

Wisconsin Beach Monitoring Program

An Overview

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Wisconsin Beach Program Timeline

- Fall 2001
 - Submitted Project Plan to EPA
 - Developmental Grant \$58,694
 - BEACH Act Workgroup invitation letters
- Spring 2002
 - Workgroup formed:
 - DNR, DHFS, State Parks, City & County Health Depts., Environmentalists, State Lab of Hygiene
 - Additional Grant for development \$228,396
 - \$287, 970 for program development

Wisconsin Beach Program Timeline

- Program Development
 - Hired 3 LTEs
 - GIS Specialist - Geo-locate beaches/miles
 - Sociologist - Public need assessment
 - Biologist - Evaluate health risk
 - Developed Lab Training program
 - Expanded Beach Health Website/Database
 - Purchased lab equipment
 - Purchased signs

Wisconsin Beach Program Timeline

- Summer 2003
 - Implementation Grant \$225,670
 - ~\$280,000 for pilot implementation

2003 Beach Program

- Located 190 beaches
- Ranked High, Medium or Low
- 102 beaches consistently monitored
- Beach Health Website/Database
 - Local data stewards
 - Daily updates
 - Primary mode of data management
 - A primary mode of public notification

Public Input

- 8 Public Informational Meetings, 2002-2003
 - Design Beach Signs
 - Identity & Classification of beaches
 - Advisory & Closure Criteria
 - Sampling & Monitoring Plan
- Surveys
 - 2002: program development
 - 2003: program evaluation
 - interviewed total of 232 beach visitors; 97% response rate

Beach Closure Sign

**STOP
CLOSED**



***Based on recent monitoring for E. coli bacteria
Serious Risk of illness may be present***

**THIS BEACH IS CLOSED
TO SWIMMING**

**SPECIFIC CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Beach Advisory Sign

WARNING WATER QUALITY TODAY IS POOR

Based on recent monitoring for E. coli bacteria

Potential Sources of Pollution

- Stormwater run-off
- Storm & combined sewers
- Wild animal & pet waste
- Illegal discharge of boat sewage
- Wastewater treatment plant overflows



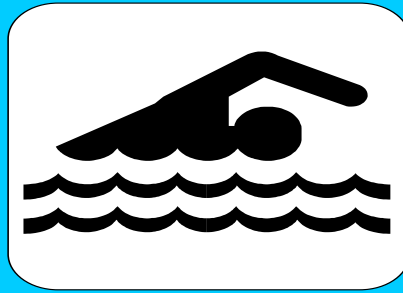
What Can I Do to Reduce Pollution?

- Pick up litter, especially diapers
- Bag pet waste and deposit in waste containers
- Do not feed gulls and waterfowl

SPECIFIC CONTACT INFORMATION GOES HERE

Beach Open Sign

**WATER QUALITY
TODAY IS**



GOOD

BASED ON RECENT MONITORING FOR *E. coli* BACTERIA

CONTACT INFORMATION

What Have We Learned So Far?

- The importance of partnerships
 - Tap into expertise for program design
 - Diverse representation is good!
 - Work with wide range of stakeholders
 - Don't re-invent the wheel: build on successes
- The importance of listening
 - Listen to the public!!
 - Local knowledge: Listen to and learn from local authorities