

The 2018 annual report for Lower Beech Pond from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) was sent out recently. The general results are as follows:

Chlorophyll-A (used to measure algae growth)

This value remains low and below the state median.

Conductivity/Chloride (elevated levels suggest pollution such as from road salt or septic systems)

Conductivity values were low at all three depths measured and were generally at the state median levels.

E.Coli (elevated levels may indicate the presence of fecal matter in the water)

All measures of E.Coli were very low and much less than the state standards for public beaches.

Total Phosphorus (excessive levels can lead to algal and cyanobacterial growth)

Our measured levels were low and much less than the state median. Though there has been variability over the years, the trend has been stable.

pH (a measure of the water's acidity)

The desirable range is between 6.5 and 8.0. Our measures, though stable, are on the low side (6.11 to 6.83).

The general conclusion is that the water quality of Lower Beech Pond remains good and our beaches are safe places for swimming. If anyone wants to see the complete report, please let me know and I will email a copy.