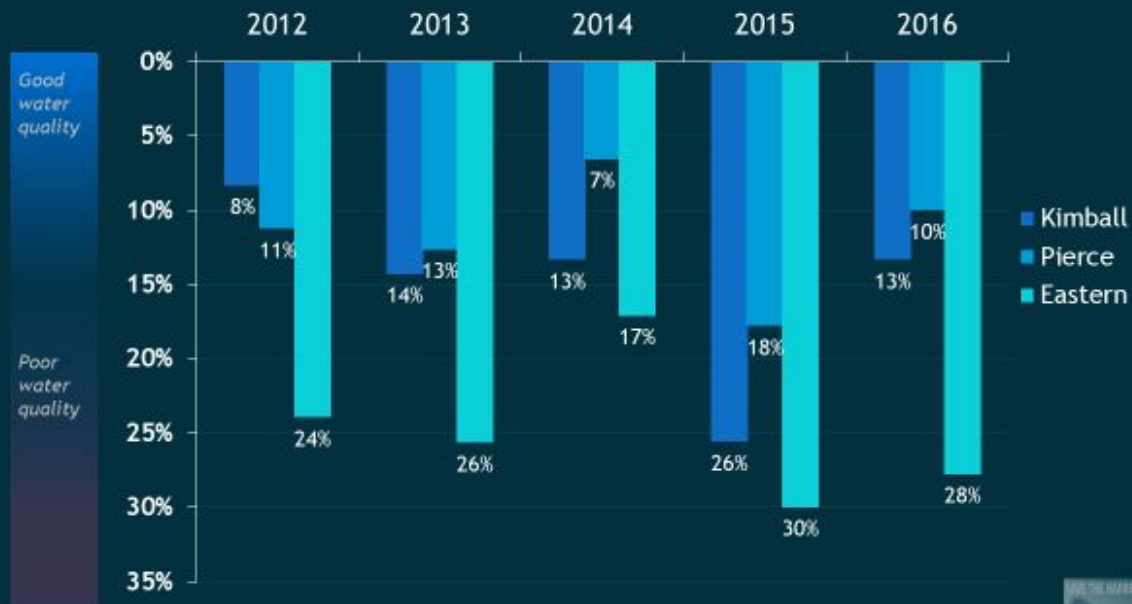
\$11 million sewer rehabilitation including relining pipe, replacing sewer mains and service laterals, manhole rehabilitation and spot repairs, and replacing residential sewer laterals in this area.

KINGS BEACH HISTORICAL WATER QUALITY

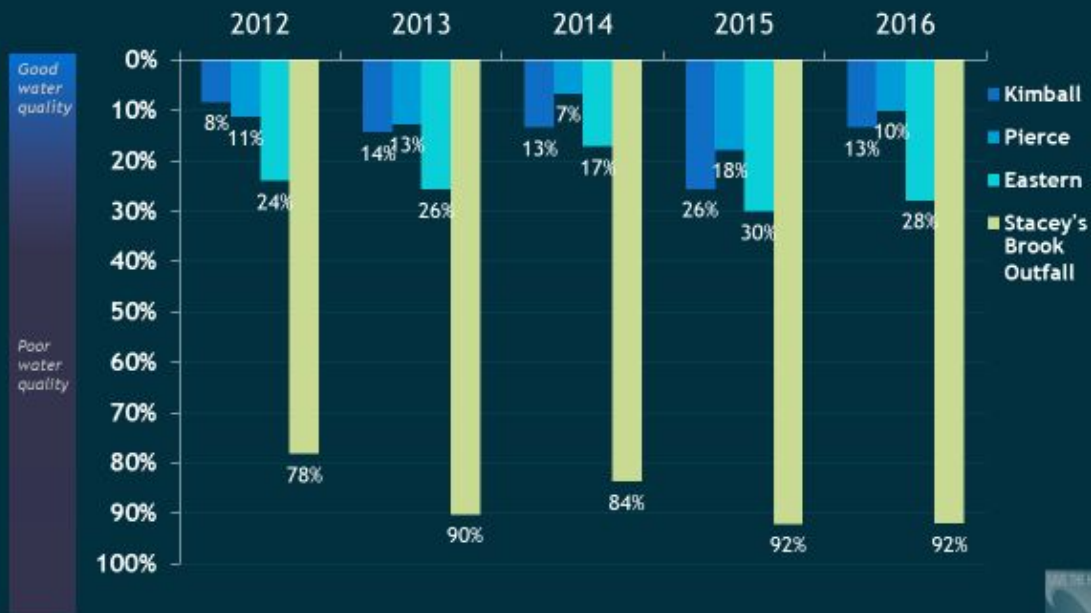


Weekly DCR beach sampling locations

PERCENT OF BACTERIA SAMPLES FAILING TO MEET SWIMMING LIMITS



PERCENT OF BACTERIA SAMPLES FAILING TO MEET SWIMMING LIMITS



WEATHER CONDITIONS WET VS DRY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Kimball Rd.



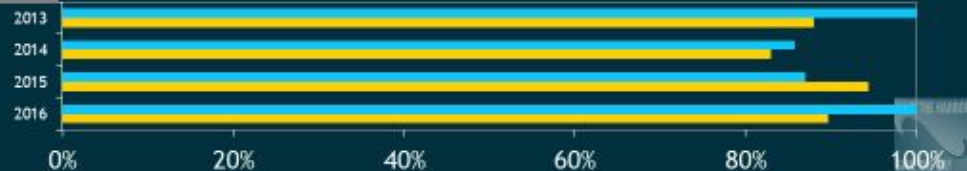
Pierce Rd.



Eastern Ave.



Stacey's Br. Outfall



PUBLIC HEALTH, AESTHETICS AND BEACH USABILITY

Other water quality considerations beyond
bacterial water quality:

- ▣ Odors, algae, beach wrack
- ▣ Signage, communication, translation



Alternative 1 – Source Elimination

Both communities are committed to source elimination, but do not support this as a standalone alternative.

Swampscott

- Ongoing sewer rehabilitation since 2017.
- 3 phases completed and new phase beginning next year
- Approximate \$17.5M anticipated to completely rehab sewers that influence WQ at King's Beach

Lynn

- Drainage investigations started in 2022 using IDDE approach to scope out extent of issue





King's Beach and Water Quality

Town and City continue to explore parallel solutions to IDDE work to open beach in short term.

Three primary candidates are:

- 1-mile outfall extension – 6-10 year timeline, \$50million
- UV Disinfection – 3-4 year timeline, \$25 million
- Ozone-based disinfection – 90 day timeline, \$10-15 million

May 15th meeting with Rep. Moulton Chief of Staff laid out timeline for Community Project Funding \$5-\$10 million for parallel solution (such as ozone disinfection or outfall extension). Swampscott and Lynn need to agree on the strategy for this by MARCH 2025 - Follow up meeting also including Sen. Warren's office.

May 22nd Advanced Oxidation Demonstration on Kings Beach – lab results successful

May 22nd Steering Committee Reconvening – Rep. Moulton's office has officially joined

May 23rd Swampscott Town Meeting approved \$3.5 million in funds to address King's Beach Watershed IDDE and sewer repair, plus improvements to Fisherman's Beach

August - DEP met with OSU on data surrounding Ozone disinfection, following up with recommendations for additional data references before approaching a permitting process

Next steps:

- Follow up meeting with OSU, NOAA, EPA Region 4, and Congressional Staff
- DEP analysis of past application data to determine if it is safe and permissible



Future Steps and Priorities with DCR

Beach Testing and Flagging System

- **Explore new and emerging testing technologies (e.g. Fluidion)**
 - **10-14 hour results in Merrimack and Seine**
- **Use a rainfall forecasting model**
- **Eliminate the flags on cleaner beaches**
- **Use “common sense” rainfall based preventative closures**

Work with DEP to change geomean-based system

Advocate for increased funding for DCR deferred maintenance, staffing and capital improvements

Thank you!

www.savetheharbor.org
mancini@savetheharbor.org



@alisonmillerart