2025 LONG ISLAND SOUND BEACH REPORT

BASED ON DATA FROM 2022-2024

Glen Island Park
New Rochelle, New York

Save the Sound®

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CONTENTS

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Save the Sound is a member-supported environmental action organization. Our mission is to protect and improve the water and air quality and preserve the lands of the Long Island Sound region in New York and Connecticut. We use scientific and legal expertise and advocacy to bring people and communities together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

More information on Save the Sound and our activities related to improving water quality in Long Island Sound can be found at www.SavetheSound.org.

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Data Sources

This report was created using the water quality monitoring data retrieved from the federal Water Quality Portal, which are collected by the departments of health that conduct the beach monitoring. Precipitation data are from The Weather Company, an IBM Business, History on Demand dataset.

ABOUT THE REPORT

Along its 600 miles of coastline, Long Island Sound is home to more than 200 public and private beaches enjoyed by millions of residents and visitors every year. The 2025 Long Island Sound Beach Report provides a unique science- and data-driven analysis of their recent water quality history.

The grades in our fourth biennial Beach Report represent each individual beach's performance as measured against state criteria for safe swimming. Every week during swimming season, local beach monitors—deployed in most places by health departments—collect water samples to be analyzed for levels of fecal indicator bacteria. Testing is mandated by the recreational swimming beach permits required of public beach operators, as well as for private beaches that participate in the federally funded monitoring and reporting program. Many beaches are tested more frequently. All beaches that monitor in accordance with state law and the federal Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act and report the results of at least nine samples during the swimming season receive a grade in our Beach Report.

The data are uploaded to the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Exchange database and retrievable through the Water Quality Portal. You can find the results of every published test for every Sound beach dating back to 2003 at www.SoundHealthExplorer.org/swimmable/.

We assign our Beach Grades to these data using methodology developed by staff scientists and advisors. We combine the EPA data with rainfall data to understand how wet and dry weather conditions influence water quality at individual beaches. Tracking fluctuations in water quality related to rainfall provides insights into possible pollution sources, which can then be investigated, confirmed, and addressed.

That's the primary purpose for the Beach Report. It's not an alert system to notify beachgoers of current conditions at a beach they may be headed to (check with your local beach managers for that information.) Instead, these grades evaluate a beach's water quality history, painting a picture of how safe the water has been for swimming, under wet and dry conditions. The Beach Report won't help you decide whether to go in the water today, but we hope it will identify potential problem areas and inform conversations between residents, local officials, and interested organizations about solutions that will improve and maintain water quality at our beaches for the future.

Southport Beach — Southport, Connecticut

WET WEATHER IMPACTS
ON WATER QUALITY

We've said it before: when it rains, it's poor.

Many Long Island Sound beaches tend to experience a temporary decline in water quality after a rain event. Stormwater runoff picks up fecal contamination and other pollutants, flows into streams and rivers, and eventually reaches the Sound, or it runs directly into our coastal waters. Either way, water quality suffers.

That's why you can see beaches preemptively closed for a day or more after a rainstorm. It could be a beautiful day without a cloud in the sky, but the water quality at the beach may not have had enough time to recover from the previous day's rain and return to meeting the state-established safe swimming criteria.

A sample collected when a quarter-inch of rain or more has fallen in the preceding 48 hours is considered a wet weather sample. Overall rainfall totals are used in determining how long a preemptive closure will remain in place after wet weather. Smaller storms actually might deliver a more concentrated slug of bacteria pollution to coastal waters than severe storms do. The first flush of rain—regardless of how much follows—can dislodge waste built up on hardened surfaces and in storm drains and carry it into waters off a nearby beach, also picking up wildlife waste and other pollutants along the way. Once that first blast of polluted water is in the Sound, additional rain may dilute the contamination and help push it out toward the open Sound.

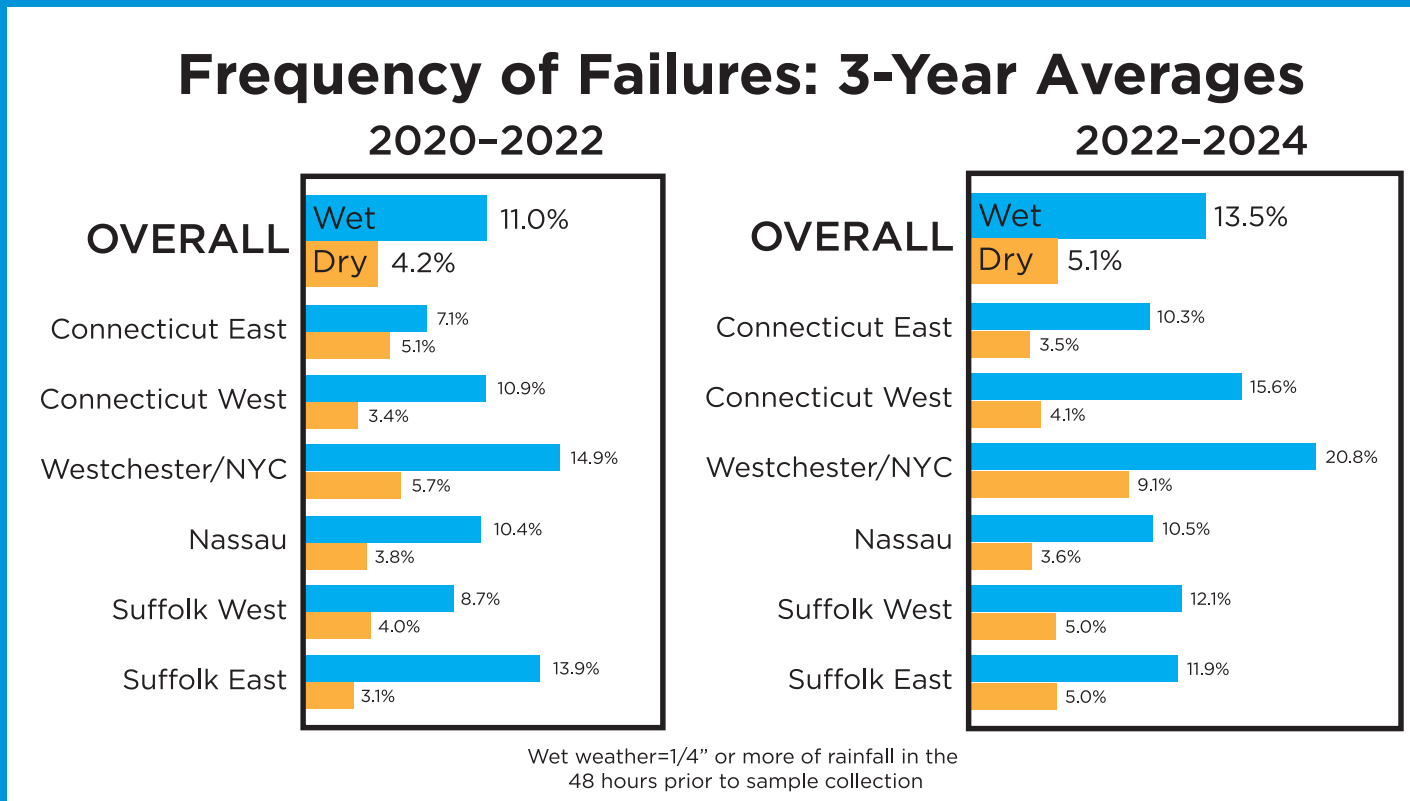


FIGURE 1. THIS FIGURE SHOWS THE PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES THAT FAILED TO MEET STATE SWIMMING CRITERIA, DIVIDED INTO WET WEATHER SAMPLES AND DRY WEATHER SAMPLES. ON THE LEFT ARE THE THREE-YEAR TRENDS FROM THE PREVIOUS BEACH REPORT (2020–2022); ON THE RIGHT ARE THE THREE-YEAR TRENDS FROM THE DATA IN THIS BEACH REPORT (2022–2024).

Lighthouse Point Beach
— New Haven, Connecticut

There are other factors, including where a beach is located. If a beach is fortunate enough to be situated on a coastline, where the water flushes with the open Sound, it may rebound more quickly than a beach inside a bay, where more moderate tidal flushing could be less helpful in dispersing contamination. Water quality at beaches in more developed areas, surrounded by large areas of impervious surfaces also tend to be impacted more by storms and may need longer recovery periods.

Still, wet weather samples fail more frequently—often more than twice as frequently—as samples collected in dry weather conditions.

Figure 1 shows the overall failure rates for six regions around Long Island Sound averaged over a three-year period. Our 2025 Beach Report includes data from 2022–2024; those failure rates can be easily compared side-by-side with the data from 2020–2022. As you can see, wet weather samples around the Sound failed 13.5% of the time, up from 11.0% in 2020–2022.

Over the last three swimming seasons, wet weather fails jumped in part due to the significant increase in failure rate in the westernmost region of the Sound that combines Westchester County and New York City: 14.9% in 2020–2022, 20.8% in 2022–2024. That wet weather failure rate is the highest we've reported in any region in any of our Beach Reports, dating back to the three-year period 2016–2018. Wet failure rates in other regions were up, too. Connecticut West jumped from 10.9% to 15.6%, Suffolk County West from 8.7% to 12.1%, and Connecticut East from 7.1% to 10.3%.

Perhaps this could be attributed to the amount of rainfall we've seen over the last three years. A total of 22 inches fell around the region in 2024, the second-highest since we began tracking that data in 2009. We averaged 18.3 inches over the last three years, which matches the highest three-year total since 2011–2013. Annual rainfall totals are expected to continue increasing, as is the frequency and intensity of severe storms, a consequence of climate change that will impact water quality around the region.

HIGHEST SCORING
PUBLIC SWIMMING BEACHES

We all have our own notions of what makes a beach great. For some, all we care about is the softness of the sand under our beach towels. Others are just looking for a place to watch the setting sun dance on the water at the end of the day.

But such subjectivity has no bearing on the lists below. Beaches earn their way onto these lists by maintaining the highest water quality grades over the last three swimming seasons (2022 through 2024).

You'll find public beaches of all shapes and sizes, representing locations around the Sound. In New York, there are grade-A options ranging from a three-beach stretch in Southold on the North Fork of Long Island to a trio of Nassau County beaches between Lattingtown and Oyster Bay. Connecticut's highest-scoring beaches can all be found from Madison to the southeasternmost corner of the state.

Among those is Westbrook Town Beach, the only beach on Long Island Sound with a 10-year streak of A+ grades. None of the 149 water samples taken at Westbrook since 2015 failed to meet the state's safe-swimming standards.

HIGHEST SCORING BEACHES IN CONNECTICUT: 2022-2024

Beach Name	Town	County	3YR GRADE
Eastern Point Beach	Groton	New London	A+
East Wharf Beach	Madison	New Haven	A+
West Wharf Beach	Madison	New Haven	A+
Surf Club Beach	Madison	New Haven	A+
Westbrook Town Beach	Westbrook	Middlesex	A+
Ocean Beach Park	New London	New London	A+
Hammonasset Beach St. Park	Madison	New Haven	A+
duBois Beach	Stonington	New London	A+
Noank Dock	Groton	New London	A
White Sands Beach	Old Lyme	New London	A

HIGHEST SCORING BEACHES IN NEW YORK: 2022-2024

Beach Name	Town	County	3YR GRADE
Kenney's Beach	Southold	Suffolk	A+
McCabe's Beach	Southold	Suffolk	A+
Reeves Beach	Riverhead	Suffolk	A+
Ransom Beach	Bayville	Nassau	A+
Southold Beach	Southold	Suffolk	A
The Creek Beach	Lattingtown	Nassau	A
Gold Star Battalion Beach	Huntington	Suffolk	A
Orient Beach State Park	Orient	Suffolk	A
Port Jefferson Beach - West	Port Jefferson	Suffolk	A
Centre Island - Sound Beach	Oyster Bay	Nassau	A

WHAT A BAD GRADE MEANS

No one likes to get a bad grade. Still, it's the beaches that receive disappointing grades that actually stand to benefit the most from our Beach Report.

Our science-driven Beach Grades are derived from data gathered by local beach managers, who are required by state law and the federal Beaches Environmental Assessment for Coastal Health (BEACH) Act to monitor for *Enterococcus*, the fecal indicator bacteria genus used to determine whether the water quality at a given saltwater beach in New York or Connecticut is safe for swimming. The most common reason for beach closures is when Enterococci levels in water samples exceed the state-established criteria, exposing swimmers to pathogens that can cause a variety of symptoms and could result in illnesses of the upper respiratory tract, hepatitis, *Giardia* infection, to name a few, as well as minor skin eye, ear, nose, and throat irritations.

When a beach receives a poor grade, it might indicate there's a problem that needs to be found and remedied, or at minimum investigated. To understand what may be going on, take a look not just at the overall grade but the subcategories (explained on page 17). Are the bad grades connected to wet weather? If so, that suggests one set of potential solutions, which can be different from what might be considered if there are frequent or high-magnitude bacteria exceedances in dry conditions.

If you see your favorite beach's name on the list of lowest-scoring public beaches in the region, or if you see consistent yellow, orange, or red boxes in the grids of grades in the back half of the Beach Report, don't be alarmed. Consider it an opportunity to learn more about a potential problem your community might not have been aware of and a place to take action.

COMMON REASONS FOR BEACH CLOSURES

EXCEEDANCE: FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA LEVELS EXCEED STATE CRITERIA

PREDICTED EXCEEDANCE - MODEL: A MODEL BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS PREDICTS THAT WATER QUALITY IS POOR

PREDICTED EXCEEDANCE - RAINFALL: WATER QUALITY IS PREDICTED TO BE POOR BECAUSE OF RECENT HEAVY RAIN

HIGH WAVES: ROUGH CONDITIONS

TURBIDITY: CLOUDY WATER THAT COULD PREVENT LIFEGUARDS FROM BEING ABLE TO SEE SWIMMERS

NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY: LIFEGUARDS ARE UNAVAILABLE

COLD WATER: WATER TEMPERATURES ARE BELOW 50 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

LOWEST SCORING BEACHES IN THE REGION: 2022-2024

Beach Name	Town	County	3YR GRADE
Byram Park Beach	Greenwich, CT	Fairfield	D
Harbor Island Beach	Mamaroneck, NY	Westchester	D
Hudson Park	New Rochelle, NY	Westchester	C-
Seabluff Beach	West Haven, CT	New Haven	C-
Green Harbor Beach	New London, CT	New London	C
Sasco Beach	Fairfield, CT	Fairfield	C
Short Beach	Stratford, CT	Fairfield	C+
Rye Town Park - Oakland Beach	Rye, NY	Westchester	C+
Rye Playland Beach	Rye, NY	Westchester	C+
Beekman Beach	Oyster Bay, NY	Nassau	C+

KEEPING OUR BEACHES OPEN

For communities all around Long Island Sound, beaches are treasured spaces. We cherish them for the recreational opportunities they provide, whether you prefer swimming, paddling, boating, fishing, windsurfing, or just splashing around the shoreline. There's a reason "a day at the beach" has become a universal metaphor for enjoyable experiences. For so many of us, our beach is our happy place.

Sunken Meadow State Park — Kings Park, New York

Our beaches also serve as vital economic engines for our region. They are a massive draw for residents and visitors, generating crucial revenue for restaurants, shops, and hotels. Make no mistake: clean water is good for business.

Consider, then, the impact of beach closures.

We've had a lot of them. In 2023 and 2024, there were 1,348 possible beach days lost to closures at Long Island Sound beaches. That may seem like an impossibly large number, considering there are only 365 days in most years—and swimming seasons generally span the 101 days from the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Monday. So, let's explain the math.

There were 207 public and private Sound beaches listed in our 2023 Long Island Sound Beach Report. We compiled data for those beaches from the 2023 and 2024 swimming seasons on the Environmental Protection Agency's Beach Advisory and Closing Online Notification (BEACON) system. Every day at each beach counts as one potential beach day—a day when people could go to a beach. For 101 days a season, there are 207 chances to go to a Sound beach; over two swimming seasons, that makes a combined total of 41,814 possible beach days.

On August 18, 2023, Jacobs Beach in Guilford, CT, was preemptively closed because of rain. That was one beach day lost to potential beachgoers.

Seven weeks earlier, on July 15, eight Fairfield County beaches—every beach from Bell Island to Burying Hill but one—were preemptively closed because of rain. That's one calendar day, but eight beach days lost, one for each location closed. Sure, people could have gone to Sherwood Island State Park, which was open that day according to the BEACON system. But the opportunity to swim at those other beaches was lost. A lot of people lost out on the chance to swim at their local beach that one day.

Rain happens. Not much we can do about that.

But these closures are not confined to the day it rains. Too often, beaches are closed when it rains and remain closed for a day after the storm has passed, with health officials waiting for water quality to meet the state safe swimming criteria.

And none of this factors in the additional cumulative 2,653 beach days when swimming was allowed but under an advisory, either for contamination or rain. In total, 9.6% of all potential beach days in 2023 and 2024 saw either closures or advisories. That's too many missed opportunities for a day at the beach.

Our region is often challenged by unsafe levels of Enterococci in the water at swimming beaches. That, we *can* do something about. And we must.

In this Beach Report, we identify some of the common challenges facing water quality at beaches around the Sound. And we spotlight some of the important work being done to address those problems.

We hope you will use the information in this Beach Report and other reliable sources to urge your municipal leaders to do what they can to keep our beaches open, so that we all can enjoy as many swimming days as possible.

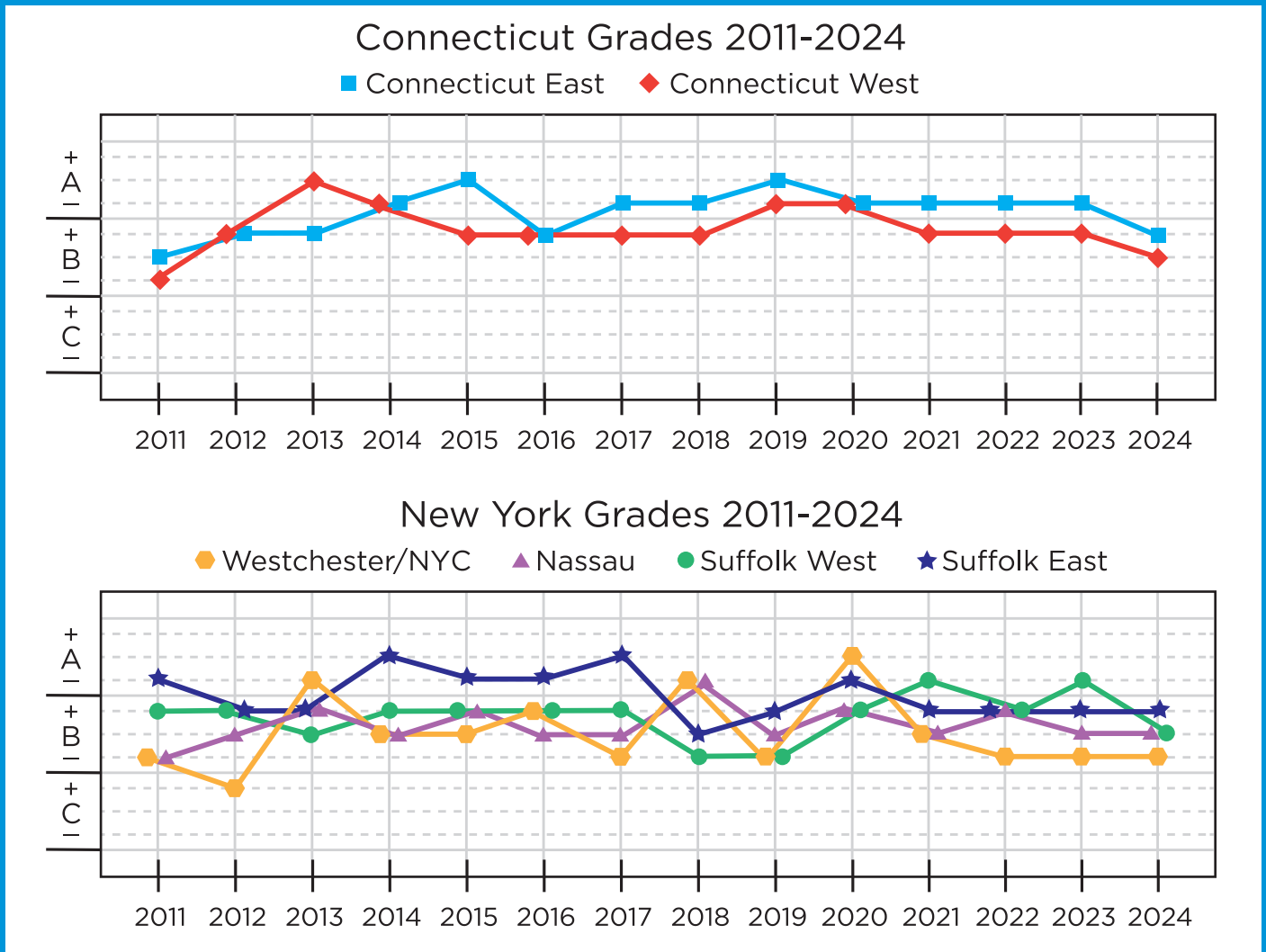


FIGURE 2. ANNUAL REGIONAL BEACH GRADES CALCULATED BY AVERAGING ALL THE BEACH GRADES IN EACH REGION THAT YEAR. ALL DATA USED WERE COLLECTED BY LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH AND UPLOADED TO THE EPA WATER QUALITY PORTAL.

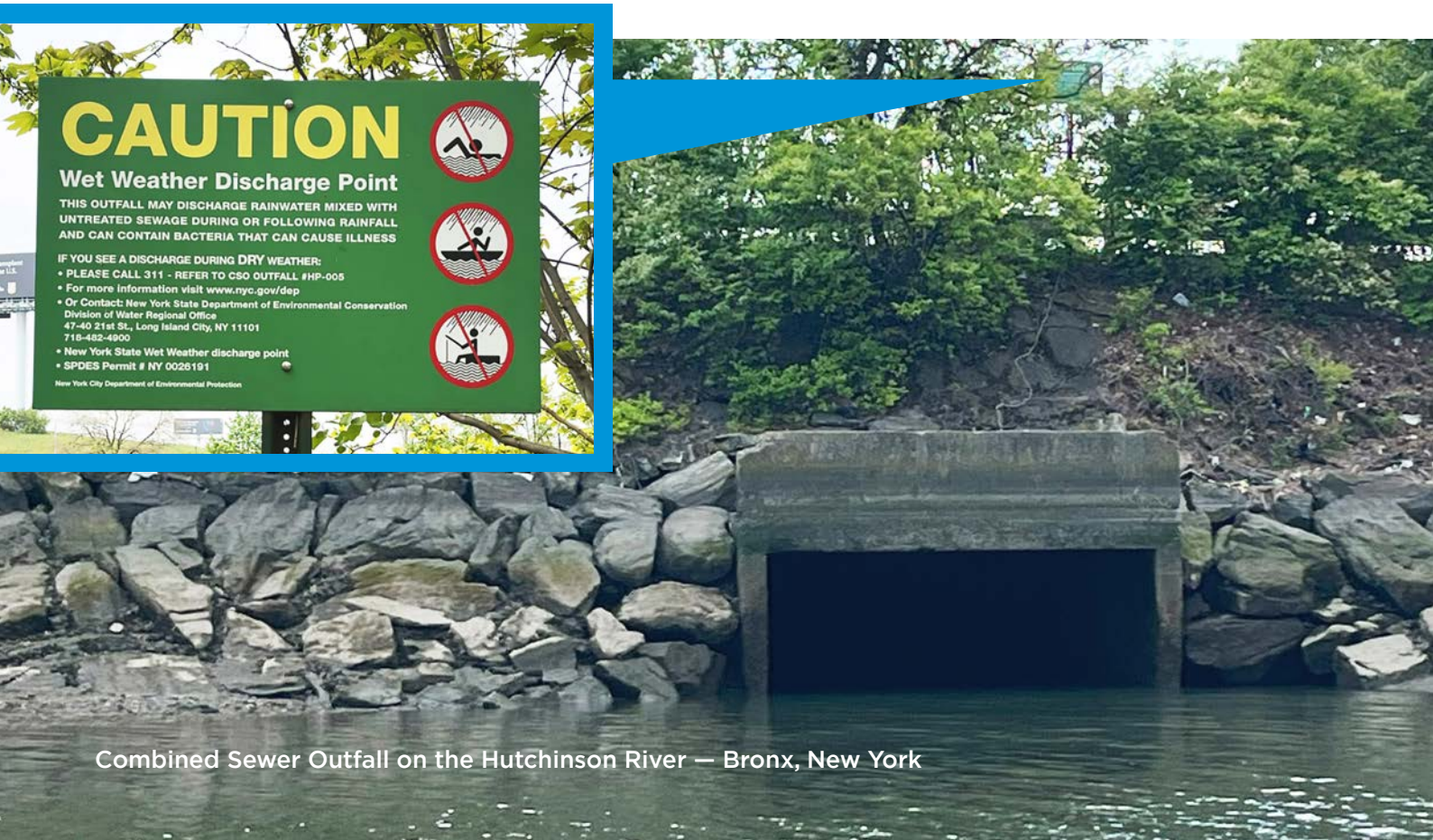
CHALLENGE: SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Of all the factors that compromise water quality, the one we need to talk about the most is also the one that can be most unpleasant to talk about.

Over the next several pages, we'll focus on sewage pollution, which really is why a Beach Report is necessary: state-established safe swimming criteria for *Enterococcus* (saltwater) and *E. coli* (freshwater) exist for a reason, and it's important to know which beaches are most vulnerable to elevated fecal indicator bacteria (see Page 7) and under what conditions. It's just as important to know what the source of those pathogens might be and to understand the different challenges presented by the various types of wastewater infrastructure employed around our region, all of which, when outdated, insufficient, or improperly maintained, can be the point of origination for elevated levels of Enterococci in waterways—the biggest reason beaches are forced to close.

There are septic systems and cesspools (Page 12) used primarily on Long Island, in southeastern Connecticut, and more rural communities farther up the watershed, and combined sewer systems (Page 30) found in New York City and the other largest cities on the Sound—Bridgeport, New Haven, and Norwalk.

And then there are separate sanitary sewer systems, which consist of a network of underground pipes carrying wastewater from homes and businesses (lateral lines) to municipal sewer lines (main lines) and ultimately to treatment plants, where pollutants are removed from wastewater before it can be discharged safely back into the environment. Keep in mind that the water carried in sanitary sewers doesn't just come from what we flush down our toilets. Water drained from our showers, sinks, dishwashers, and washing machines—even from household sump pumps that are not supposed to be tied into sanitary sewer lines—is conveyed through the same system, which can create considerable volume, particularly in more densely populated areas. (This is one reason why we're encouraged to take shorter showers and use less water to wash our dishes; it lightens the burden on those underground pipes.)



Combined Sewer Outfall on the Hutchinson River — Bronx, New York

As you might imagine, along hundreds of miles of buried pipes that in some areas are close to a hundred years old, there are innumerable opportunities for unseen problems. Over time, pipes can crack or collapse, allowing untreated sewage to leak out and flow to beaches or into the rivers and streams that lead to coastal waters.

Stormwater (Page 14) is a huge compounding problem, especially as our region continues to see more rainfall. Rain can infiltrate the cracks and holes in sewer pipes, filling them with more water than they can handle. It can also directly flow into these pipes by improperly engineered drainage pipes. This can result in those eruptions we sometimes see cascading out of manholes—a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO). That mixture of rainwater and untreated wastewater escapes the sewer system and finds its way into stormwater catch basins or flows into tributaries or straight to the Sound shoreline, perhaps winding up in the waters off a swimming beach and elevating the fecal indicator bacteria contamination to unsafe levels.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow during a rainstorm

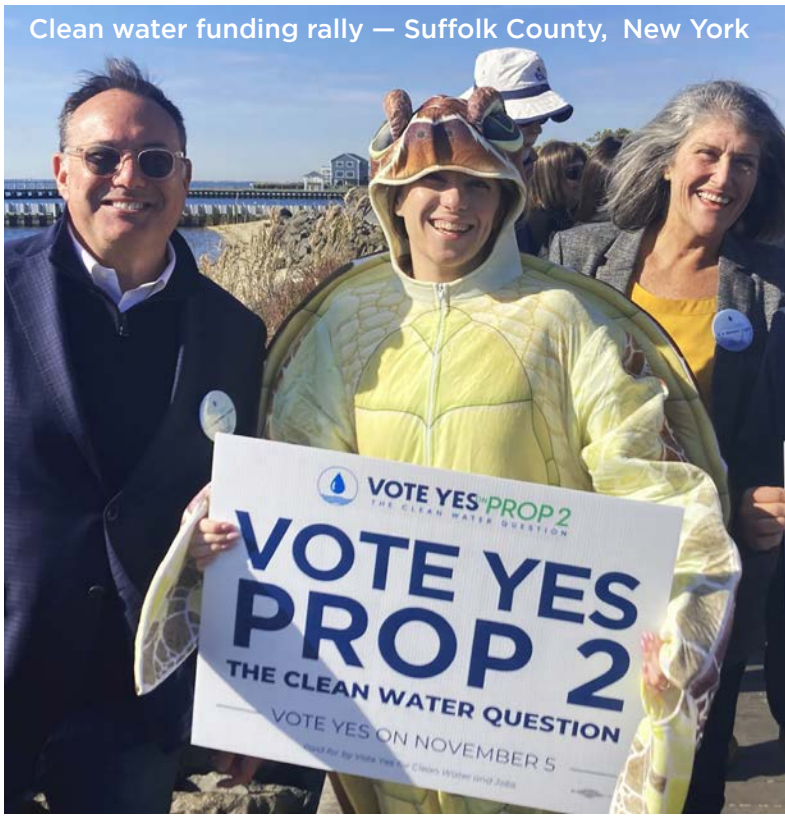
Save the Sound works to address sewage pollution in different ways. One is to enforce the Clean Water Act, holding municipalities accountable to make sure their sanitary sewer systems are maintained. In 2024, Save the Sound reached an agreement with the last four of 11 municipalities along the Sound Shore of Westchester County in a Clean Water Act case brought in 2015 to stop SSOs from degrading the water quality of Long Island Sound and its tributaries. The settlements have resulted in more than 39,000 defects to be repaired (or designated for repair) along 518 miles of sanitary sewer pipes.

Another priority has been pushing for more state-level infrastructure funding. Fixing old wastewater infrastructure can be prohibitively expensive for municipalities, let alone upgrading an entire system of pipes or a treatment plant. Save the Sound has been lobbying in New York to increase the grant funding for municipalities to invest in modernizing their wastewater infrastructure. The Clean Water Infrastructure Act, for instance, has provided $5.5 billion since 2017 through several funding programs to help municipalities undertake this essential work—which sounds like a lot, until you realize that upgrades to wastewater and stormwater infrastructure across New York would cost $50+ billion, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey.

CHALLENGE: SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Election Day 2024 offered Suffolk County voters a full menu of options, depending on your polling place. There were races for seats in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the NYS legislature, and town councils, choices to make for judges, and the small matter of a presidential election.

With the exception of two district court candidates who ran unopposed, no entry on any ballot did better than Proposition 2: the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act, which received more than a half-million votes and passed with 72% support.



Clean water funding rally — Suffolk County, New York

Prop 2 created a sustainable funding source to enable Suffolk County to expand sewer coverage and make tax-free grants available for homeowners to modernize the septic systems used by roughly 75% of the county's 1.5 million residents. For decades, these outdated wastewater systems have contributed to the nitrogen pollution threatening the county's bays and harbors and its groundwater—its sole source of drinking water—which is why these upgrades are priorities across Long Island. And when improperly maintained, septic systems and cesspools can leach high levels of fecal indicator bacteria, which can be carried through groundwater or stormwater to the coastlines, potentially resulting in beach closures.

In March, Suffolk County enacted the tax proposed by Prop 2 (1/8 of a penny); plans for its implementation are still developing. For now, residents looking to replace their septic system with Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (I/A OWTS) can still find technical and grant information online at www.ReclaimOurWater.info.

Septic problems are not unique to Suffolk County. Right next door, the Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District is offering grants to partially defray the cost of replacing septic systems through the aptly named Septic Environmental Program to Improve Cleanliness (SEPTIC). An estimated 40,000 residences along the north shore of Nassau County rely on septic systems and cesspools. As of early April 2025, 170 of the 177 alternative wastewater systems installed since 2022 have been in the Long Island Sound watershed—most in and around the village of Bayville, which sits on a peninsula between the Sound, Oyster Bay, and Mill Neck Creek.

If you're driving around the area, you may see lawn signs celebrating that a particular property "is protecting Long Island's water with a clean water septic system" and sharing a QR code to promote awareness of the SEPTIC program. Learn about the program, the different technologies available, and eligibility requirements at www.nassauswcd.org/SEPTIC.

CHALLENGE: ANIMAL WASTE

The Civic Association of Short Beach in Branford, Connecticut knew they had a problem. What they didn't know was who was behind the problem at their local beach.

For six of the seven swimming seasons from 2017—2023, Johnson's Beach (as it's known in our Beach Report and at www.SoundHealthExplorer.org) received grades in the C range, the only blip being an A- in 2021. Assuming the high bacteria counts were from human waste, they began to investigate, looking for a leaky septic system somewhere that could be causing the problem. For six months in 2023, they collected water samples from storm drains around the community, which were connected to outfalls that emptied into Long Island Sound, and had those samples tested for *E. coli*, a fecal indicator bacteria (FIB). The samples with the highest hits for *E. coli* were sent for Microbial Source Tracking (MST), which could identify the source animal.

Johnson's Beach
— Branford, Connecticut

The results of the MST surprised them.

People weren't the problem. Our best friends were. Dogs.

The water sample analysis showed overwhelming presence of canine microbes, as opposed to other potential sources (such as humans or birds). This finding changed everything about their understanding of the problem and honed their approach to solving it.

The community launched a behavior change campaign, urging everyone to pick up after their dogs. Around the neighborhood and at the beach , they installed dog waste trash bins with lids to keep out the rain; the old lidless receptacles allowed discarded dog poop bags to fill with water and leak onto the beach. They marketed a new message: "Stop POOllution!"

To be clear, no dogs were shamed in this initiative. In fact, they were celebrated at a parade in their honor, running from a local park down to the beach on the first day of summer 2024. Dogs and their humans were cheered on, serenaded by chants of "Ready, set, scoop! Pick up your poop." Apparently, people and pets bought in. By summer's end, Johnson's Beach received a B.

The Short Beach community is not alone in its efforts to rid the Sound of dog poop. The Long Island Sound Study, in fact, encourages dog families around the region to join its Canines for Clean Water campaign and take a Clean Water Pledge at https://longislandsoundstudy.net/canines-for-clean-water/.

At Save the Sound, we also recognize the need to identify the source contributing to the high-FIB water samples we analyze in our John and Daria Barry Foundation Water Quality Lab in Larchmont. In 2025, we will begin to conduct MST analysis on those samples, which will help inform the next steps to be taken. Solutions to address a goose problem on a beach are different from the options considered in places where the FIBs come from human wastewater.

CHALLENGE: STORMWATER RUNOFF

Densely populated areas. Leaky old wastewater systems. Impervious surfaces. Weather that's getting increasingly wetter. For water quality around Long Island Sound, those factors add up to a perfect storm of challenges.

Throughout this Beach Report, we frame how concerning a problem fecal indicator bacteria pollution can be in our region. Focusing on how contaminants get into the water at our swimming beaches is critically important—in part because it's one of the areas where the most progress can be made.

Picture what happens in your neighborhood when it rains. Some of it gets absorbed into the ground, but that's only if it finds a permeable surface. The more developed the area, the more likely precipitation will come down on roofs and sidewalks, parking lots and roadways, hardened surfaces that rain cannot penetrate. Instead, it runs off these impervious surfaces in torrents toward storm drains that discharge into nearby waterways or it flows straight into the Sound. Whatever it picks up along the way gets carried off to the coastline to make water quality worse.

Volunteers installing a rain garden — New Haven, Connecticut

There's the usual toxic mix of fertilizers and pesticides, fuel and oil that's spilled on the road, plastic trash, and other pollutants. But stormwater runoff can also pick up pet waste that hasn't been disposed of properly or waste from wildlife (sometimes on the ground, sometimes in catch basins and stormwater pipes themselves where raccoons and rodents can make their homes). Too often, it gets into sewer pipes and aging septic systems, mixing with wastewater and flooding the system. Or the increased volume of stormwater and wastewater becomes too much for a combined sewer system to handle, and it discharges raw sewage combined with stormwater into waterways—like the Sound and its tributaries—before it can get decontaminated at a treatment plant.

The more it rains, the more this parade of pollutants threatens the water at our beaches. And it's raining more. We're coming off the wettest two-year stretch (40 total inches) and the wettest five-year span (91 inches) around Long Island Sound dating back at least to 2003.

Mitigating impacts of stormwater is central to our work, whether we're lobbying in Albany for stronger stormwater management policies or partnering with the Town of Groton and Groton Municipal TV on "Clean Water Ways," a video series creating awareness of non-point source pollution—a mix of pollution types typically delivered via stormwater runoff.

We also have continued to emphasize the use of green infrastructure wherever possible to filter stormwater before it reaches our waterways. There was the restoration project at Sunken Meadow State Park in 2019 where we retrofitted a 16.6-acre parking lot with bioswales and constructed wetlands, creating a system that filters four million gallons of stormwater a year on its way from a parking lot to Sunken Meadow Creek and, eventually, the Sound and one of Long Island's most popular beaches. More recently, we helped create a 40,000-square foot rain garden at Town Center Park in Hamden, installing more than 400 plants to help absorb 96 million gallons of stormwater every year before it reaches the Mill River (and, again, ultimately the Sound). In 2024, 145 volunteers helped us install 17 rain gardens in Hamden and New Haven. And in 2025, we'll be working with students from the Port Chester Youth Bureau to build one at William James Memorial Gateway Park, filtering runoff bound for the Byram River.

Communities around the Sound are seeing how investing in green infrastructure benefits hyperlocal water quality. As part of a recent renovation at Calf Pasture Beach, the City of Norwalk installed 3,000 square feet of permeable pavement, several bioretention areas, and native plants to absorb, hold, and filter stormwater. The early returns are promising. Calf Pasture Beach received an A+ grade in 2024 and was one of five Connecticut beaches west of Guilford to get an A+.

BETTER INFORMATION BETTER DECISIONS

Perhaps the most important tool in our mission to protect water quality around the Long Island Sound region is information. It is the critical piece to our data-to-understanding-to-action approach for addressing the challenges to clean water we face and finding appropriate solutions.

The 2025 Long Island Sound Beach Report is one source for the kind of data that leads to such understanding. But there's always more to know. For example, you could visit **www.SoundHealthExplorer.org/swimmable/** to take a deeper dive into years' worth of data behind the Beach Grades.

In February, we introduced another important information source: QuickDrops, the first online database tool of its kind designed to collect, manage, and broadly share water quality data specific to the Long Island Sound watershed. QuickDrops not only benefits community science groups, health departments, and beach and water resource managers; it provides access to user-friendly data visualization tools that will help researchers, educators, news media, and municipal leaders sort and share information in more effective ways.

Visit **www.QuickDrops.org** to explore all it offers. If your organization is interested in becoming a contributor, please email us at **support@quickdrops.org**.

Hammonassett Beach State Park — Madison, Connecticut

MAKING THE GRADE

The grading system used in the Long Island Sound Beach Report captures two scenarios for each beach:

1) How often water was identified as unsafe for swimming (frequency).
2) How high the level of contamination was (magnitude) on the worst sampling day of the season.

Because sources and concentration of contamination can vary with rainfall amounts, frequency and magnitude grades are provided for both dry and wet weather conditions. Wet weather conditions are characterized as occurring when ¼ inch of rain or more fell in the 48 hours prior to sampling.

NY & CT State Criteria for Marine Swimming Water Quality

Passing Sample = *Enterococcus* counts 0-104 CFU/100 ml
Failing Sample = *Enterococcus* counts greater than 104 CFU/100 ml

Enterococcus = a genus of fecal indicating bacteria
CFU = Colony Forming Unit, which is the number of viable bacteria in a sample
100 ml = 1/10th of a liter

HOW TO READ THE BEACH GRADES

All four sub-categories (FD, FW, MD, MW) are assigned a score, represented by green, yellow, orange, and red, with green representing excellent water quality and red representing very poor water quality.

45

THE COLOR OF THE CIRCLES INDICATES THE GRADE FOR THAT PARTICULAR LOCATION DURING THE YEAR 2024. THE NUMBER CORRESPONDS WITH THE LOCATION AS INDICATED ON THE MAP.

FREQUENCY DRY (FD):

THE PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED DURING PERIODS OF PROLONGED DRY WEATHER THAT FAIL TO MEET THE STATE WATER QUALITY CRITERIA FOR SAFE SWIMMING. A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF FD FAILURE WOULD INDICATE A CONSISTENT SOURCE OF POLLUTION THAT IS UNRELATED TO WET WEATHER (E.G. POLLUTED GROUNDWATER DISCHARGE).

MAGNITUDE DRY (MD):

THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA MEASURED IN ANY SAMPLE COLLECTED DURING PERIODS OF PROLONGED DRY WEATHER. HIGHER BACTERIAL LEVELS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MORE RISK OF ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS, AND THEREFORE MD REPRESENTS A MEASURE OF WATER QUALITY ON THE WORST DRY WEATHER SAMPLING DAY OF THE SEASON.

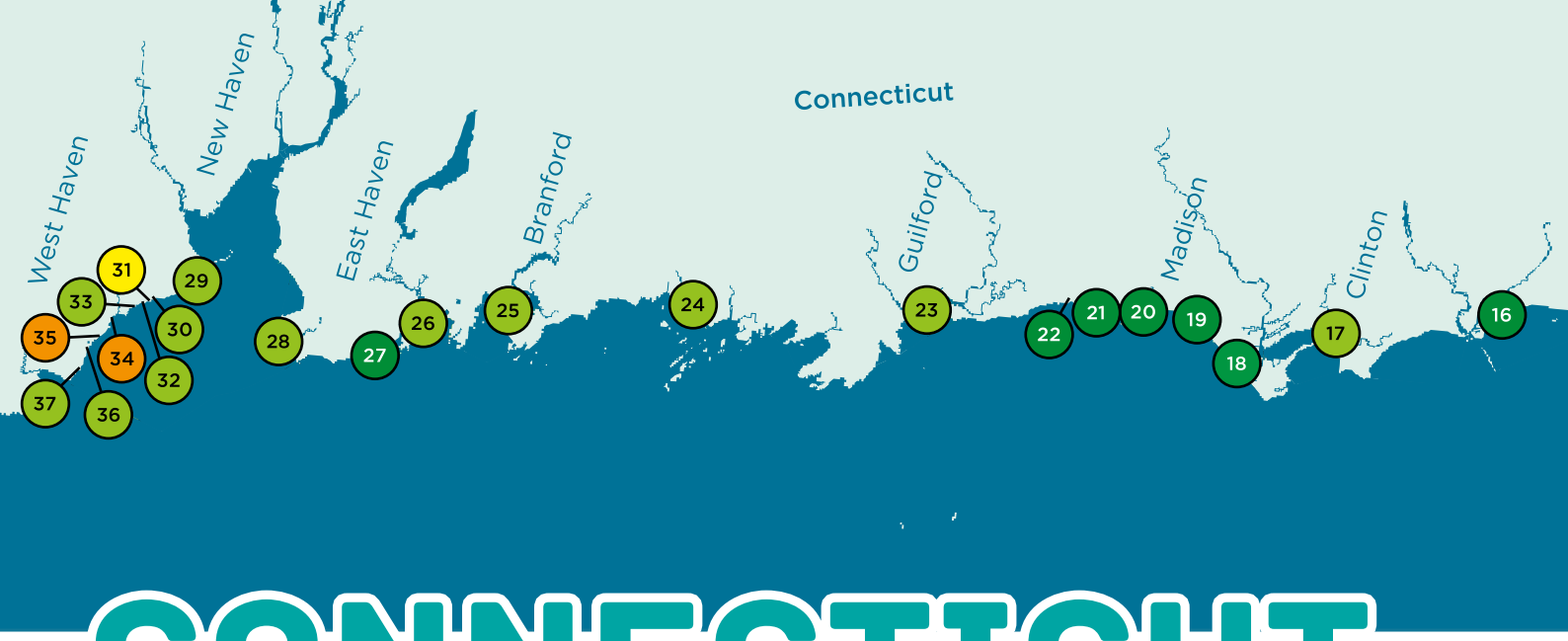
FREQUENCY WET (FW):

THE PERCENTAGE OF SAMPLES COLLECTED AFTER RAIN THAT FAIL TO MEET THE STATE WATER QUALITY CRITERIA FOR SAFE SWIMMING. A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF FW FAILURE THAN FD FAILURE WOULD INDICATE THE PRESENCE OF POLLUTION SOURCES TRIGGERED BY PRECIPITATION (E.G. CSO OR POLLUTED STORMWATER).

MAGNITUDE WET (MW):

THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF FECAL INDICATOR BACTERIA MEASURED IN ANY SAMPLE COLLECTED AFTER RAIN. HIGHER BACTERIAL LEVELS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH MORE RISK OF ILLNESS TO SWIMMERS, AND THEREFORE MW REPRESENTS A MEASURE OF WATER QUALITY ON THE WORST WET WEATHER SAMPLING DAY OF THE SEASON.

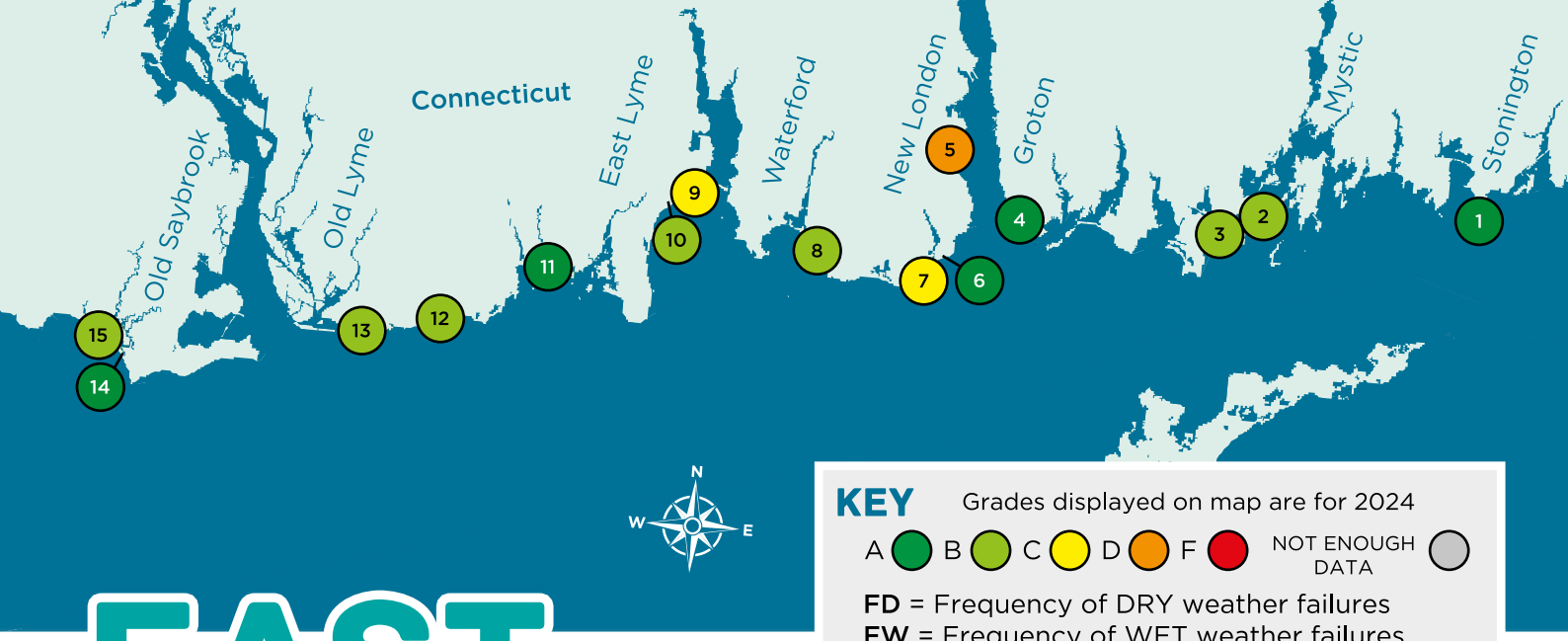
Additional information on the grading procedures can be found at www.SoundHealthExplorer.org.



CONNECTICUT

NEW HAVEN COUNTY

#	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
18	Hammonasset Beach SP					A					A+					A
19	Pent Road Beach					A+					C+					A-
20	East Wharf Beach					A+					A+					A+
21	West Wharf Beach					A+					A+					A+
22	Surf Club Beach					A+					A+					A+
23	Jacob's Beach					B+					C+					A
24	Stony Creek Beach					B					B-					A+
25	Branford Point Beach					B					B+					B+
26	Johnson's Beach					B					C+					C
27	East Haven Town Beach					A-					B-					A+
28	Lighthouse Point Beach					B-					B					B
29	Morse Beach					B+					B+					A+
30	Altschuler Beach					B+					A+					A-
31	Oak Street Beach B					C+					B-					B+
32	Oak Street Beach A					B+					A+					B
33	Rock Street Beach					B					B+					B+
34	Seabluff Beach					D+					C					C-
35	Dawson Beach					D+					A+					A-
36	Seaview Beach					B-					B					B-
37	South Street Beach					B-					C+					B-



EAST

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A B C D F NOT ENOUGH DATA

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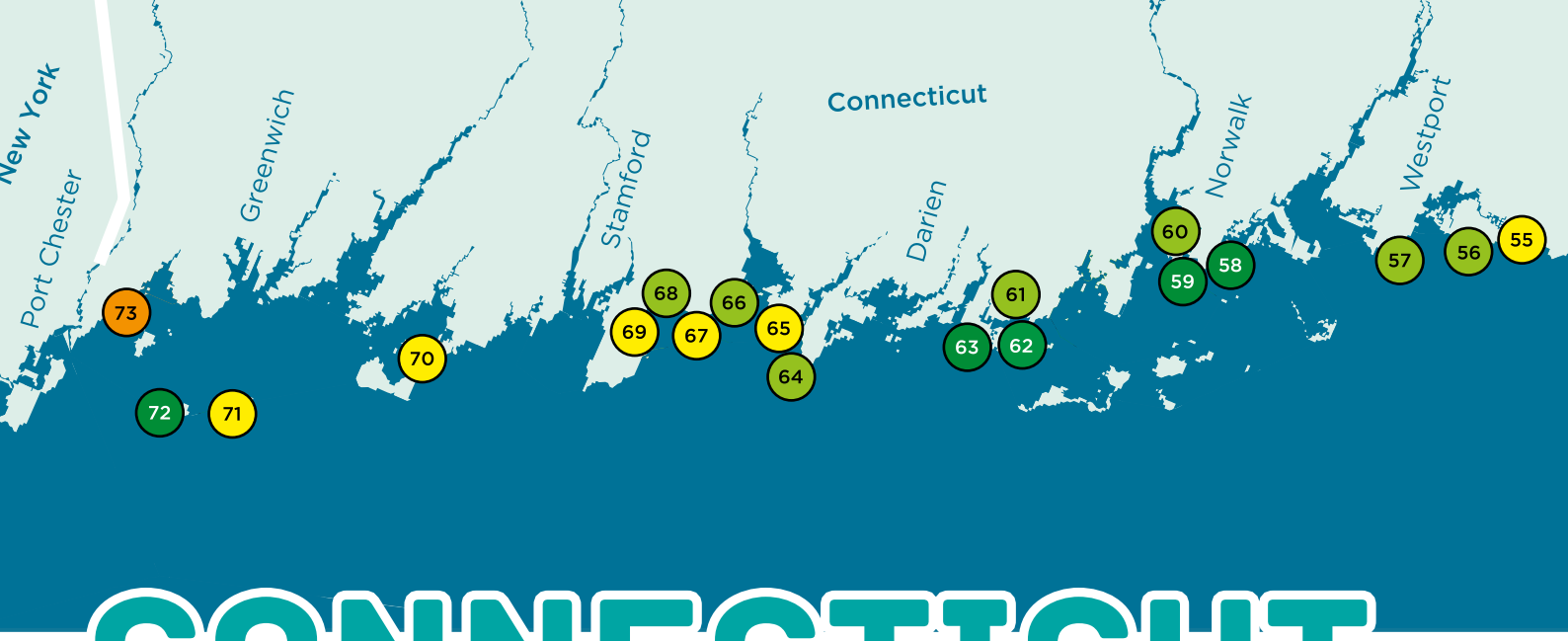
NEW LONDON COUNTY

#	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
1	duBois Beach	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+	B	A	B	A	A-
2	Noank Dock	A	C	A	B	B+	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
3	Esker Point Beach	A	C	A	F	B-	A	F	A	F	C+	A	A	A	A	A+
4	Eastern Point Beach	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
5	Green Harbor Beach	C	F	B	F	D+	A	C	A	C	B	C	F	F	B	D+
6	Ocean Beach Park	A	B	A	B	A-	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
7	Waterford Town Beach	C	C	F	B	C-	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
8	Pleasure Beach	A	C	A	B	B+	A	C	A	B	B+	A	A	A	A	A+
9	Hole-In-The-Wall Beach	C	C	B	B	C+	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
10	McCook Point Beach	A	C	A	B	B+	A	C	A	C	B	A	F	A	B	B
11	Rocky Neck State Park	A	B	A	B	A-	C	C	F	C	D+	B	C	B	C	C+
12	Soundview Beach	A	F	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
13	White Sands Beach	A	C	A	B	B+	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

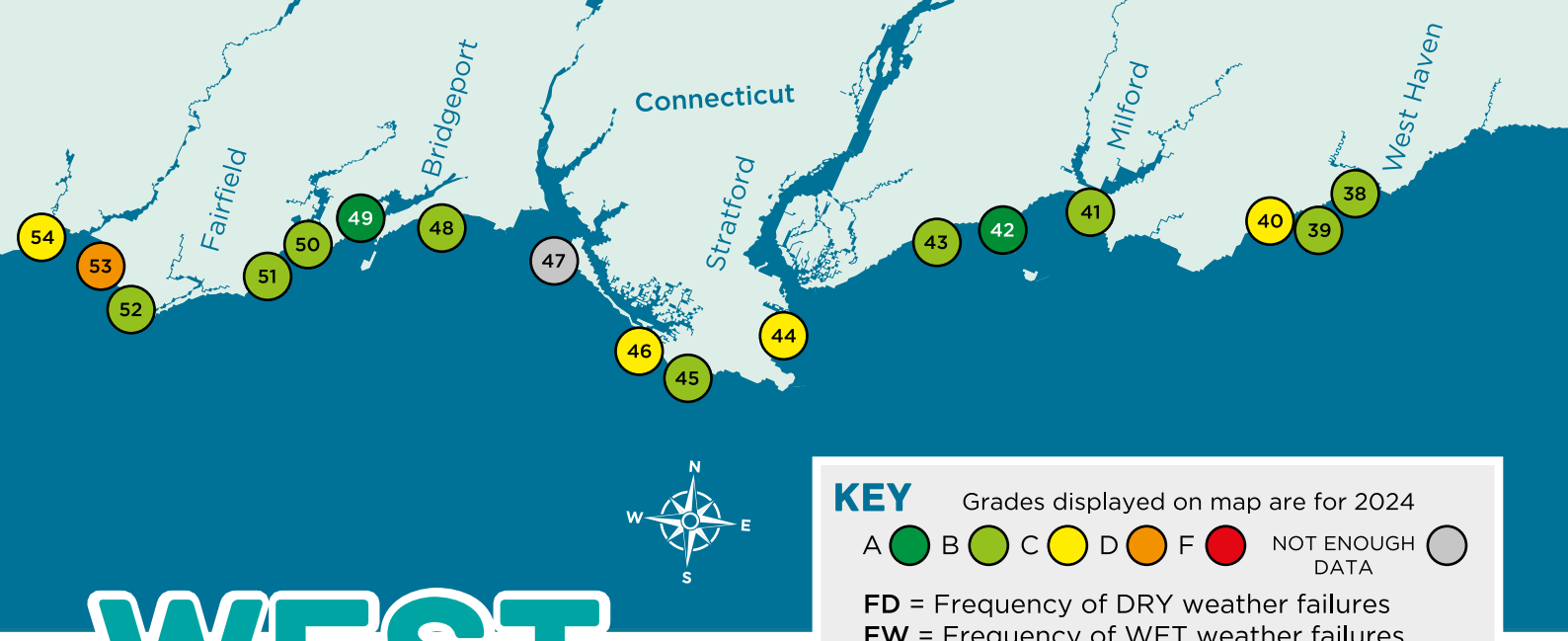
#	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
14	Town Beach (Saybrook)	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
15	Harvey's Beach	A	F	A	B	B	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
16	Westbrook Town Beach	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
17	Town Beach (Clinton)	A	F	A	C	B-	B	C	B	B	B-	B	A	B	A	A-



CONNECTICUT

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

#	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
44	Short Beach					C+					C					C
45	Marnick's Beach					B+					B					B
46	Long Beach					C+					A+					A
47	Pleasure Beach					NA					NA					NA
48	Seaside Park Beach					B					C+					C
49	Seabright Beach					A+					C-					B+
50	Jennings Beach					B-					B+					A
51	Penfield Beach					B-					B+					A-
52	South Pine Creek Beach					B+					A+					A+
53	Sasco Beach					D-					A+					D
54	Southport Beach					C+					B					C+
55	Burying Hill Beach					C+					A+					A+
56	Sherwood Island S P					B+					B+					A+
57	Compo Beach					B-					B+					A
58	Shady Beach					A-					A					C+
59	Calf Pasture Beach					A+					A-					C
60	Marvin Beach					B+					B-					C+
61	Hickory Bluff Beach					B+					C-					B-
62	Bell Island Beach					A+					A+					C+
63	Rowayton Beach					A+					B					A+
64	Pear Tree Point Beach					B-					A+					A+



WEST

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY

#	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
65	Weed Beach	D	F	C	D	C-	A	A	A	A	A+	C	D	C	C	B-
66	East Beach (Cove Island)	A	D	A	D	B	A	D	A	D	B	A	A	A	A	A+
67	Quigley Beach	A	F	A	F	C+	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
68	Cummings Beach	A	D	A	F	B-	A	F	C	D	C+	A	C	A	C	A-
69	West Beach	A	F	A	F	C+	C	A	C	A	A-	A	A	A	A	A+
70	Greenwich Point Beach	D	D	D	C	C	D	D	C	C	C+	A	D	C	C	B
71	Island Beach	C	F	C	D	C	A	F	A	D	B-	A	A	A	A	A+
72	Great Captain Island Bch	A	C	A	C	A-	D	D	C	D	C	A	A	A	A	A+
73	Byram Park Beach	D	F	F	F	D-	F	F	F	F	F	C	F	C	D	C

NEW HAVEN COUNTY

#	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
38	Woodmont Beach	A	D	A	F	B-	A	D	A	D	B	A	F	A	C	B
39	Anchor Beach #2	A	D	A	F	B-	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+
40	Anchor Beach #1	A	F	A	F	C+	D	D	C	F	C-	A	A	A	A	A+
41	Gulf Beach	A	D	A	C	B+	A	A	A	A	A+	A	F	A	C	B
42	Silver Sands State Park	A	A	A	A	A+	A	D	C	C	B	A	C	C	F	B-
43	Walnut Beach	A	F	A	C	B	A	A	A	A	A+	A	A	A	A	A+

NY CITY AND

BRONX

#	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
95	Orchard Beach					A					B					C
96	West Fordham St Assoc.					A+					B+					C-
97	Morris Yacht & Beach					A+					B+					C+
98	Trinity Danish Y. P. Soc.					D+					D					F
99	White Cross Fish Club					D					F					D-
100	American Turners					D					D-					D-
101	Danish Am. Beach Club					D+					D					D
102	Manhem Beach Club					C+					C-					C-
103	Locust Point Yacht Club					B+					B-					A+
104	Schuyler Hill Civ. Assoc.					C					D+					C+

QUEENS

#	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
105	Whitestone Booster					D-					D+					D+
106	Douglas Mnr Assoc. Bch					D-					D+					F

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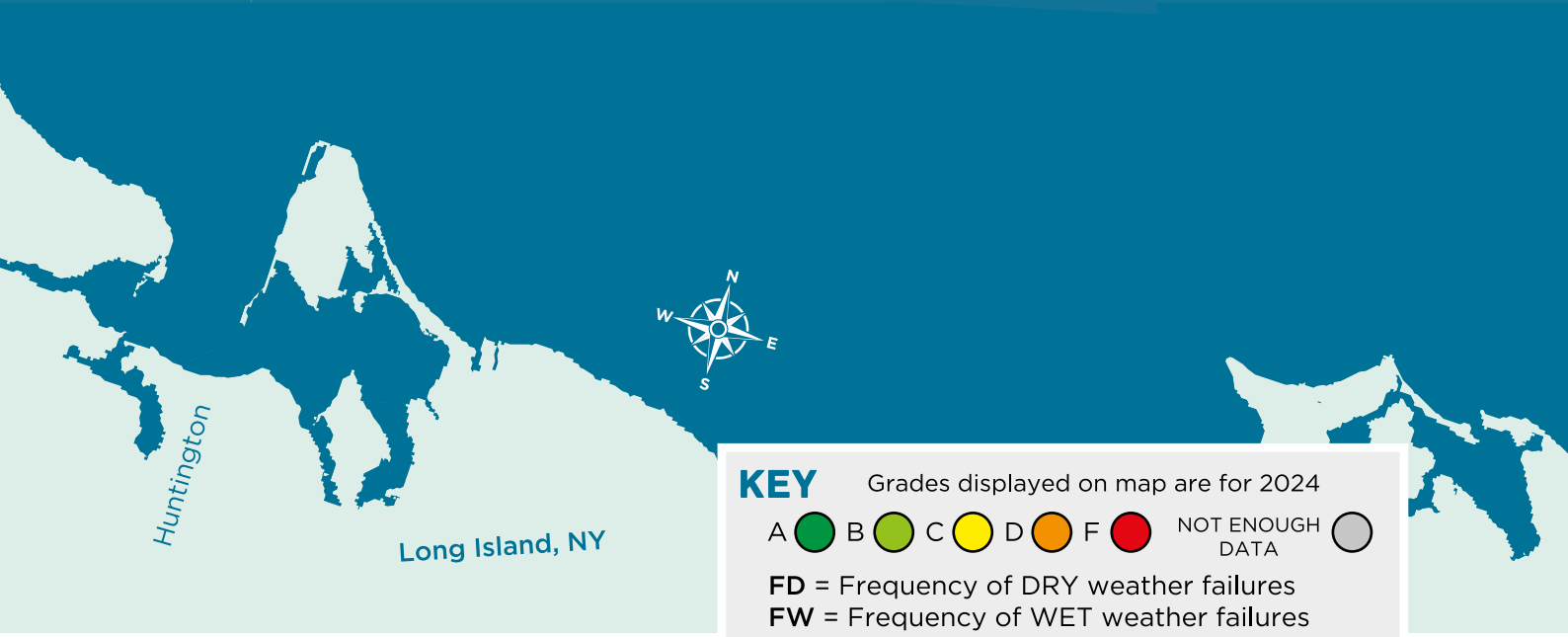
WESTCHESTER

#	WESTCHESTER Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
74	WC Country Club Beach					B+					A-					B+
75	Manursing Island Club					B					A-					A+
76	Rye Playland Beach					C+					C					C+
77	Rye Town/Oakland Bch					D+					C-					B+
78	Coveleigh Beach Club					B+					C-					A+
79	Shenorock Shore Club					B+					A+					B
80	American Yacht Club					A+					B-					A+
81	MMK Beach & Yacht Clb					D					C-					C+
82	Shore Acres Club					NA					NA					NA
83	Harbor Island Beach					D					C-					F
84	Beach Point Club					B-					A-					A+
85	Orienta Beach Club					D+					B+					B-
86	Larchmont Manor Park					C+					A+					B
87	Larchmont Shore Club					B					A+					A+
88	Hudson Park					D+					C					D+
89	Surf Club					C-					D+					A+
90	Davenport Club					B+					A-					B-
91	Greentree Club					A-					A-					B+
92	VIP Club					B+					A+					A+
93	Beckwithe Pointe					NA					NA					A+
94	Glen Island Park					B+					A-					A+

NASSAU CO.

#	NASSAU Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
107	Manorhaven Beach					C+					C+					C+
108	Village Club @ Sands Pt					C					C+					C
109	N Hempstead Beach Pk					B-					B+					A-
110	N Hempstead Bar Beach					B-					B					B
111	Tappen Beach					B-					A-					C+
112	Sea Cliff Beach					B-					B+					B+
113	Morgan Memorial Beach					A-					C-					B
114	Crescent Beach					A-					D+					C-
115	Pryibil Beach					C					C+					A+
116	Lattingtown Beach					C					B+					A+
117	The Creek Beach					A+					A+					B+
118	Piping Rock Beach					B					B-					A+
119	Stehli Beach					B-					A+					A
120	Ransom Beach					A-					A+					A+
121	Soundside Beach					B					B					A+
122	Centre Is. (Sound Beach)					B+					A					A+
123	Centre Is. (Bay Beach)					A-					B					A+
124	W. Hbr. Memorial Bch					A-					A-					A-
125	Beekman Beach					C+					C					C+
126	Theo. Roosevelt Beach					B					B					C
127	Laurel Hollow Beach					A-					B-					C



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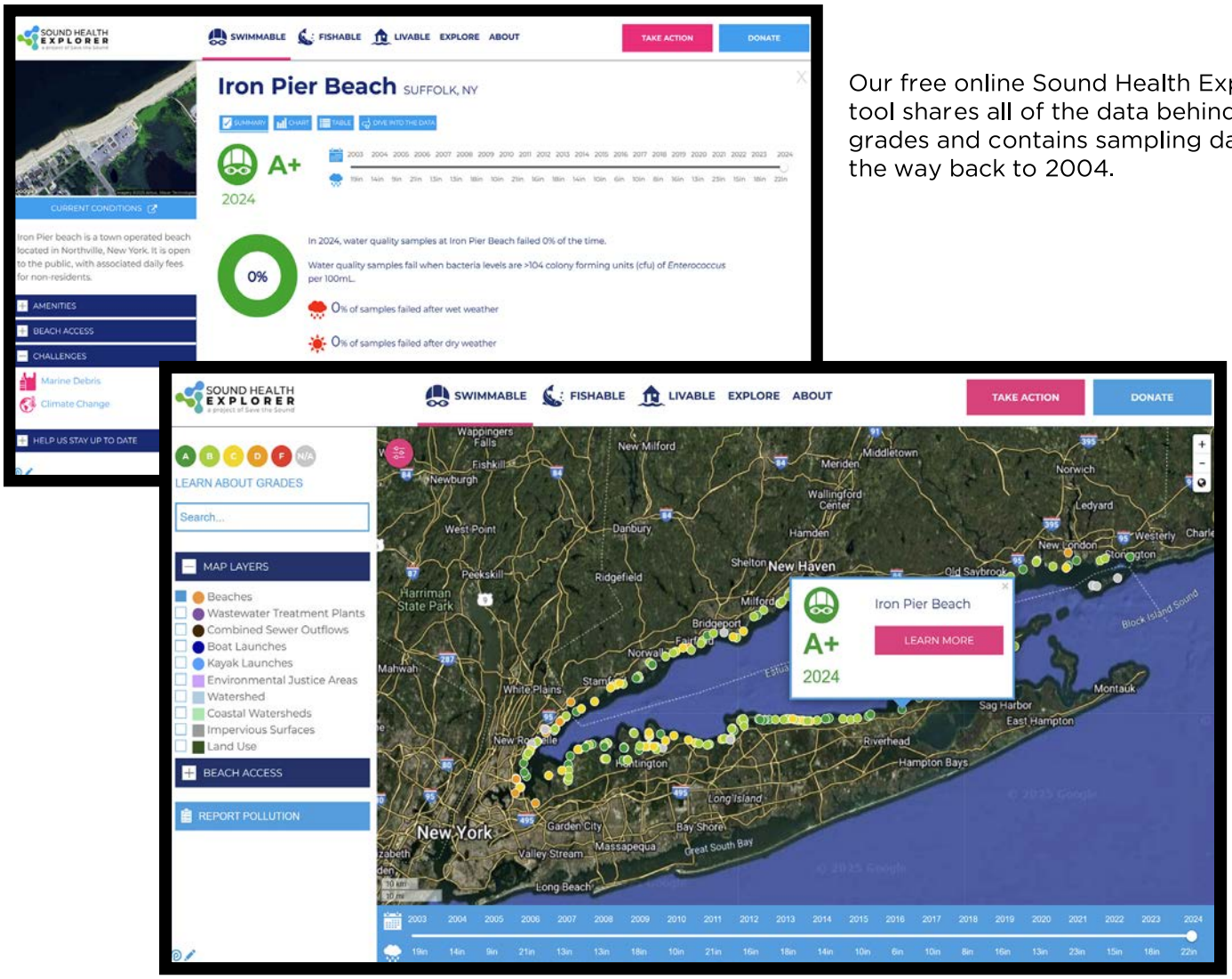
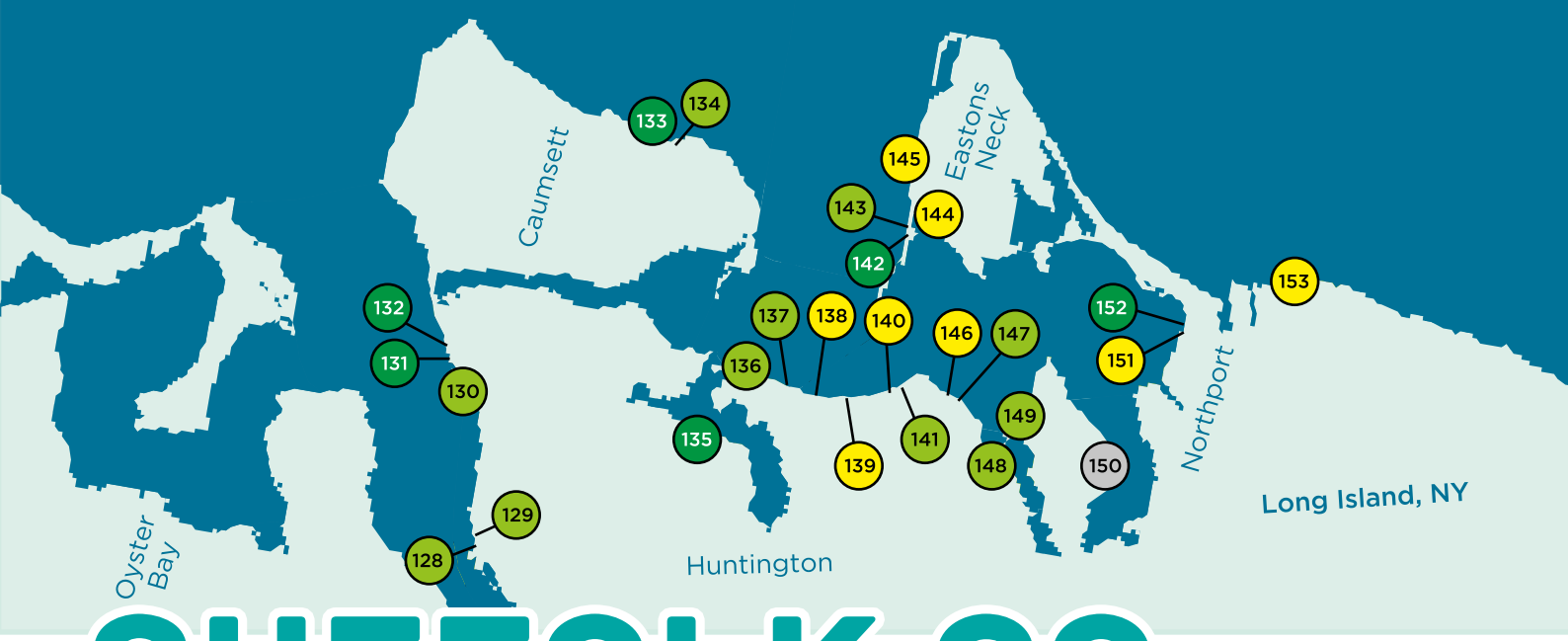
DIVE INTO THE DATA AT

WWW.SOUNDHEALTHEXPLORER.ORG

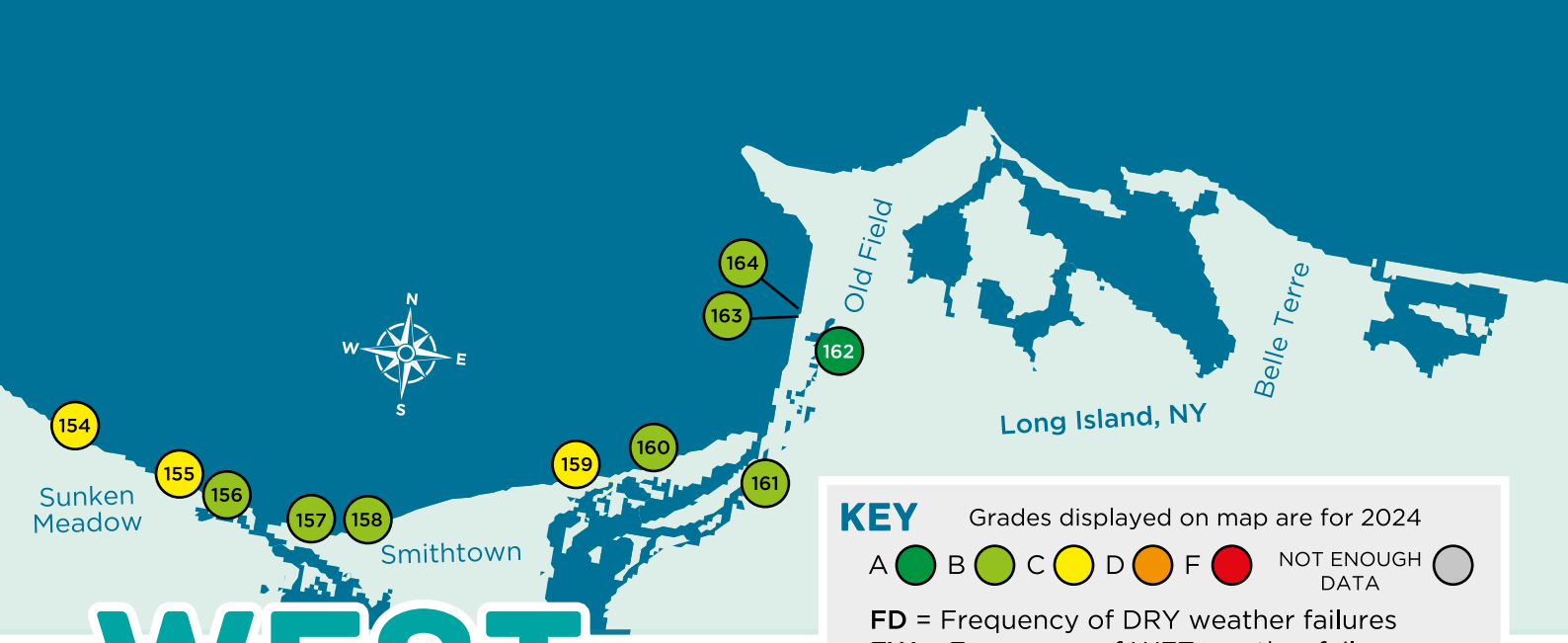


Our free online Sound Health Explorer tool shares all of the data behind the grades and contains sampling data all the way back to 2004.



SUFFOLK CO.

SUFFOLK #	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
128	Eagle Dock Comm. Bch					B+					B+					B+
129	Cold Spring Hbr Bch Clb					B-					B					B
130	Lloyd Harbor Village Pk					B-					A+					B+
131	West Neck Beach					A					A					B+
132	Lloyd Neck Bath Club					A+					A					A+
133	Fiddlers Green Assoc.					A+					A-					B-
134	Lloyd Harbor Estates					B					A					A
135	Gold Star Battalion Bch					A+					A					A-
136	Wincoma Beach					B+					B					B
137	Baycrest Assoc. Beach					B-					B+					B+
138	Nathan Hale Beach Club					C+					B+					B-
139	Head of the Bay Club					C+					A-					B+
140	Bay Hills POA					C					A+					A-
141	Crescent Bch (Suffolk)					B					A					A-
142	Hobart Beach (Bay)					A-					A					B+
143	Hobart Beach (Inlet)					B+					A					B
144	Prices Bend Beach					C+					B-					B+
145	Valley Grove Beach					C					B					A-
146	Knollwood Beach					C					C					B+



WEST

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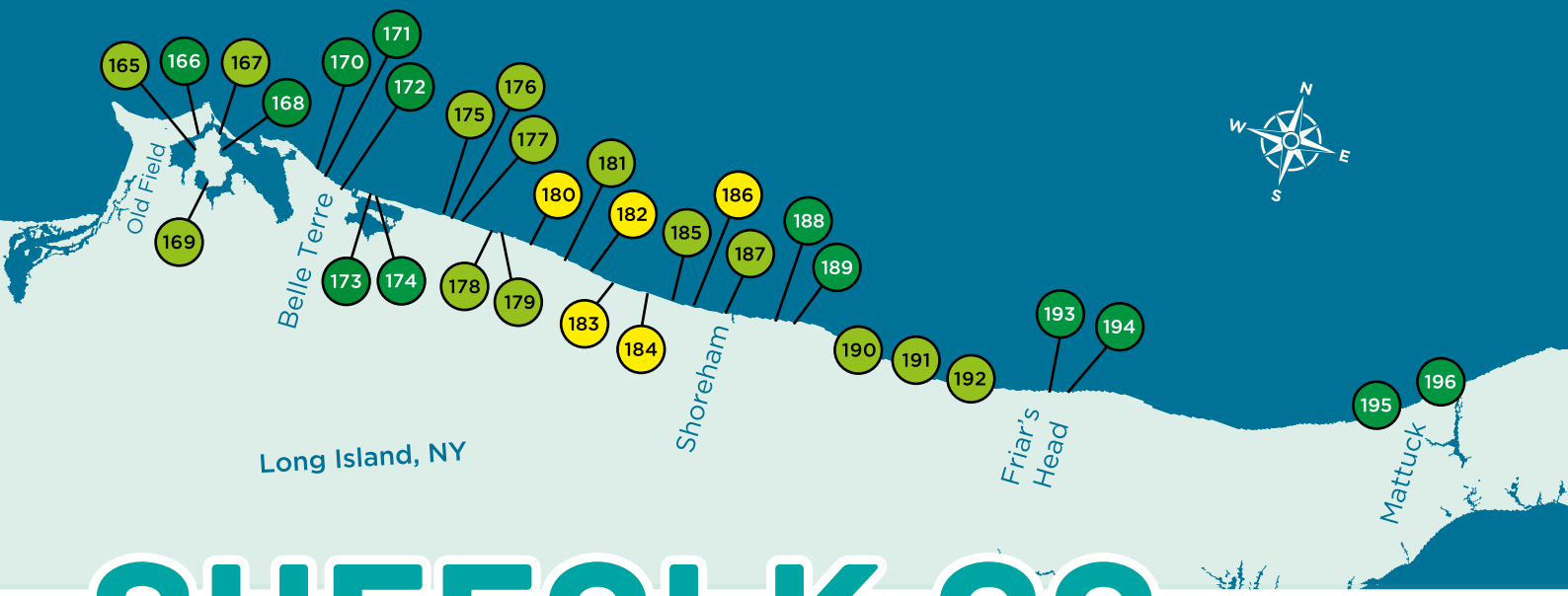
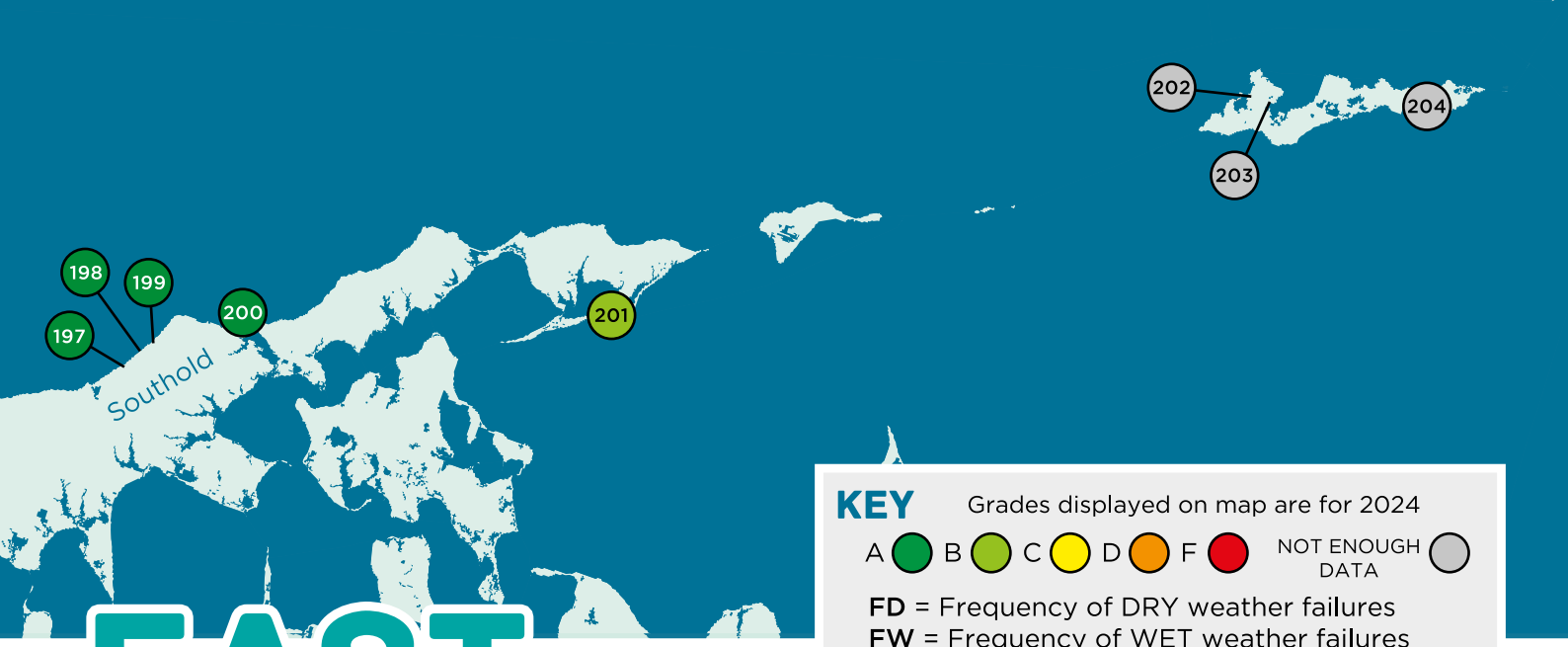
SUFFOLK #	Beach Name	2024 FD	2024 FW	2024 MD	2024 MW	2024 GRD	2023 FD	2023 FW	2023 MD	2023 MW	2023 GRD	2022 FD	2022 FW	2022 MD	2022 MW	2022 GRD
147	Fleet's Cove Beach					B					C+					B+
148	Huntington Bch Assoc.					B					B-					B-
149	Centerport Beach					B-					A-					A+
150	Centerport Yacht Club					NA					B					A-
151	Steers Beach					C					C+					C
152	Asharoken Beach					A-					C+					C
153	Crab Meadow Beach					C					B-					B-
154	Callahan's Beach					C+					NA					NA
155	Sunken Meadow SP					C-					A+					A+
156	Sunken Meadow SP East					B+					A+					A-
157	Short Beach					B					A+					B
158	Nissequogue Point Bch					B-					B+					A-
159	Long Beach					C+					A+					B+
160	Schubert Beach					B					A-					B
161	Stony Brook Beach					B					B					B
162	Sound View Bch Assoc.					A+					A+					B+
163	West Meadow Beach					B-					B-					C+
164	Old Field Club					B-					C					B



SUFFOLK CO.

SUFFOLK		2024					2023					2022				
#	Beach Name	FD	FW	MD	MW	GRD	FD	FW	MD	MW	GRD	FD	FW	MD	MW	GRD
165	Grantland Beach					B					C+					C
166	Bayview Beach					A+					A+					B
167	Indian Field Beach					B					A+					B-
168	Bayberry Cove Beach					A+					B+					B
169	Little Bay Beach					B					A+					B+
170	Belle Terre Beach					A-					A-					A-
171	Port Jefferson Beach W					A-					A-					A+
172	Port Jefferson Beach E					A-					C					A-
173	Cedar Beach West					A+					B-					A-
174	Cedar Beach East					A-					B					A-
175	Miller Place Beach					B-					C+					B+
176	Woodhull Landing					B+					C					B
177	Scotts Beach					B					C					A-
178	Sound Beach POA West					B					C+					B-
179	Sound Beach POA East					B					C					C+
180	Tides POA					C					C-					C
181	Terraces on the Sound					B-					C+					B
182	Beech Road Beach					C					C-					B-
183	Broadway Beach					C-					C+					B+
184	Friendship Beach					C+					C					B



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SUFFOLK		2024					2023					2022				
#	Beach Name	FD	FW	MD	MW	GRD	FD	FW	MD	MW	GRD	FD	FW	MD	MW	GRD
185	Shoreham Village Beach					B-					B					B+
186	Shoreham Shore Club					C+					B-					B
187	Shoreham Beach					B					A-					A-
188	Wading River Beach					A-					B+					B+
189	Camp DeWolfe					A+					B+					A+
190	Wildwood SP Beach					B					A+					B+
191	Baiting Hollow Camp					B+					B					B+
192	Woodcliff Park POA					B+					A+					A+
193	Dorothy P. Flint Camp					A+					A+					B
194	Reeves Beach					A+					A+					A+
195	Iron Pier Beach					A+					B+					C+
196	Mattituck Breakwater					A-					B+					C+
197	Peconic Dunes Camp					A+					A+					A+
198	Kenney's Beach					A+					A+					A+
199	McCabe's Beach					A+					A+					A+
200	Southold Beach					A+					B+					A+
201	Orient Beach State Park					B					A+					A+
202	Hay Harbor Club					NA					NA					NA
203	Island People's Project					NA					NA					NA
204	Fishers Island C. Club					NA					NA					NA

WORKING TOWARD SWIMMABLE WATERS ACROSS NYC

Orchard Beach almost has it all.

There's a 1.1-mile of crescent-shaped beach along the Long Island Sound shoreline, nearly as wide at high tide as a football field is long. It enjoys immense popularity (drawing more than 1.5 million visitors every summer), a cool nickname ("The Riviera of the Bronx"), and a landmark pavilion that should soon be finished with an $87 million renovation.

Maybe best of all, Orchard Beach is back to boasting Grade A water quality. After getting a C in 2022 and a B in 2023, the only public swimming beach in the Bronx received an A in 2024—a grade it had grown accustomed to during a nine-summer stretch (2013-2021) of getting an A- or better.

Orchard Beach has all that in large part because of what it doesn't have: a nearby combined sewer outfall impacting water quality at the beach.

Roughly 60 percent of New York City uses a combined sewer system, where stormwater and wastewater are carried to the treatment plant through the same pipe. When increased volumes of stormwater enter the system, there can be too much for any of the respective wastewater treatment plants around the NYC shoreline to handle. That combination of stormwater runoff and untreated sewage has to be discharged; about 21 billion gallons are released directly into the city's waterways every year. This is why swimming near a CSO outfall is not recommended after a storm.

Orchard Beach is lucky. The swimming area is largely unaffected by any release of raw sewage from the only two CSOs in the area.

Other NYC Sound beaches, public or private, are not so fortuitously located. Take Douglas Manor Association Beach in Queens, bracketed by CSOs directly across Little Neck Bay and in Alley Creek to the south. The beach is bordered by homes on aging cesspools that can have detrimental impacts to water quality. Unsurprisingly, this small, residents-only beach has a history of troubling grades. Still, the community is exploring all opportunities to improve water quality.

Which is what the Clean Water Act dictates: to create fishable, swimmable waters. Consistently swimmable waters cannot be attained in close proximity to combined sewer outfalls. New York City has a stated goal of eliminating all CSOs by 2060, and the Department of Environmental Protection needs to implement long term control plans (LTCPs) for individual waterbodies that will achieve this goal.

Save the Sound is working with the Douglas Manor Environmental Association and the Udall's Cove Preservation Committee to suggest improvements to the LTCP for Alley Creek. Rather than disinfecting and dechlorinating combined stormwater and then releasing it into the creek as originally planned, NYC DEP is now hoping the state's Department of Environmental Conservation will approve a revised plan a constructed wetland and use Oakland Lake to divert stormwater—a plan that could reduce CSOs by 51%.

That plan would get Douglas Manor only halfway to zero. But citywide LTCP-fueled reductions could enable beachgoers to one day enjoy swimmable waters in places that once would have been unimaginable.

That's what we are working toward: creating CSO-free beaches like the Riviera of the Bronx.

Orchard Beach — Bronx, New York

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Our public beaches belong to us. And while this Beach Report has spotlighted efforts by municipalities and communities, there are easy ways each of us can contribute to protecting water quality around the Sound and ensure that our beaches can stay open.

Keep It Clean

Properly dispose of garbage—especially pet waste and diapers—ideally in bins with lids that close tight. What goes on the ground goes in the Sound.

Maintain Your Sewers

Homeowners are responsible for the lateral lines that run from your house to the public sewer system. Have them inspected regularly.

Adopt Healthy Yard Practices

Incorporate native plants that need less watering and help filter pollutants along waterways. And don't overfeed your lawn —use organic slow-release fertilizers, and only once or twice a year.

Upgrade Your Septic System or Cesspool

to a newer, cleaner technology that reduces bacteria and nitrogen pollution in local waterways. Long Islanders—check to see whether you are eligible for a grant:
Suffolk Co.: **www.reclaimourwater.info**
Nassau Co.: **www.nassauswcd.org/SEPTIC**

Install Green Infrastructure

like rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs, and permeable driveways to minimize stormwater runoff into overburdened storm drains.

Share Your Beach Grades!

If you are concerned about the water quality grade your local beach received in this Beach Report, use it to open a dialogue with local officials and groups like Save the Sound who are positioned to investigate the source of the problem and work toward a solution.

Support State and Local Investments

toward maintaining, repairing, and upgrading wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and using technologies that allow same-day water quality monitoring results. Make sure your municipal leaders are aware of state grants that fund this essential work.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Educate yourself on the beach management practices where you swim, and make sure your local and state representatives are following EPA-recommended best practices. In New York, register to receive Sewage Pollution Right to Know Alerts at **https://alert.ny.gov/sign-up-ny-alert**; in Connecticut, notifications are publicly available on Twitter/X at **@CTSewageSpills**.

BECOME A MEMBER AT SAVETHESOUND.ORG

JOIN OUR GROWING NETWORK OF MEMBERS WORKING TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, SAVE ENDANGERED LANDS, PROTECT THE SOUND AND ITS RIVERS, AND WORK WITH NATURE TO RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES WORK LIKE THIS REPORT POSSIBLE.

SCAN ME

ALL DATA FROM THIS REPORT (AND MORE) CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT

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