

**Beach Buddies and Beach Bums: Testing the Waters 2006**  
**NRDC's Annual Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches**

2006 BEACH BUDDIES	LOCATION	BEACHWATER QUALITY INITIATIVES
<p>Criteria: No samples taken during the 2005 beach season exceeded the BEACH Act daily maximum standard, monitoring occurs at least once a week, and at least 75 percent of the total number of samples taken during the 2005 beach season have monitoring data.</p>		
<p><b>Walnut Beach</b></p>	<p>Milford, Connecticut</p>	<p>Milford, a 2003 Beach Buddy, has a solid record of initiatives to maintain the water quality of its beaches, including efforts to improve stormwater systems and increase public awareness. A number of local businesses trap and collect rainwater on their roofs to limit stormwater discharges into the Atlantic Ocean. The city has enacted buffer zoning legislation to address habitat loss and water quality degradation. For the past 12 years, the Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition has held the Freedom Lawn Contest, recognizing local residents who show their commitment to protecting local water quality by growing beautiful lawns and gardens without the use of chemicals, pesticides or fertilizers.</p>
<p><b>Cocoa Beach-Minuteman Causeway</b>  <b>Cocoa Beach Pier</b>  <b>Indialantic Boardwalk (now James H. Nance Park)</b>  <b>Jetty Park</b>  <b>Paradise Beach (now Howard E. Futch Memorial Park)</b>  <b>Patrick Air Force Base North</b>  <b>Pelican Beach Park</b>  <b>Playalinda Beach at Canaveral National Seashore</b>  <b>Sebastian Inlet North</b>  <b>Spessard Holland Beach Park North</b></p>	<p>Brevard County, Florida</p>	<p>Brevard County's Chain of Lakes Regional Stormwater Facility has completed the first phase of its project to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff on surface waters. The county constructed a series of interconnected wet detention ponds that treat stormwater before it is discharged into the Indian River Lagoon. Brevard County has come a long way since 2002, when it was home to 34 Beach Bums.</p>
<p><b>Tybee Island (Middle Beach)</b>  <b>Tybee Island (North Beach)</b></p>	<p>Tybee Island, Georgia</p>	<p>Tybee Island removed an old storm drain outfall from the public beach, replacing and relocating the outfall and drainpipe into a system of structures that help prevent sand erosion. In 2005, the city began working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce the amount of pollution from pavement runoff going into the Atlantic Ocean. The local code encourages stormwater management by requiring pervious driveways and a stormwater permit for any land-disturbing activity regardless of size or distance from the water.</p>

<b>Kemil Beach at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore</b> <b>Lakeview Beach</b>	Porter County, Indiana	These two Porter County beaches are on opposite sides of Derby Ditch watershed, one of the most bacteria-contaminated streams discharging into Lake Michigan from northwest Indiana. Indiana University’s Great Marsh Restoration Project has helped significantly reduce E. coli contamination at these beaches. The project monitored the levels of bacteria in water that discharged into Lake Michigan to evaluate the effects of marsh restoration on water quality.
<b>Pemaquid Beach</b>	Bristol, Maine	The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has made a concerted effort to reduce commercial and residential waste discharges into the Atlantic Ocean near Pemaquid Beach. The Overboard Discharge Elimination Program provides grants to homeowners to either hook up their sewage lines to a waste treatment plant or build septic systems. Bristol has provided wastewater treatment to additional homes in an effort to improve water quality.
<b>Burtchville Township Park</b> <b>Chrysler Park Beach</b> <b>Conger-Lighthouse Beach</b> <b>Holland Road Beach</b> <b>Lakeport State Campground</b> <b>Lakeport State Park</b> <b>Lakeside Beach</b> <b>Marine City Beach</b> <b>Marine City Diving Area</b>	St. Clair County, Michigan	As part of the county’s Phase II stormwater permit process, more than \$1 million in local, state and federal grants has been committed to develop and implement an illicit discharge elimination program to keep sewage out of Lake Huron and St. Clair River beaches.
<b>Gislason Beach</b> <b>Haines Park Beach</b> <b>Percy Johnson Memorial Park Beach</b> <b>Rock Island State Park Beach</b> <b>Sand Dune Beach</b> <b>School House Beach</b> <b>Whitefish Bay Boat Launch Beach</b>	Door County, Wisconsin	Door County was a 2005 Beach Buddy and continues to identify sources of contamination at all 28 of its monitored Lake Michigan beaches. It received a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Zone Management Program for the 2006 beach season to develop best management recommendations for each monitored beach—and an incentive cost-share program for 11 beaches—to obtain stormwater reduction engineer plans. The county also protected beach water quality by preventing new pollution sources from being sited near a beach.

2006 BEACH BUMS	LOCATION	BEACHWATER QUALITY PROBLEMS
<p>Criteria: 50 percent or more of samples taken at any monitoring station on the beach during the 2005 beach season exceeded the BEACH Act daily maximum standard and at least five samples taken during the 2005 beach season have monitoring data. (Note: In California, only beaches exceeding the standards of the state's beachwater monitoring law, AB411, were included in the national Beach Bums list.)</p>		
<p><b>Will Rogers State Beach (Santa Monica Canyon)</b></p>	<p>Los Angeles County, California</p>	<p>This section of Will Rogers State Beach, known as Santa Monica Canyon, lies just north of the city of Santa Monica near Palisades Park. Of the 248 samples taken at this popular Southern California beach, Santa Monica Canyon exceeded California's public health standards 77 percent of the time.</p>
<p><b>Aliso Beach</b></p>	<p>Orange County, California</p>	<p>Aliso Beach borders a marine life refuge and has sandy beaches, rocky promontories, and scenic coastal foothills. Aliso Creek winds down from the Laguna foothills onto the beach. Samples collected from the beach at the mouth of the creek exceeded California's beach protection standards 68 percent of the time, but exceedance rates decreased at testing locations further away from the creek along the beach.</p>
<p><b>Crystal Cove State Park</b></p>	<p>Orange County, California</p>	<p>Crystal Cove is a popular summer beach, but samples taken at two monitoring stations there exceeded California's public health standards more than half the time. The two stations are located where Pelican Point Creek and El Morro Creek meet the ocean. Pelican Point Creek had an exceedance rate of 96 percent and El Morro Creek had an exceedance rate of 92 percent.</p>
<p><b>Doheny State Beach</b></p>	<p>Orange County, California</p>	<p>Located just south of Dana Point Harbor and at the mouth of San Juan Creek, Doheny State Beach features a popular camp site, picnic facilities and volleyball courts. It attracts surfers and fishermen. Several sites along Doheny State Beach exceeded California's public health standards year round. The most polluted locations were San Juan Creek Mouth, with an exceedance rate of 93 percent; San Juan Creek North, with an exceedance rate of 79 percent; and North Beach Creek, with an exceedance rate of 69 percent.</p>
<p><b>Newport Bay (Santa Ana Delhi)</b></p>	<p>Orange County, California</p>	<p>Families and other visitors come to Newport Bay for its sandy beaches and calm surf. Samples collected from the bay, however, showed California health standards exceedances at two sites: Newport Bay Tributaries at Santa Ana Delhi, with a 96 percent exceedance rate; and at Back Bay Drain Pipe, with a 94 percent exceedance rate. Testing locations at Newport Bay further away from the Santa Ana Delhi drain reported lower exceedance rates.</p>
<p><b>Newport Beach (Buck Gully)</b></p>	<p>Orange County, California</p>	<p>Newport Beach is one of the most popular beaches in Orange County, attracting body surfers from across the region. Buck Gully is at Newport Beach Creek, west of Highway 73. Buck Gully was plagued with an exceedance rate of 96 percent for California's indicator bacteria. Testing locations along Newport Beach that were further away from Buck Gully reported lower exceedance rates.</p>
<p><b>Salt Creek Beach Park</b></p>	<p>Orange County, California</p>	<p>Salt Creek Beach Park is a picturesque sandy beach and one of Orange County's most popular surfing spots. Eighty-four percent of the samples taken at this public beach exceeded California's public health standards for beach water quality. Testing locations further away from the mouth of Salt Creek showed lower exceedance rates.</p>
<p><b>Imperial Beach</b></p>	<p>San Diego County, California</p>	<p>Imperial Beach is one of the most popular surfing beaches in San Diego. Samples collected from Cortez Avenue exceeded California's beachwater quality standards 53 percent of the time, the highest rate of any site at this beach. Adjacent sites, such as Palm Avenue, also showed high exceedance rates.</p>

<b>Rincon Creek</b>	Ventura County, California	Rincon is a popular surfing spot that forms the boundary between Santa Barbara and Ventura County. Rincon Creek empties into the sea at Rincon Point, just east of the city of Carpinteria. Dry and wet season samples exceeded California's public health standards 97 percent of the time.
<b>Shired Island</b>	Dixie County, Florida	Authorities have failed to perform any bacterial source tracking at Shired Island despite a 56 percent exceedance rate. In 2005, the beach's Gulf of Mexico waters were contaminated by red tides from October through the end of the year.
<b>Kings Ferry</b>	Chatham County, Georgia	Kings Ferry consists of a picnic area, fishing camp and boat launch on the Atlantic Ocean. Its beach is under a permanent swimming advisory. Sixty percent of the samples taken at the beach exceeded national beachwater quality standards.
<b>North Point Marina</b>	Lake County, Illinois	North Point is the largest self-contained marina in the United States, with nearly 1,500 slips, and was the site of the 2005 National Marina Day last August. The beach was closed due to high bacteria counts from August 12 through September 4. A landfill within 10 miles of the beach attracts the 500 to 1,000 gulls that create a major source of pollution at this Lake Michigan beach. There was a 56 percent exceedance rate for the entire 2005 beach season.
<b>Bogue Falaya Park</b>	Covington, Louisiana	Bogue Falaya Park is in the rapidly developing city of Covington, which has multiple small wastewater facilities and is surrounded by subdivisions that do not have sewage collection systems. The park is on Lake Pontchartrain at the mouth of the Bogue Falaya River. Seventy-seven percent of samples taken before Hurricane Katrina exceeded national standards for water quality.
<b>Bay Country Campground and Beach Ferry Park Rock Hall Beach</b>	Rock Hall, Maryland	Bay Country Campground and Beach, Ferry Park, and Rock Hall Beach, all on the Chesapeake Bay, exceeded the national health standards at least 50 percent of the time that samples were taken, and there are no plans to investigate the sources of the contamination.
<b>Cockle Cove Creek</b>	Chatham, Massachusetts	Cockle Cove Creek, on the Atlantic Ocean, has been closed to swimming for several years. A 2005 study failed to identify the sources of the contamination but recommended improving stormwater runoff controls along Route 28, full inspections of older septic systems on properties bordering the creek (11 of which were found to be cesspools), and further environmental analysis. Seventy-three percent of the samples taken at the creek exceeded national health standards.
<b>Sandy Beach</b>	Danvers, Massachusetts	There are six marinas, home port to nearly 1,100 boaters, on the four rivers in Danvers (Danvers River, Waters River, Crane River and Porter River). In July 2005, water samples taken at two locations on Sandy Beach showed high levels of bacteria. The source was human waste, and levels remained high enough to keep Sandy Beach closed through August. Fifty percent of the samples taken at Sandy Beach exceeded national health standards.
<b>Singing Bridge Beach</b>	Arenac County, Michigan	The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has failed to perform a sanitary survey at Singing Bridge Beach, located on Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay, despite requests by the Central Michigan District Health Department to do so. Fifty-four percent of the samples taken in the 2005 beach season found high bacterial counts.

<b>Clyde Avenue Boat Landing Beach</b>	West Duluth, Minnesota	Sewer overflows and sewer line breaks are the likely causes of elevated fecal coliform counts found 55 percent of the time at Clyde Avenue Boat Landing Beach. Naturally dark and stagnant water aggravates the problem.
<b>Scarborough State Beach</b>	Narragansett, Rhode Island	Samples collected at Burnside Pipe, Ocean Road Pipe and Black Point Pipe exceeded national health standards 55 percent, 76 percent and 80 percent of the time, respectively. All three locations are at stormwater pipes, and Ocean Road Pipe is in close proximity to a wastewater treatment plant. The 2005 Northeast Surfing Championships, held in the town of Narragansett, had to be postponed due to a pollution-induced beach closure. (Scarborough State Beach was Beach Buddy last year.)
<b>Pirateland-Lakewood Campground</b>	Myrtle Beach, South Carolina	Stormdrain pipes empty onto the Atlantic Ocean at Pirateland-Lakewood Campground's beach. Fifty-one percent of this beach's samples exceeded the national standards for water quality.

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, non-profit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has more than 1.2 million members and online activists nationwide served from offices in New York, Washington, Santa Monica and San Francisco. More information about NRDC is available through its Web site: [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).