

Fact Sheet

Crescent Beach, Glen Cove, New York



PROJECT BACKGROUND

In June of 2009, a particularly heavy rainfall caused the closure of all Glen Cove beaches. Heavy rainfalls transport bacteria from roadways and storm drains into our waterways, adversely affecting bacteria levels at local beaches. These bacteria include fecal coliform and enterococci, often contributed from uncollected waste from dog walkers, wildlife, or failing septic systems. Typically, bacteria levels subside within a day or so, allowing for most beaches to be reopened. Unfortunately, this was not the case for Crescent Beach, as elevated levels of microbiological contamination continued to be found in the bathing waters. At that time, in partnership with the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH), the City of Glen Cove (City) initiated an extensive investigation into the probable causes of this problem.



Studies conducted since June 2009 identified elevated bacteria levels exceeding Department of Health standards within a nearby stream, discharging directly into the Long Island Sound. The stream is within 750 feet of the bathing beach; therefore, according to DOH regulations, even if water quality is improved at Crescent Beach, the stream must also attain favorable water quality standards. The microbiological contamination of the stream has continued to be a problem, and has caused the beach to remain closed for the last 5 years. Investigations also identified elevated bacteria levels within the surrounding area storm water conveyance system. Dye testing of select sanitary septic systems in the surrounding area was performed to determine if these systems were responsible for contributing bacteria to the stream. Subsequently, where failed septic system(s) were found to exist; the

failures were addressed by the homeowners. The City continues to work with NCDOH to investigate excessive bacteria levels within the stream adjacent to Crescent Beach, and within the surrounding area storm water conveyance system.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UPCOMING MONITORING PROGRAM

The City is currently working with the NCDOH to establish a water monitoring program to further investigate the sources and effects of the contamination found within the nearby stream. The proposed monitoring program shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Collection and analysis of surface water samples in the immediate area of Crescent Beach. As part of this effort, samples would be collected from four independent locations, three from within the bathing waters at the beach and one from the nearby stream, three times a day over a 8-week period.
- Documentation of environmental conditions observed at the time of sampling, such as time of day, tides, water temperature, and rainfall.



Upon completion of the monitoring program, the City will coordinate with the NCDOH to review the results, and determine if Crescent Beach can be opened for the 2014 season.

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NEXT STEPS

The City remains committed to continuing the maintenance of Crescent Beach, and to efforts to identify the potential source(s) of microbiological contamination affecting the nearby stream. These efforts include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- **Beach Management Program:** Although beach management is a regular function of the Glen Cove Parks & Recreation Dept., a stepped up program will be instituted during the bathing season and will include daily debris and trash removal, bi-weekly beach grooming and wrack (anything that washes up on shore, i.e. sea grass, kelp) removal to prevent the trapping of bacteria close to the shoreline. As part of this program, the City would also explore opportunities for restoring natural hydrology and planting native wetland grasses (i.e. Spartina grass or similar).
- **Waterfowl Population Control:** The City will continue to utilize waterfowl population control measures to deter waterfowl population (primarily Canadian geese) in the immediate area of Crescent Beach. This is done with decoys that deter the geese from congregating.
- **Surface Water Quality Sampling Program:** The City shall continue to implement a water quality sampling program within the surrounding community, as well as within the nearby stream, with the goal of identifying source(s) of microbiological contamination.
- **Sanitary Septic System Inspection/Maintenance:** The City launched a program in 2011 providing homeowners with a “no-cost” inspection and pump-out of their existing sanitary septic systems. The goal of this program was to ensure that all septic systems are inspected and maintained routinely, preventing adverse effects to water quality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Who to Contact

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed to:

Project Related Questions

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