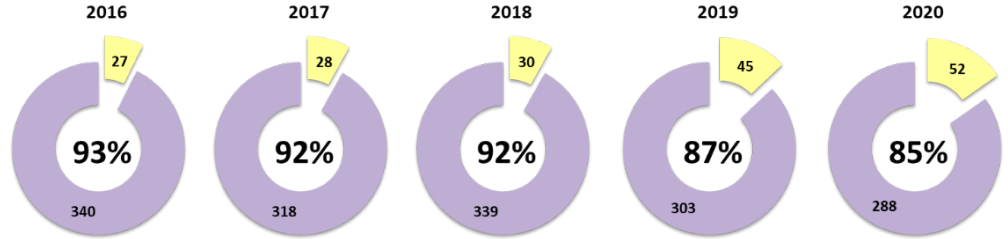




Wollaston Beach

Water quality at Quincy's Wollaston Beach met swimming standards 90% of the time in the last 5 years.

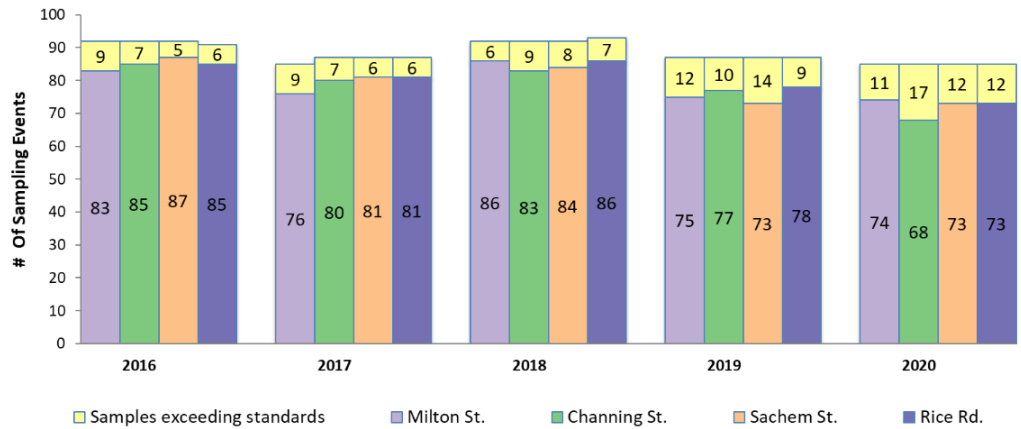


In the last five years, 85% to 93% of water samples have met swimming standards at Wollaston Beach. To meet the standard, a single sample must have *Enterococcus** levels of less than 104 counts in 100 milliliters (mL) of a beach water sample. Water samples are collected at four locations at Wollaston Beach and analyzed in a laboratory to determine the *Enterococcus* counts. Purple represents the proportion of samples meeting the standard, with less than 104 counts per 100 mL of water; yellow represents the proportion with 104 counts per 100 mL of water or higher. Small numbers in the charts represent the number of samples collected each year.

* *Enterococcus* is a bacteria used as an indicator of fecal contamination in water

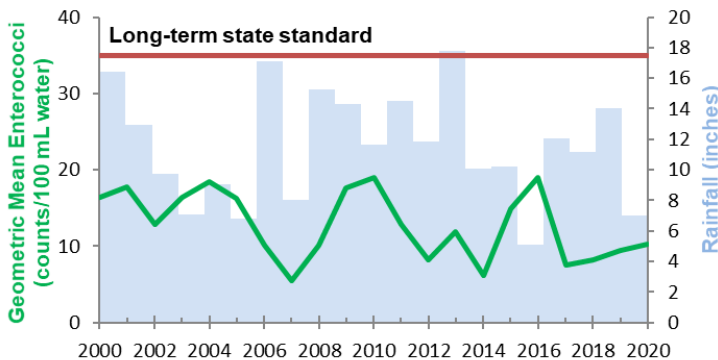
Beach Posting Program

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) monitors water quality at [Wollaston Beach](#) throughout the swimming season in compliance with Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) [beach testing guidelines](#), approximately from Memorial Day to Labor Day of each year. DCR also manages the beach posting program at Wollaston Beach, displaying blue flags at the beach when bacteria levels meet single sample limits (less than 104 counts of *Enterococcus* per 100 mL of water), and red flags when bacteria levels fail to meet the limit. Red flags are also flown following extreme weather events. There are no combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that impact Wollaston Beach. The nearby Nut Island Treatment Plant was permanently closed in 1999 as part of [MWRA's Boston Harbor Project](#). Sources of bacteria at Wollaston Beach include animal and bird waste and urban stormwater runoff in wet weather.



Historical Beach Water Quality and Rainfall

Historically, Wollaston Beach has had relatively low mean bacteria counts



Enterococcus is a bacterial indicator of human and animal waste in marine waters, and its presence helps environmental managers determine if conditions might present a public health risk to swimmers. In addition to the single sample standard above, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires that seasonal *Enterococcus* levels are below a seasonal standard of 35 counts per 100 mL of water in all recreational swimming areas. Seasonal averages at Wollaston Beach have historically been well below this threshold, even in seasons with heavy rain.