
MIAMI BLUE WATER TASK FORCE

2025 Water Quality Monitoring Annual Report

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

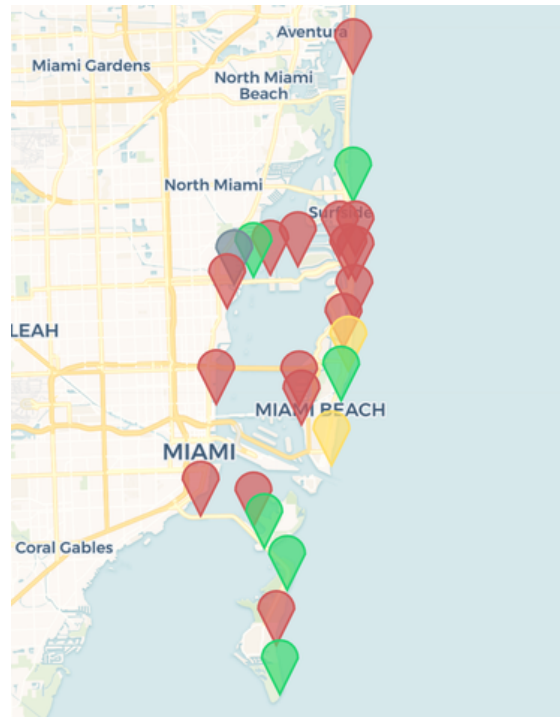
The Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) is the Surfrider Foundation's volunteer water quality monitoring program that provides critical water quality information to protect public health at local beaches. Water quality samples are tested for the presence of enterococcus, a fecal bacteria that indicates the presence of human or animal waste. Elevated levels of enterococcus increase the likelihood that other pathogens that can make people sick may be present.



The goal of BWTF is to fill in monitoring gaps and quickly communicate with the public where it is safe to swim, and where bacteria levels are elevated. Water quality results are compared to the standards used by the Florida Department of Health (FL DOH) to issue swim advisories, specifically greater than 70 colony-forming units of enterococcus per 100mL sample (70 CFU/100mL). Beachgoers should take precautions when swimming, surfing, or recreating after heavy rain events. Do not enter areas or where there is a warning sign for high bacteria levels. Water quality data can be accessed at bwtf.surfrider.org.

WHERE WE SAMPLE

In 2025, Miami Chapter volunteers collected 1,113 samples from 27 sites along Biscayne Bay, from Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park in the south to Sunny Isles in the north. Samples were collected from sites in beach, canal, and bay locations on a weekly basis throughout the year and were processed at the Chapter's BWTF lab in Miami Beach. To complement the monitoring done by the Florida Department of Health, the Miami BWTF collects samples on Thursdays, whereas FL DOH tests beaches on Mondays; therefore, the Miami BWTF provides timely water quality results for weekend recreation.



RESULTS

Table 1 shows the percentage of samples that exceeded state health standards at 27 sampling sites in 2025. Many of the sites with the most consistently high bacteria levels are located in the bay. Higher pollution rates at these sites may be attributed to land-based runoff from inland areas that is carried by canals and released into the bay. Comparatively, ocean beaches tend to have lower percentages of bacterial exceedance, likely due to dilution.

High bacterial counts indicate the presence of human and/or animal waste in these waters, which may threaten public health. Potential sources of pollution include leaking septic systems, sewer line failures, animal agriculture, pets, birds, and other wild animal waste. These data are important in identifying chronically polluted sites that should continue to be prioritized for public health and safety. Families, ocean users, and the public should be aware of areas with poor water quality conditions and avoid them.

Site Name	# of Tests	% High Enterococcus (>104 MPN/100ML)
Sunny Isles: 174th St	51	2%
Miami Beach: 35th Street Beach	50	4%
Miami Beach: Collins Park, 21st St	51	6%
Miami Beach: Allison Park Beach	15	7%
Surfside Beach: 93rd St	41	10%
Miami Beach: Normandy Shores	54	11%
Miami Beach: South Pointe Park	49	12%
Key Biscayne: Beach Club	45	13%
Key Biscayne: Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park	45	13%
Miami Beach: 6500 Indian Creek	46	13%
Miami Beach: North Shore Ocean Terrace, 73rd St	46	13%
Miami Beach: 53rd St Beach	51	16%
Miami Beach: Purdy/Sunset Harbor Kayak Launch	50	16%
Miami: Pelican Harbor Kayak Launch	48	17%
Virginia Key: Dog Beach	42	24%
Virginia Key: Darwin Beach at RSMAS	42	26%
Miami Beach: Pinetree Park Kayak Launch	49	27%
Virginia Key: MAST Academy	41	29%
Key Biscayne: Crandon Park South	44	30%
North Bay Village: 360 Condo	52	31%
North Biscayne Bay: Sandspur Island NW	3	33%
Miami: Margaret Pace Park	22	64%
Miami: Legions Park	9	67%
Miami Beach: West Ave Pump Stations 27 & 28	30	77%
Miami: Little River Pocket Park	48	86%
Miami Beach: Parkview / Kayak Launch	50	92%

Table 1. Percent of samples at each site that failed to meet state health standards of 70 MPN/100 mL in 2025.

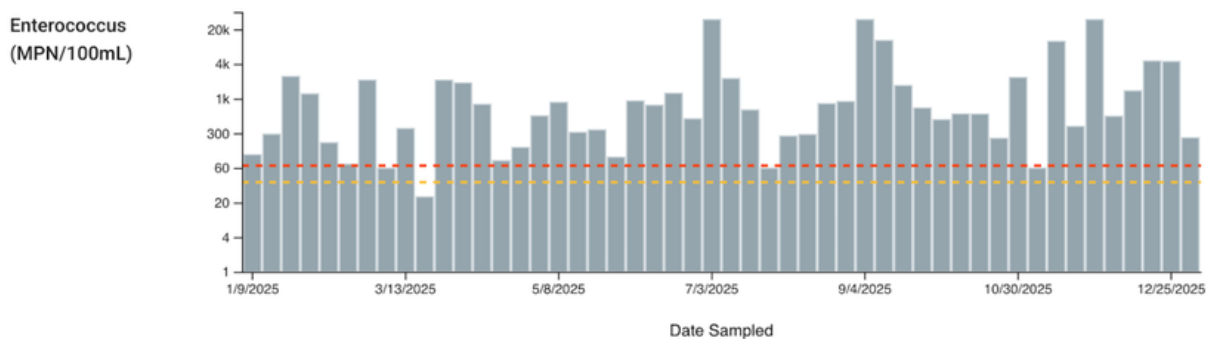
PRIORITY SITE - MIAMI BEACH: PARKVIEW/KAYAK LAUNCH

In 2025, 92% of samples taken from Parkview/Kayak Launch failed to meet state health standards. The Park View Island canal has been under a no-contact-with-water advisory since March 2020. Despite the high bacteria levels and no-contact advisory, people can still be found swimming and kayaking in the canal. Efforts are being made to pinpoint the sources of pollution at this site.

92%

OF PARKVIEW/KAYAK LAUNCH
SAMPLES HAD **UNSAFE**
BACTERIA LEVELS DETECTED
IN 2025.

Miami Beach: Parkview/Kayak Launch Results



PRIORITY SITE - MIAMI: MARGARET PACE PARK

In 2025, 64% of samples taken from Margaret Pace Park failed to meet state health standards. Margaret Pace Park, a beautiful park where people like to picnic and jog, and where they can easily rent kayaks or paddleboards to paddle in Biscayne Bay.

64%

OF MARGARET PACE PARK
SAMPLES HAD **UNSAFE**
BACTERIA LEVELS DETECTED
IN 2025.

Miami: Margaret Pace Park

