

# NONPOINT SOURCE PLANNING GRANT

## Beach Sanitary Survey Outline



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

A beach sanitary survey is a method of investigating the sources of fecal or nutrient contamination to a waterbody. Sanitary surveys help identify sources of water pollution, assess the magnitude of pollution, and identify priority locations for water testing. Completion of beach sanitary survey to summarize beach and water quality, current level of treatment potential pollution sources and identify future actions for bacterial and nutrient reductions. Beach sanitary surveys must follow EPA's guidance for Sanitary Surveys for Recreational Waters (<https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/sanitary-surveys-recreational-waters>).

### Required Elements

- I. # **Cover Page** (beach name, beach location, prepared by, and date)
- II. # **Executive Summary**: Overview of the sanitary survey's purpose
- III. # **Project Objectives**: Describe goals for beach sanitary survey. Include a project " background description and history/problem statement. "
- IV. # **Location**: Provide a detailed description of the following criteria, with corresponding maps depicting the criteria:
  - a. " Watershed of bathing beach area: watershed description and boundary, land use in the watershed
  - b. " Beach Setting: associated waterbody, town, county, size, park features/offerings (fishing, boat launches, rentals etc.)
  - c. " Beach and Swimming Area: size, maximum and average attendance, swimmer loads, and current beach maintenance.
  - d. " Sanitary Facilities: Location, type, proximity to beach bathing area
- V. # **Hydrographic & Meteorological Characteristics**: Weather and topographical influences. Prevalent wind direction during bathing season, rainfall, measured currents, topography, or unusual factors that may influence the transport of pollution to the beach.
- VI. # **Physical Characteristics and Water Quality**:
  - a. " Physical beach characteristics: Elevation and beach slope, beach sediment
  - b. " Wave height, water temperature, floatables, debris/litter, algae, wildlife and domestic animals, and odor including objectionable color, odor, taste and other substances capable of producing unusual quality problems.
  - c. " The physical and chemical quality of bathing water including: bacteriological quality (E. coli. cfu/100ml) pH, conductivity ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), total dissolved solids (ppm), average turbidity (NTU). including a history of any unusual quality problems encountered in the bathing water should be included.
  - d. " Sampling Location and Frequency: Indicators and agency standards, bacteriological monitoring results, turbidity measurements

- e. " Beach Closures: closing and reopening dates, number of days closed and reason for closure
- f. " Documentation of erosion issues or visible runoff (photos)

**VII. Potential Pollution Sources:**

Identification of potential pollution sources of any wastewater treatment discharges, sewage overflows (CSOs/SSOs), stormwater runoff, unsewered residential areas, domestic animals, landfills and open dumps, agricultural runoff, waterfowl, or beach bathrooms inconsistent with DOH standards. Include complete description and documentation of potential pollution sources.

**VIII. Future Actions and Recommendations**

Recommendations on how to remediate pollution sources identified in the sanitary survey, such as selection of sites and practices to infiltrate stormwater (green infrastructure or stormwater retrofits), septic testing or replacement, beach grading/sloping, beach re-naturalization, sand nourishment, etc.

**IX. Site Photographs:** Photographs that are representative of existing site conditions.